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NOTE

From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	Delegations
Subject:	G20 Agriculture Ministers' meeting, 15 – 17 June 2023, Hyderabad, India - <i>Draft updated EU Guidelines</i>

With a view to the G20 Agriculture Ministers' meeting on 15-17 June 2023 in Hyderabad, India, delegations will find in the Annex the draft updated EU Guidelines.

DRAFT**Updated EU Guidelines for the G20 Agriculture Ministers' Meeting
scheduled for 15 – 17 June 2023, Hyderabad, India**

This note sets out the priorities for the EU and its Member States and is intended only for internal use by EU & Member States delegations. Please note that due to a busy geopolitical schedule in the aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic and the Russian invasion of Ukraine, meeting details are indicative and subject to change.

I. INTRODUCTION

In 2023, India holds the rotating G20 Presidency and has scheduled an Agriculture Ministers' Meeting (AMM) for 15 – 17 June 2023 to be convened in Hyderabad (*tbc*).

At the first G20 Sherpa Meeting (4 - 7 December 2022), the Indian Presidency established the following priority areas for the G20 Agriculture work stream:

- 1) "Enhancing Food Security and Nutrition";
- 2) "Developing Sustainable Agriculture with Climate Smart Approach".
- 3) "Building Inclusive Agricultural Value Chains and Food Systems".
- 4) "Technology and Digitalization for Agricultural Transformation".

These priorities were confirmed in the Agriculture Issue Note circulated by the Indian Presidency ahead of the First Sherpa Meeting.

At the AMM, Agriculture Ministers will discuss and possibly adopt by unanimity the 2023 G20 communiqué on agriculture. The text of this communiqué will be elaborated through written procedure, as well as two Agriculture Deputies' Meetings prior to the AMM, one that took place on 13 – 15 February (Indore, India) and the second one at present scheduled for 29 – 31 March 2023 (Chandigarh, India).

Due to the unprovoked and unjustified Russian invasion of Ukraine in 2022 and its ongoing dramatic impact on global food security, the EU finds itself in a situation where continuing “business as usual” at the G20 is not possible. Hence, it is crucial that if a G20 Agriculture Ministers’ communiqué is to be adopted in 2023, it must address the Russian aggression and its repercussions on agriculture, food security and nutrition in an adequate manner that is not a step down from the language established in the G20 Leaders’ Communiqué of 2022.

Thus, the primary aims of the EU and its Member States for the AMM are to

- condemn Russia’s ongoing aggression against the people of Ukraine and the rules-based international order, seek for this to be reflected in the Communiqué in the strongest terms possible, and ensure that its adverse effects on global food security are adequately addressed by G20 Agriculture Ministers, reaffirming the function of agriculture in feeding people, and its strategic character;
- support the Indian Presidency’s conduct of a successful G20 agriculture work stream in the spirit of enhancing bilateral cooperation with the host, mindful of the ongoing negotiations of a bilateral trade agreement with India;
- promote progress towards establishing international consensus on agri-food policy that is compatible with the EU’s Green Deal and Farm to Fork objectives;
- reinforce the post-COVID recovery of global food value chains and their resilience against future systemic shocks,
- maintain the G20’s momentum in supporting the transition to sustainable agricultural practices and policies, as part of a global food systems approach;
- ensure consistency with the G7 agriculture work stream under the Japanese presidency, where appropriate;

- prevent backsliding on past commitments, particularly on Sustainable Development Goals and climate change, as well as continued support for the Agricultural Market Information System (AMIS) and efforts to tackle antimicrobial resistance; and
- as regards agricultural and food trade issues (a priority area for the Indian G20 Presidency), confirm Agriculture Ministers' commitment to the rules-based multilateral trading system and the sustainable transformation of international trade policies, as a contribution to global food security, in line with the EU Trade Strategy¹ outlined on 18 February 2021.

Considering the content of the draft Issue Note on Agriculture circulated by the Indonesian Presidency, previous EU Guidelines² remain broadly relevant and cover most areas of concern. Nonetheless, we provide the following consolidated synthesis, which should serve as the basis for the participation of the EU and its Member States in the negotiations on the final text of the Agriculture Ministers' Communiqué to be tabled by the Indian G20 Presidency.

II. GUIDELINES FOR THE EU AND ITS MEMBER STATES

1. In the aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic, reinforce the **recovery and resilience** of global agri-food supply chains in line with the ambitions of the EU's **Farm to Fork Strategy**.
2. Address the **repercussions of Russia's aggression** against Ukraine, both on **global food security** and the integrity of **international agri-food supply chains**, in unequivocal terms and without regressing from the language established in the G20 Leaders' Bali Declaration of 2022. In this context, advocate to **avoid export bans** and restrictions on food products and call upon all countries to keep their agricultural markets open.

¹ <https://trade.ec.europa.eu/doclib/press/index.cfm?id=2243>

² "EU guidelines for the G20 Agriculture Ministers' meeting scheduled for 13-15 September 2022, Bali, Indonesia" doc. 7669/22

3. Reaffirm the political commitment of G20 agriculture ministers to demonstrating leadership for the implementation of the relevant **Sustainable Development Goals** of the UN Agenda 2030 (in particular the SDG 2: “End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture”), and express strong support for (and for signatories, commitment to) the COP21 **Paris Agreement**.
4. Prevent backsliding on **environmental and social commitments**, and advance adequate language in line with the Farm to Fork Strategy and in the spirit of the European Green Deal. In particular, preserve G20 commitment to sustainability in all its three dimensions, and maintain appropriate focus on food loss & waste and the management of biodiversity and natural resources.
5. Support efforts for **responsible agricultural investments**, ensuring they are implemented in a way that is consistent with internationally adopted guidelines³, and promote the engagement of the private sector and other stakeholders to upgrading agricultural capacity in a sustainable manner, with a focus on family farming and smallholders. Continue to promote **research and innovation aiming at increased sustainability**, including information and communication technologies in agriculture.
6. In order to facilitate the transparency of agricultural markets, secure the continued operation and funding of relevant G20 initiatives, in particular the **Agricultural Market Information System**.
7. Insist on a strong emphasis on combating **Antimicrobial Resistance**, in line with the One Health approach and existing G20 commitments, while avoiding language that could predetermine general EU positions or ongoing negotiations.
8. Emphasize the importance of the **multilateral, rules-based system** for agri-food trade. In the interest of progressively aligning international standards with the EU’s policy objectives, strive to mainstream the prioritisation of sustainability in agri-food trade policy, incl. through the promotion of supply chains free from deforestation, forced or undeclared labour, and other unsustainable practices.

³ In particular the CFS-RAI and CFS-VGGT (*Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure*).

9. Ensure **coherence** of narrative with the Environment, Trade and Development work streams and other G20 formations with responsibilities that overlap with agriculture, as well as consistency with the G7 Agriculture track. Where appropriate, strengthen coherence with relevant work of **international organisations** such as the WTO, FAO, CFS and OECD, and encourage international co-operation for agri-food capacity building in developing regions.
 10. Encourage the **continuation of regular meetings of G20 agriculture ministers**, in order to preserve the format as a forum for dialogue and addressing policy issues that are global in scope and therefore benefit from multilateral solutions.
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