

Consultation on the draft Model Law on Food Security and Nutrition in Africa Central, North and West Africa

Co-organized by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
(FAO) and the Pan-African Parliament (PAP)

17 November 2020

Concept Note and Agenda

Background

Despite important progress in some sub-regions and countries, the overall situation of food security and nutrition (FSN) in Africa continues to lag behind global trends. Approximately one out of four persons in Sub-Saharan Africa and one out of five on the continent were estimated to be undernourished. With a view to contributing to on-going regional political processes and to develop a shared momentum to address this unsustainable situation, over 100 parliamentarians from across Africa re-echoed their commitment to FSN and pledged to create the Pan African Parliamentary Alliance for Food Security and Nutrition (PAPA-FSN) at the 2nd ordinary session of the 4th Pan-African Parliament (PAP) in May 2016. In August 2016, FAO supported a one-day workshop on FSN for parliamentarians from the various Committees of the PAP, while Members of Parliament (MPs) also decided on the structure of the PAPA-FSN. Following this, on 13 October 2016, at the 3rd ordinary session of the 4th Parliament, in Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt, the establishment of the PAPA-FSN and its structure was approved by the PAP and the Alliance was launched.

Immediately after the launch of the PAPA-FSN, a Memorandum of Understanding was signed between the PAP and the FAO formalizing their strategic partnership and with the objectives of: (i) positioning the issue of FSN at the highest level of the political and legislative agendas in order to achieve the developmental objectives of Africa, and (ii) contributing to PAPA-FSN as a regional platform for African MPs through discussions and agreements on critical issues related to FSN. On 13 October 2017, PAP and the FAO signed a technical cooperation project (TCP/RAF/3612) entitled “Strengthening Capacities of Parliamentarians in Africa for an Enabling Environment for Food Security and Nutrition, including the Right to Adequate Food”. This TCP is designed to enhance the capacities of parliamentarians to prioritize the eradication of malnutrition and all

forms of hunger on the continent by addressing structural challenges to achieving FSN through human rights-based approach, and strengthening national capacities to create enabling legal and institutional environments for improved FSN.

One of the main outputs of the TCP was to strengthen PAPA-FSN to advocate for and support the implementation of framework laws related to FSN at all levels. To achieve this, the TCP supported a training for members of the PAPA-FSN on a number of legal and technical issues relating to FSN (1-2 March 2019) and the elaboration of a model law on FSN in Africa. On 2 November 2018, the PAP plenary passed a resolution mandating the Committee on Rural Economy, Agriculture, Natural Resources and Environment (CREANRE) and PAPA-FSN to lead the formulation of a Model Law on FSN in Africa for its consideration. In the same resolution, PAP welcomed technical support from FAO and collaboration with the New Partnership for Africa Development Agency (NEPAD), and the AU Commission's Department of Rural Economy and Agriculture (DREA), for the formulation of the draft Model Law.

FAO and PAP then prepared a draft policy paper on a regional model law on FSN in Africa for the consideration of CREANRE. This study analysed about 175 pieces of legislation from 35 African countries with a view to understanding the forms and substantive contents of FNS laws in the continent, and explored options for a regional model law based on the typology of relevant pieces of legislation and the legal structures of African countries. It also provided a list of possible normative and institutional components of a model FNS legislation. In May 2019, PAP approved the policy paper and requested the elaboration of the draft model law based on the study. In August 2019, the CREANRE considered a draft Model law on FSN in Africa that was prepared by PAP and FAO and provided comments. A revised version of the draft was considered by CREANRE on 8 October 2019 and then presented to the PAP plenary, which on 17 December 2019, approved the draft and authorized the conduct of regional consultations on it.

On 27-28 November 2019, the first regional consultation on the draft Model Law, which brought together parliamentarians and representatives of relevant ministries from Eastern and Southern African countries and staff members of the AU Commission and the PAP, was held in Kampala, Uganda. The inputs from the consultation were compiled and submitted to the PAP Secretariat after the workshop. While the above-mentioned TCP has expired, PAP and FAO continued their collaboration regarding the process to finalize the consultations on the draft model law on FSN in Africa in spite the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic. The FAO and PAP will jointly support the organization of the second regional consultation for central, North and West Africa virtually.

Objectives

The objective of the consultation workshop is to present the draft Model Law on FSN to parliamentarians, government officials and CSOs that work in the areas of FSN in Central, North and West African countries with a view to gathering comments and build consensus on its contents. The inputs of the participants will be used to revise the draft before it is sent to the African Union Policy Organs for their further consideration and adoption.

Methodology

The meeting will be held over zoom, with parallel interpretation in Arabic, French, Portuguese and English. PAP and FAO will jointly facilitate the meeting. The meeting blends presentations, general brainstorming sessions, group discussions and feedback, and question and answer sessions to gather inputs from each of the participants. Technical and legal experts from PAP and FAO will present the draft Model Law. Participants will have received the draft Model Law before the meeting.

Participants

The workshop will bring together over 100 participants from national parliaments (from relevant standing committees and fora), pertinent government ministries and CSOs working in the areas of FSN in Central, North and West African countries, Pan-African Parliament and experts from the African Union, PAP, NEPAD and FAO.

Date and Venue

The consultation will take place on **17 November 2020 via Zoom.**

Please register for the meeting at:

https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_H0u-ZwY7S_6W2-qfCp_xAg

Draft Programme
Consultation on the draft Model Law on FSN in Africa

Time Harare/ Pretoria Time	Subject	Facilitator/presenter
Day 1		
09:30 – 10:00	<p>Opening Ceremony</p> <p><i>Welcome Remarks</i> RAF ADG or representative 1st Vice President, PAPA-FSN</p> <p><i>Opening Remarks</i> H.E. Hon. Bouras Djamel Acting President of the Pan African Parliament</p>	
10:00 – 10:10	Objective of the meeting	Adv. Galal Nassir PAP Head, CDRL
10:10 - 10:50	The draft Model Law on FSN in Africa: process of development and general introduction	Clement Mavungu, PAP Sisay Yeshanew, FAO
10:50 – 11:30	Question and answer session	PAPA – FSN
11:30 – 12:30	<p>Group Discussion</p> <p>Group 1: Preamble and Articles 1 – 5 of the draft ML</p> <p>Group 2: Articles 6 – 16 of the draft ML</p> <p>Group 3: Articles 17 – 26 of the draft ML</p>	
12:30 – 14:00	Feedback from group discussions and Question and answer session in plenary	PAPA - FSN
14:00 – 16:00	Discussion on the contents of the draft model law: Substantive issues missing or to be taken out?	Simon Blondeau, FAO
16:00 – 16:30	Wrap-up, way forward and closing	Adv. Galal Nassir PAP Head, CDRL