

Regional Parliamentary Summit- “Charting the path to inclusive and resilient agrifood systems in the region”

Draft Annotated Agenda

Participants (circa 100)

- MPs, including representatives of relevant parliamentary committees of the parliamentary committees on agriculture, food safety, environment from all of the countries of the ECA;
- Representatives of FAO and other international organizations;
- Other experts on trade, agriculture, gender, climate change and rural development from the parliaments of the region, FS National Convenors. (TBC participation of stakeholders beyond MPs)

Date and Location

The forum will be held in Tirana, Albania on 22-23 of October. Hosted by the Parliament of Albania. Duration- 2 days.

Results

The forum will explore the challenges and opportunities for parliamentarians to contribute to agri-food systems transformation, share experiences, discuss main challenges in the region and agree on the follow-up steps for regional cooperation.

This Summit will reflect the participants' vision of key principles and strategies to support sustainable agrifood systems pathways, as well as measures to overcome the challenges. It will serve as a first-ever regional effort to explore MP's contributions and join forces in implementing the initiatives and strategies for agrifood systems transformation

Event Structure and Agenda

The Summit, which is expected to last for 2 days, consists of multiple working modalities designed to foster collaboration towards real progress in the development of sustainable agrifood systems. A range of engaging formats is envisaged, from high-level plenary sessions featuring prominent speakers, to interactive technical discussions that spark dynamic exchanges between participants. As with every meeting organized in FAO Programme Countries, field visits showcasing cutting-edge agribusiness models and opportunities for B2B initiatives will be organized for the participants.

Suggested modalities of the Summit:

- **Plenary Session and /or Roundtable:** High-level discussions on the critical role of agrifood systems in driving sustainable development agenda forward, featuring High Level speakers from the Parliaments, national and international experts and international organizations.
- **Roundtable:** to allow MPs to share their views on national and regional challenges and priorities as related to agrifood systems transformation and to exchange experiences on successful approaches for sustainable agrifood system development, with a view to identifying replicable solutions and policy options for participating countries and MPs. The roundtable will also provide an opportunity for a dialogue on the most pressing challenges and obstacles to boosting regional cooperation, knowledge sharing, capacity-development and cross-cutting issues for sustainable agriculture.
- **Panel Discussions:** featuring representatives from the Parliaments across the region, technical experts, international organizations, discussing trends, opportunities, and challenges in cross border trade, natural resource management (notably the land and water nexus), climate change and investment in agrifood systems.

- **Interactive Thematic Sessions:** Emphasis on idea generation on focus areas, encouraging dynamic discussions between participating MPs. Exploring working modalities to generate inputs from MPs, stakeholders and experts will be a key focus.
- **Field Visit (TBC)**

Tentative Agenda

Day 1, 22nd of October: Setting the Stage and Charting the Course

Morning (9:30-12:30)

- Registration and Opening Ceremony, welcome remarks by FAO DG (TBC), REU ADG, Albania, and keynote address by a prominent figure/figures on sustainable agri-food systems transformation.
- High-Level Plenary Session 1: The Urgency and Opportunity for agri-food systems (AFS) transformation: the role of Parliaments and legislative initiatives to address the challenges faced by AFS. Perspectives on Food and Nutrition Security and agrifood systems transformation towards more efficient, inclusive, resilient and sustainable food systems – Progress on SDG2 “Zero Hunger” Featuring various speakers: FAO experts, selected MPs and national experts, discussing the challenges and opportunities facing current food systems transformation.
- Interactive Panel Discussion 1. National legislation and policies for agri-food systems transformation. Speakers share best practices, practical challenges and plans, going forward.

Buffet Lunch (12:30-14:30)

Afternoon (14:30-17:30)

Thematic Roundtables and/or Break-out Sessions: Concurrent sessions focusing on specific areas and initiatives to support and direct legislative initiatives and developments, related to specific issues. These sessions will allow for in-depth exploration and brainstorming of challenges and solutions, based on the national and regional context and experiences;

Suggested topics:

- **Promoting sustainable and resilient agrifood systems in the face of climate change**
- **Ensuring inclusion and social protection for vulnerable groups. Promoting access to and consumption of healthy and sustainable diets.**
- **Leveraging legislative solutions mechanisms to incorporate science, innovation and digital agriculture in AFS transformation**

Evening Reception

Day 2, 23rd of October: Deep Dives, Collaboration, and Action (9:00-12:30)

Morning (9:00-12:15)

- 9.00-10.00 Reporting back to the plenary and discussions with the audience;
- 10.00-11.00 Interactive Panel Discussion 2: “Fostering an enabling environment for responsible investments in agriculture” Representatives from the Parliaments and experts.

- 11.30-12.15 Follow-up actions and Declaration of the Summit
- 12.15-12.30 Closing ceremony

Buffet Lunch (12:30-14:00)

Afternoon

- Field trip for interested participants or departure

Additional Notes: Throughout the Summit, there will be a display of FAO materials, related to current work on agri-food systems transformation, MPs activities in this regard and experiences from various countries across the world. Media briefings and press conferences can be held to ensure maximum outreach and public awareness about the Summit's objectives and outcomes.