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Eighth Session of the Committee on Food Security and Sustainable
Development and the Africa Regional Implementation Meeting for the Twentieth
Session of the Commission on Sustainable Development

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
19-21 November 2012

Aide Memoire

I. Background

The Committee on Food Security and Sustainable Development

The Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), within the context of reform of its intergovernmental machinery, created the Committee on Food Security and Sustainable Development (CFSSD)¹, by Resolution 853 (XL) in April 2007. The CFSSD is both a technical and a legislative organ and is composed of high-level experts from governments, academia, Research and Development (R&D) institutions, the private sector and civil society of ECA member States. It meets on a biennial basis and serves as a forum for the promotion of cooperation, exchange of information and sharing of experiences in the areas of food security, agriculture, environment, land, climate change and broader sustainable development issues. It provides advice to ECA on ways to strengthen its support to member States in these areas.

The Committee also provides a platform for advocacy and assessment of the implementation of the outcomes of major conferences and summits related to sustainable development in Africa, particularly those contained in Agenda 21, the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation (JPOI), and the World Food Summit Programme of Action. And since 2005, the CFSSD meetings have provided platforms for the Africa Regional Implementation Meetings (RIMs) to review progress in the implementation of commitments contained in Agenda 21 (A21), the Programme for Further Implementation of Agenda 21 (PFIA21) and the JPOI and to agree on priorities for Africa and key messages to the Sessions of the United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD). Please see Annex 1 for highlights of Sessions 1 to 6 of the Committee.

The Seventh Session of the Committee on Food Security and Sustainable Development (CFSSD-7) and The Africa Regional Preparatory Conference for the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20)

In line with the General Assembly resolution A/64/236, the Seventh Session of the CFSSD provided the platform for the experts segment of the Africa Regional Preparatory Conference for the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20). In this context, the Regional Implementation Meeting (RIM) for CSD 20 was postponed to accommodate the Conference. The two meetings were held from 20 to 25 October 2011 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

In accordance with usual practice, CFSSD-7 dealt with statutory matters, reviewing the implementation of the 2010/2011 programme of work of the ECA Subprogramme on Food Security and Sustainable Development (FSSDD) and providing guidance on priorities for the 2012/2013 biennium in the context of the proposed programme budget of the ECA strategic framework for that biennium.

The Africa Regional Preparatory Conference for Rio+20 was organized by ECA jointly with the African Union Commission (AUC) and the African Development Bank (AfDB), in partnership with Regional Economic Communities (RECs), United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA) and the United Nations

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Development Programme (UNDP). Its main outcome was the Africa Consensus Statement to Rio+20 on the objective and themes of Rio+20. The statement was adopted as Africa's Common Position for Rio+20 at the 18th Ordinary Session of the African Union Assembly of Heads of State and Government held in January 2012.

II. The Eight Session of the Committee on Food Security and Sustainable Development

The Eight Session of the Committee on Food Security and Sustainable Development (CFSSD-8) will be held from 19 to 21 November 2012. The Session will provide a platform for the Africa Regional Implementation Meeting (Africa-RIM) for the Twentieth Session of the Commission on Sustainable Development, which will focus on the main outcomes of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20). The Africa RIM Outcome Document will serve as Africa's collective input to CSD-20. The Africa RIM is being organized in collaboration with the African Union Commission (AUC), the African Development Bank (AfDB) and the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA).

III. Objectives of CFSSD-8

The main objectives of the CFSSD-8 are:

1. To provide a platform for the Africa RIM for CSD-20 which will deliberate on the main outcomes of Rio+20 and adopt an outcome document to serve as Africa's collective input to CSD-20; and
2. To review progress in the implementation of the 2012/2013 work programme of ECA Subprogramme on Food Security and Sustainable Development (FSSDD), and provide guidance on further work during 2013. The CFSSD-8 will also provide guidance on priorities for the 2014/2015 workprogramme in the context of the ECA strategic framework for the 2014/2015 biennium.

IV. Expected Outcomes

The CFSSD-8 is expected to lead to:

1. Clear understanding of the implications of the main Rio+20 outcomes for Africa, and effective articulation of the region's priorities regarding their implementation.
2. Clear guidance and direction on the enhanced implementation of FSSD 2012/2013 work programme and on priorities for the 2014/2015 biennium.
3. Clear understanding and appreciation of:
 - (a) Africa's food security situation, challenges and opportunities, as well as policy options for improving the food security situation on the continent;

- (b) Progress in the implementation of the project on Development and Promotion of Strategic Food and Agricultural Commodities Value Chains in Africa;
- (c) Progress in the implementation of the ClimDev Africa Programme, with a particular focus on the African Climate Policy Centre;
- (d) Progress in the implementation of the AU/AfDB/ECA Land Policy Initiative.

