



## BACKGROUND

Small Island Developing States (SIDS) face multiple food and nutrition challenges associated with the triple burden of malnutrition, including undernourishment, obesity and NCDs, and micronutrient deficiency.

In response to these challenges, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) was invited to facilitate a meeting on food and nutrition security in SIDS to develop an action programme to address food and nutrition challenges facing SIDS. This was in direct response to the Heads of State and Government and high-level representatives adopting the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (S.A.M.O.A) Pathway in September 2014 (Paragraph 61).

The proposed Action Programme to address Food and Nutrition challenges facing SIDS, is to be a “living document” that calls for close collaboration and consultation with SIDS member States, the UN System, regional inter-governmental bodies, development partners and non-state actors, including non-governmental and civil society institutions and the private sector.

As a result, FAO has engaged with member states and regional stakeholders to formulate a possible action programme (hereafter referred to as the ‘draft Action Plan’) to address the food and nutrition challenges facing SIDS in the different regions of the world through regional consultation meetings, e-consultations, and questionnaire to be sent out to SIDS governments and other partners. This included regional consultations convened by the FAO for the SIDS of the Atlantic and Indian Ocean, Mediterranean and south China sea (AIMS) during the 29th session of the FAO Regional Conference for Africa on 4 – 8 April 2016 in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire; for Caribbean SIDS in the margins of the 34th session of the FAO Regional Conference for Latin America and the Caribbean in Mexico City, Mexico from 29 February to 3 March, 2016, and the Asia and Pacific SIDS, during the 33rd FAO Regional Conference for Asia and the Pacific, Putrajaya, Malaysia, 9 March 2016<sup>2</sup>.

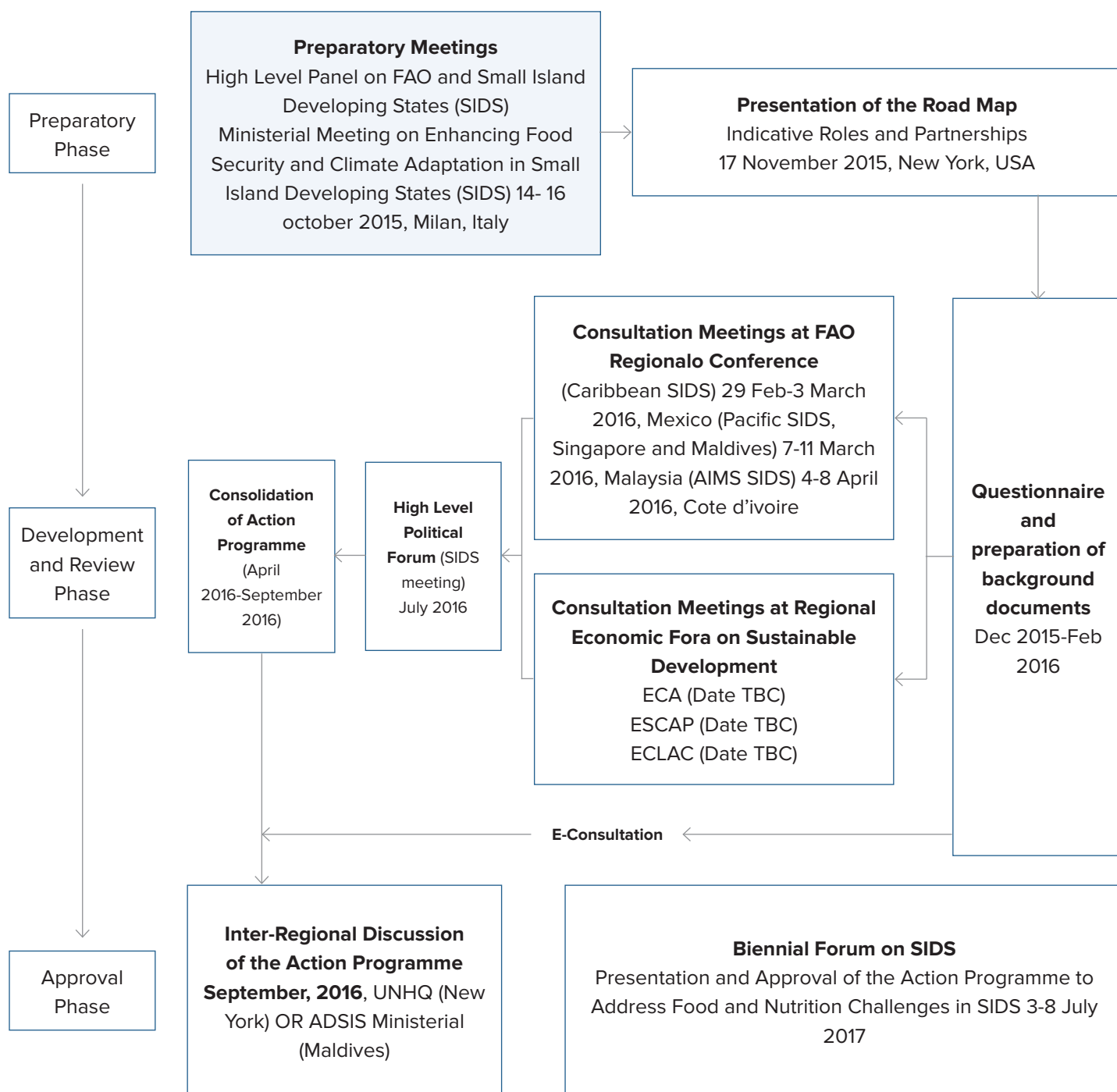
The next step in the planned consultation process, is for FAO to facilitate a three-day Roundtable Technical Meeting of stakeholders from all three SIDS regions to review the agriculture and nutrition draft Action Plan. The Roundtable is to be held in Suva, Fiji from 1-3 November 2016, involving 30-40 representatives of the agriculture and nutrition sectors of all three SIDS regions. The Action Plan to develop

