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NOTE

From: General Secretariat of the Council
To: Delegations

Subject: AOB item for the meeting of "Agriculture and Fisheries" Council of 24 February 2025:
Agriculture Ministers' Conference 2025 in the context of the Global Forum for Food and Agriculture (Berlin, 18 January 2025)
- Information from Germany

1. The Global Forum for Food and Agriculture (GFFA) – took place this year for the 17th time. Its political highlight is the Berlin Agriculture Ministers' Conference – the world's largest meeting of agriculture ministers. At the invitation of the Federal Minister of Food and Agriculture, agriculture ministers from all over the globe discussed key issues for the future of the global food and agricultural sector. The motto this year was: "Farming a Sustainable Bioeconomy".
2. In adopting the communiqué of the 17th Berlin Agriculture Ministers' Conference, the participating ministers from 62 states have committed themselves to advance a sustainable bioeconomy and strengthen its contribution to global food security, biodiversity conservation, and climate change mitigation.
3. In their final communiqué, the ministers emphasize the potential of a sustainable bioeconomy. The ministers reiterate their support for the Paris Climate Agreement and the Convention on Biodiversity. They highlight the importance of sustainable food systems and production methods, including agroecology, agroforestry, integrated, regenerative and organic farming, conservation agriculture, climate-smart agriculture, precision farming and sustainable intensification.

4. While the ministers will promote a sustainable bioeconomy, they also undertake to achieve and prioritise food security. They support strengthening the progressive realisation of the right to adequate food. They recognise how important it is to advance a sustainable bioeconomy together with a circular economy for all value chains in order to reduce the pressure on renewable biological resources. They underscore the importance of using biomass in multiple stages to maximise resource efficiency, minimise waste and reduce the input of new materials, which, in effect, extends total biomass availability within a given system. They undertake to promote the use of agricultural, forest and aquatic biomass and the respective by-products. They emphasise that the diversification of protein sources can help improve global food security and nutrition.
 5. Deliverable: The ministers welcome the FAO project, funded by Germany, to develop a Global Bioeconomy Partnership; this project will help define the Partnership's sphere of activity and governance framework. Recognising the necessity for such an initiative, the ministers call for this initiative to be actively supported as soon as it is finalised.
 6. The GFFA-Communiqué and a summary of the FAO project are available in all UN languages on www.gffa-berlin.de/en .
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