V. Expected outputs

A number of outputs are expected to be delivered at the end of the meeting:

1. The Africa-RIM Outcome Document for CSD-20
2. The meeting report containing, *inter alia*:
 - (a) Guidance on: The implementation of FSSDD's 2012/2013 work programme and priority areas for the 2014/2015 work programme
 - (b) Well-informed sets of practical and action-oriented recommendations on advancing the implementation of selected themes on food security and sustainable development
2. Press releases
3. Web publications

VI. Format of the meeting

The CFSSD-8 will be divided into five main sessions as follows:

1. The Outcomes of Rio+20 and their implications for Africa

The Secretariat will make a presentation on the main outcomes of Rio+20 and their implications for Africa. The presentation and discussions are expected to lead to the effective articulation of Africa's priorities regarding their implementation.

Discussions will follow and the main issues arising and recommendations will be synthesized.

2. Open-ended Drafting Group on the Africa RIM Outcome Document for CSD-20

Following the presentation and discussions on the main outcomes of Rio+20, member States will be invited to designate delegates to represent them in an Open-Ended Drafting Group. The Drafting Group will convene from Thursday, 1 November 2012 at 11:20 am to Friday, 2 November at 12:20 pm. With the assistance of the Secretariat, the Group will draft the Africa RIM Outcome Document for CSD-20 to be presented to the Committee for consideration and adoption.

3. Review of the Implementation of the 2012/2013 Work Programme of the ECA Subprogramme on Food Security and Sustainable Development and priority areas for the 2014/2015 Workprogramme

The Secretariat will make a presentation on Progress in the implementation of the 2012/2013 workprogramme of the ECA Subprogramme on Food Security and Sustainable Development (FSSDD) during the 2012. The presentation is intended to elicit guidance from the Committee on the enhanced implementation of the workprogramme for the 2012/2013 biennium, and priority areas to be considered within the context of the 2014/2015 strategic framework.

Main issues arising and recommendations will be drawn from the ensuing discussions.

4. Presentation and discussion on key Parliamentary Reports and Special Initiatives

The Committee will hear the following presentations:

- (a) The status of food security in Africa;
- (b) Development and promotion of Strategic Food and Agricultural Commodities Value Chain in Africa;
- (c) Climate Change and Development in Africa; and
- (d) The AUC/ECA/AfDB Land Policy Initiative.

Discussions will follow each presentation from which main issues arising and recommendations will be synthesized.

5. Consideration and adoption of the Africa-RIM Outcome Document for CSD-20 and Draft Report of CFSSD-8

The Committee will have before it drafts of the Africa RIM Outcome Document for CSD-20 and the report of CFSSD-8 for consideration and adoption. The Committee will make comments and observations on the drafts, which will be recorded. The Outcome Document and report will be adopted on the understanding that the agreed amendments will be reflected in the final reports to be circulated to all participants at the earliest possible time after the meeting.

VII. Meeting Documentation

1. Parliamentary reports on:

- (a) The outcomes of Rio+20 and their implications for Africa
- (b) Implementation of Activities of the 2012/2013 programme of work of the Subprogramme “Food Security and Sustainable Development”;
- (c) The status of food security in Africa; and
- (d) Development of Strategic Agricultural Commodities Value Chain for Food Security and Sustainable Development in Eastern and Southern Africa.

2. Reports on:
 - (a) Climate Change and Development in Africa; and
 - (b) AUC/ECA/AfDB Land Policy Initiative.
3. The Final Report of the Seventh Session of the Committee on Food Security and Sustainable Development and Africa Regional Preparatory Conference for Rio+20;
4. The Rio+20 Outcome Document;
5. Publications on food security, land, climate change and broader sustainable development issues.

VIII. Participants

The following are expected to attend:

1. All 54 member States of ECA (ministers and experts from ministries/agencies in charge of planning/finance, environment and social affairs, agriculture and food security, and tourism)
2. The African Union Commission
3. The African Development Bank
4. The NEPAD Planning and Coordinating Agency
5. Regional Economic Communities
6. Representatives of major Groups including Civil Society, Business and Industry Organizations, Academia, and Research Institutions;
7. United Nations and other International agencies and organizations
8. Development Partners

IX. Working Languages

The meeting will be conducted in English and French, with simultaneous interpretation in both languages.

