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From: Special Committee on Agriculture
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Subject: Draft updated EU Guidelines for the G20 Agriculture Ministers meeting, 3 June 2016, Xi'an

Delegations will find in Annex the text of the draft updated EU Guidelines as approved by the Special Committee on Agriculture on 10 May 2016 for endorsement by the Council.

**Draft updated EU Guidelines for the G20 Agriculture Ministers Meeting
on 3 June 2016, in Xi'an, China**

This note sets out the priorities for the EU and its Member States at the G20 Agriculture Ministers meeting in Xi'an, China, on 3 June 2016. This document is for internal use of the EU delegations.

I. INTRODUCTION

China holds the G20 Presidency in 2016 and has foreseen a meeting of the G20 Ministers for Agriculture, on 3 June 2016, in Xi'an. The theme of the ministerial meeting is "*Agricultural Innovation and Sustainable Development*". The Chinese objectives for the ministerial meeting are:

- political consensus in G20 to boost innovation-driven agricultural development,
- improve world food and agriculture governance and
- contribute to the UN Agenda 2030 for sustainable development.

An Agriculture Deputies meeting was organised on 24-25 March 2016 in Beijing, to discuss the themes and prepare the ministerial meeting. In coordination with the delegations of the member states represented in G20, the EU delegation expressed support for the objectives proposed by the G20 Presidency. Following this meeting, the Chinese Presidency **withdrew** initial proposals which were not clear, or insufficiently justified:

- to establish a **G20 Emergency food reserve**, that was seen as possibly incompatible with WTO international trade rules and lacked a rational justification;
- the idea of **developing an action plan on agricultural development for poverty reduction**, as this falls under the competence of the Development Working Group actions;

- to develop "**social security mechanisms**", as this is also not in the competence of agricultural ministers.

The focus of the G20 Agriculture Ministers Meeting *Communiqué* was narrowed to a more limited number of topics that do not present any particular policy problems, nor are they in conflict with EU priorities. Delegations were informed on the results of this meeting in the Special Committee on Agriculture on 4 April 2016.

Considering the First draft of the G20 Agriculture Ministers Meeting Communiqué circulated by the G20 Presidency (enclosed, Annex II), the existing EU Guidelines¹ for the 2011 G20 Agriculture Ministers meeting in Paris, the 2012 G20 Agriculture Deputies meeting in Mexico City and the 2015 Agriculture Ministers meeting in Istanbul remain broadly relevant.

The existing EU Guidelines, in addition to the ones below, will serve as the basis for EU's participation in the negotiations on the draft *Communiqué* tabled by the G20 Chinese Presidency.

II. UPDATED GUIDELINES FOR THE EU AND ITS MEMBER STATES

The objectives for this ministerial meeting can be summed up as follows:

- **Support political commitment of G20 agriculture ministers in strengthening the implementation of the agricultural policy related Sustainable Development Goals of Agenda 2030**, including ending hunger and extreme poverty. Reaffirm the crucial role that sustainable agriculture and rural development have for global food security and poverty alleviation, as well as their contribution to economic growth, social stability and sustainable use of natural resources.

¹ "EU Guidelines for the G20 Agriculture Ministerial Meeting on 23 June 2011 in Paris" doc.10868/11; "EU Guidelines for the G20 Agriculture Deputies meeting on 17-18 May in Mexico City" doc.8783/12; "Updated EU Guidelines for the G20 Agriculture ministerial meeting on 7-8 May 2015 in Istanbul" doc. 8453/15 + COR1.

