



**RBA Senior Consultative Group  
Special session on COVID-19  
FAO HQ (Zoom)  
Tuesday, 14 April 2020, 14:00-15:30 hrs**

**Key Messages**

- 1)FAO welcomed IFAD and WFP to FAO HQ (Zoom) for the 1st meeting of the RBA Senior Consultative Group (RBA SCG) in 2020 which was dedicated to the COVID-19 response. The crisis situation strengthened the RBA's willingness to cooperate.
  
- 2)The three agencies updated the group regarding their organization specific responses to the COVID-19 crisis. The SCG commended the Secretary-General's leadership in coordinating system-wide efforts, including in the development of the Global Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) and the UN COVID-19 Socio-economic impact Response Framework.
  
- 3)Within this context, the SCG underscored the need for effective coordination and concrete actions in order to prevent the COVID-19 crisis from turning into a major food security crisis, with an even greater impact on food systems and livelihoods. The SCG agreed to continue to closely coordinate the provision of timely assistance to Governments to respond to the new challenges posed by COVID-19. The headquarters of the three RBAs are operating with all their staff working remotely as it is the case in most regional and country offices. The teleworking arrangements and business continuity plans (BCP) are working well. In this regard, RBA collaboration has enhanced the sharing of information and analysis, particularly on staff wellbeing and BCPs.
  
- 4) With regards to the COVID-19 response and potential effects, the SCG agreed that RBA collaboration should be coordinated across six pillars, as follows: i) advocacy; ii) policy advice and analytical work (to provide governments concrete solutions to mitigate the impact of COVID-19 crisis on food systems, rather than simple assessments of this impact); iii) joint programming with a focus on resilience (including development, humanitarian and peace nexus); iv) operations and logistics; v) technical assistance; vi) Business Continuity Management at both HQ and regional/country levels.
  
- 5) Therefore it was decided that for COVID-19 response, the SCG would serve as the main coordination platform and RBA collaboration will be enhanced through intensifying collaboration for results under existing and established partnership mechanisms.
  
- 6) In an effort to ensure enhanced dialogue at the strategic level, the SCG agreed to meet more frequently in 2020 so to be able to respond to the current crisis in a coherent and coordinated manner. This will provide the opportunity to take stock of where the RBAs stand and what efforts could be made to maximize respective contributions in the context of the rapidly evolving situation. The next SCG meeting will be convened in two weeks.