X. Dates and Venue

The CFSSD-8 will be held at the United Nations Conference Centre (UNCC) in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from 19 to 21 November 2012.

XI. Administrative Arrangements

These are provided in a separate information note.

Annex I: Sessions One to Six of the CFSSD²

The **First Session** of Committee was held from 25 to 29 January 1999 under the theme, “Ensuring Food Security and Sustainable Development in Africa: the Population, Agriculture and Environment Nexus.” Because an integrated approach for the conceptualization, analysis and management of the nexus issues that was being advocated by ECA had just been introduced to member States, the theme of the first meeting was deliberately broad in order to prompt guidance from the Committee on how the Commission should go about addressing the nexus issues. The Meeting recommended that the Committee should: serve as Africa’s regional forum of experts that deals with all the fields mandated by the UN General Assembly to the United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD); and as the regional advisory arm of the CSD on cross-sectoral activities in Africa, as well as on proposed activities and follow-up actions in the implementation of international programmes. In view of this, the Meeting further recommended that the periodic reporting of the Committee should follow the established procedures and practices of CSD.

As considerable progress had been made in conceptualizing the nexus interrelationships, especially among policy makers since the first Committee meeting, it was deemed appropriate that the **Second Session**, held from 26 to 29 November 2001, be more focused and address specific aspects of the nexus that were of common interest to a large number of the member States. Hence, the theme for that meeting, “Agricultural Intensification: Feeding Ourselves and Sustaining Africa’s Land Resources in the New Millennium”.

The **Third Session** of the Committee, which convened from 7 to 10 October 2003, was held under the theme, “Making Technology Work for the Poor”. This was premised on a common observation that “technology is power” and on the principle that technology should benefit all stakeholders, particularly the poor. A major achievement of the meeting was the revision of the constitution and functions of the Committee to address the multi-stakeholder and participatory requirements of sustainable development and to take into account the outcomes of WSSD. Thereafter, meetings of the Committee have provided platforms for the Africa Regional Implementation Meetings (RIMs) to review progress in the implementation of commitments contained in Agenda 21 (A21), the Programme for Further Implementation of Agenda 21 (PFIA21) and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation (JPOI). The outcomes of the RIM feed into the Sessions of the Commission on Sustainable Development. The thematic cluster of issues discussed in the RIMs is aligned with those contained in the Multi-Year Programme of Work of the Commission.

Given the importance of land-based resources such as forests, water, mineral resources, agriculture and grazing land in addressing Africa’s key sustainable development challenges, the **Fourth Session** of the Committee was held under the theme, “Managing Land-Based Resources for Sustainable Development”. The RIM, which was held under the auspices of the Meeting reviewed progress in the implementation of A21, PFIA21 and the JPOI commitments relative to Energy, Industrial Development, Climate Change, Air Pollution and Atmosphere. A key output of the RIM was the Africa RIM Statement on the thematic cluster of issues, which fed into the Fourteenth and Fifteenth Sessions of the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD 14 & 15).

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The theme of the **Fifth Session** of the Committee held from 22 to 25 October 2005 was “Transforming African Agriculture and Rural Economy for Sustainable Development”. The Meeting placed emphasis on the RIM, which reviewed regional reports on Agriculture, Rural Development, Land, Drought and Desertification, and “Africa”. As expected, the RIM came out with a Statement, which was reviewed and endorsed by the Committee and which fed into the Sixteenth and Seventeenth Sessions of the Commission (CSD-16 &17). The outcome document of CSD-17 places particular emphasis on Africa, mainly drawing from the Africa RIM Statement and related documents produced for that RIM.

The **Sixth Session** of the Committee on Food Security and Sustainable Development (CFSSD-6) was held on the theme “Sustainable Consumption and Production for Sustainable Growth and Poverty Reduction”, which was a running thread in the thematic cluster of issues to be considered at the RIM, for which it provided a platform. These were; Transport, Chemicals, Waste Management, Mining, and A Ten-Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP). These thematic cluster of issues were deliberated on at the Eighteenth and Nineteenth Sessions of the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD-18 & 19), held in May 2010 and May 2011, respectively.