1 FAO State of Food Security and Nutrition in Small Island Developing States (SIDS), FAO Rome, Italy 2016, I5327E/1/01.16, [www.fao.org](http://www.fao.org)

2 FAO State of Food Security and Nutrition in Small Island Developing States (SIDS), FAO Rome, Italy 2016, I5327E/1/01.16, [www.fao.org](http://www.fao.org)



TABLE: **FAO three-phase process for the Action Plan (Roadmap)**





The draft Global Action Programme (GAP) on Food Security and Nutrition in Small Island Developing States, aims to end hunger, achieve food security, improve nutrition, and promote sustainable agriculture while supporting SIDS in advancing the 2030 sustainable development agenda. Specifically it responds to the food and nutrition challenges faced by SIDS, including:

- 1. Undernourishment** - The most recent data of FAO indicates that many of the SIDS Islands have achieved undernourishment levels of less than 5 percent, including Barbados, Cuba and Dominica in the Caribbean; Fiji, Samoa and Kiribati in the Pacific.
- 2. Access to food** - Poverty and unemployment are the main constraints of access to food in SIDS. In the Caribbean for instance, poverty rates range from a low of 9.3 percent in the Bahamas to 58.7 percent in Haiti. In the Pacific, with a bit more similarity between the countries than the Caribbean, it ranges from 12.7 percent in Vanuatu to a 35.2 percent in Fiji. The youth unemployment rate in most SIDS is higher than the average of the world.
- 3. Food import dependence** - In SIDS countries, food imports, as opposed to national food production, are by far the largest source of food. It is estimated that in 1990, approximately 45 percent of food available in the Caribbean was imported. In 2011, this proportion increased to 67.5 percent. The trend is quite similar in the case of the Pacific SIDS islands moving from 40 percent in 1990 to 60 percent in 2011. Vanuatu Island has tripled its food imports between 1990 and 2011.
- 4. Food utilization** - Food utilization in SIDS has been characterized by nutritionally poor food choices. A nutrition transition has taken place in most of these Islands contributing to an increased prevalence of chronic, non-communicable diseases (NCDs). Much of the imported food available is calorie-dense, high-fat, high-sweetener food. Poor households are more likely to choose higher levels of these types of foods. Such diets are more affordable than healthier ones, based on lean meats, fish, fresh vegetables, and fruit. The prevalence of overweight adults in some Pacific Island countries is among the highest in the world. More than 70 percent of males and females over 15 years old were overweight in 2010 in the Cooks Islands, Federal States of Micronesia, Nauru and Tonga and an estimated 75 percent of all adult deaths in the Pacific are due to NCDs.



- 5. Stability of food supply and access** - Instability and vulnerability constantly undermine efforts to advance food and nutrition security in the region... countries are vulnerable to natural disasters, which adversely impact not only economic sectors (agriculture, tourism, manufacturing, industry and commerce), but also social sectors (housing stock and settlements, health, education and infrastructure), and food and nutrition security.

## The Objectives of the Roundtable Meeting

Delegates of the Roundtable Technical Meeting are expected to:

Review and comment on the content of the draft Action Plan

Agree on proposed amendments, including proposed additions and adjustments

Recommend next steps to continue support and collaboration.

## Inputs to the Roundtable:

- Draft Action Plan

## Outputs from the Roundtable:

- Updated draft Action Plan

**Proposed Date and Venue:** 1-3 November 2016, Grand Pacific Hotel in Suva, Fiji.

**Language:** The event and its report will be in English only.

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