- **Encourage coordination of G20 members to identify and work together to address issues of global concern in the area of food security and nutrition. Support the proposal for G20 regular meetings of Ministers of agriculture to maintain policy coordination, develop as appropriate and implement action plans to address the major challenges in agriculture and rural development.**
- **Renew political commitment to the implementation of the 2011 G20 Action Plan on Food Price Volatility and Agriculture** (in particular stronger collaboration on AMIS – Agriculture Market Information System and its Rapid Response Forum, on the Meeting of Agricultural Chief Scientists, on Group on Earth Observations Global Agricultural Monitoring Initiative - GEOGLAM, on the Platform for Agricultural Risk Management - PARM, etc.), and of the **2015 Action Plan on Food Security and Sustainable Food Systems**, including the G20 Technical Platform of Measurement and Reduction of Food Loss and Waste established in 2015.
- Ensure clear references to the 2015 **Addis Ababa Action Agenda** decisions on Financing for Development.
- Promote key **role of agri-food trade and** secure language on trade that accurately reflects the decisions taken at the World Trade Organisation Ministerial in Nairobi in 2015.

- **Promote responsible agribusiness investments for food security. Recognising the Committee on Food Security (CFS) as the foremost inclusive international and intergovernmental platform, G20 should support** the implementation of the *Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security* (VGGT) and the *Principles for Responsible Investment in Agriculture and Food Systems* (RAI) endorsed by the Committee on World Food Security, **to improve the global environment for agricultural investments. and G20 should also support** the OECD-FAO *Guidance for Responsible Agricultural Supply Chains*.
- Support the implementation of the World Health Organisation's (WHO) *Global Action Plan on Antimicrobial Resistance*, **in strong collaboration with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE)**.
- Affirm strong support of G20 agriculture ministers for the **COP21 Paris Climate** agreement, its Intended Nationally Determined Contributions **and the Lima Paris Action Agenda**.
- Recognise that **rural and urban cooperation** is needed to address the challenges of food supply and rapid urbanization (also as a follow up to the Global Forum for Food and Agriculture, Berlin 2016 and in the run-up to the Habitat III conference (UN Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development) in Quito, Ecuador, in October 2016).

On the two proposals of the Chinese G20 Presidency:

1. To establish a global platform for agricultural innovation and knowledge sharing

- Welcome efforts to strengthen cooperation in agricultural innovation and knowledge sharing, an initiative in line with the EU approach to research and innovation under the European Innovation Partnership for Agricultural Productivity and Sustainability (EIP AGRI).

- Acknowledge that there is more to innovation than science/technology driven innovation. It includes processes and social innovation, as well as multiple stakeholders, from governments to private sector and civil society, from farmers to knowledge brokers.
- Support the initiative if the following prerequisites are met:
 - Presidency provides further information that demonstrates the added value of a global platform, as well as its complementarity with the existing institutions such as the Global Forum on Agricultural Research (GFAR), the CGIAR, the Tropical Agriculture Platform (TAP) of the FAO, etc.
 - Clarify the role/relation of the G20 Meeting of Agricultural Chief Scientist (MACS) with the platform.
 - Propose the right vehicle/organisation for such a platform and clarify resources needed to set it up.

2. To establish and agricultural information and communication technology (ICT) exchange platform

- Welcome the G20 Presidency's focus on the role of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) and its important potential for agriculture development. Acknowledge the role of Mobile internet, cloud computing, big data and the Internet of Things to better connect and integrate farmers into food systems.
- Welcome FAO, IFPRI and OECD current work in providing an assessment on existing global ICT applications and platforms, identify gaps and policy challenges.
- Support the initiative if the following prerequisites are met:
 - The FAO, IFPRI and OECD assessment demonstrates the need for and added value of a G20 ICT exchange platform.

- The current language "this [platform] would build on existing systems" will be maintained, with the understanding that it will not require additional resources or budget.
- Propose the right vehicle/organisation for such a platform.

On resources, for both platform proposals we will seek to ensure that if the Platform is deemed to be managed "within existing resources", particularly concerning the EU and the FAO and other International Organisations, that the proposals do not imply additional burden.

Coherence between the G20 streams on Agriculture, on Development, and on Trade and Investment will be ensured in the run-up to the G20 summit in Hangzhou, on 4-5 September 2016.

In addition, as the G7 processes in 2016, under the Japan Presidency, also focus on sustainable agriculture, revitalising rural areas and improving productivity and food supply capacity, where possible, synergies should be pursued between the G20 and the G7 processes.
