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Продовольственная и  
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# COUNCIL

## Hundred and Seventieth Session

13-17 June 2022

## Report of the 133rd Session of the Programme Committee (Rome, 16-20 May 2022)

### Executive summary

The Programme Committee examined a number of matters relating to programme planning and evaluation, in particular with regard to:

- a) Preparation for the Medium Term Plan (Reviewed) 2022-25 - Regional Priorities;
- b) FAO Strategy on Climate Change;
- c) FAO Science and Innovation Strategy;
- d) Governance of FAO's statistical and other data activities and their alignment with the cross-cutting FAO policies on Protection of Data and Intellectual Property Rights and follow-up report on the Evaluation of FAO's Statistical Work;
- e) Concept note in relation to the types of FAO products and the means for their development;
- f) Update on FAO's work on the One Health approach including the One Health Joint Plan of Action;
- g) Report on progress and achievements in the implementation of the FAO Strategy for Private Sector Engagement 2021-2025;
- h) Update on the International Platform for Digital Food and Agriculture;
- i) Real-time Evaluation of FAO's COVID-19 Response and Recovery Programme - Phase II Progress report;
- j) Evaluation of FAO's contribution to availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all (SDG 6) and Management's Response;
- k) Summary report on the joint evaluation of collaboration among the United Nations Rome-based Agencies and Coordinated Response to the Joint Evaluation of Collaboration among the United Nations Rome-based Agencies; and
- l) Update on the selection process of the Director of Evaluation.

The Committee brings its findings and recommendations on these matters to the attention of the Council.

### Suggested action by the Council

The Council is requested to endorse the findings and recommendations of the Programme Committee.

*Queries on the substantive content of this document may be addressed to:*

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## Introduction

1. The Programme Committee (PC) submitted to the Council the following Report of its Hundred and Thirty-third Session.

2. In addition to the Chairperson, H.E. (Ms) Yael Rubinstein (Israel), the following representatives of Members were present:

H.E. (Mr) Carlos Bernardo Cherniak (Argentina) <sup>1</sup>	Ms Traoré Halimatou Kone (Mali)
H.E. (Mr) Fernando José Marroni de Abreu (Brazil)	Mr Donald G. Syme (New Zealand)
Mr Maarten de Groot (Canada)	Ms Bjørg Skotnes (Norway) <sup>5</sup>
Ms ZHU Baoying (China) <sup>2,3</sup>	Ms Saadia Elmubarak Ahmed Daak (Sudan)
Ms Delphine Babin-Pellier (France)	Mr Kayoya Masuhwa (Zambia)
H.E. (Ms) Neena Malhotra (India) <sup>4</sup>	

3. Iraq was not represented.

4. The Session was convened in a hybrid modality, with designated representatives of some Members attending in person at FAO headquarters (Argentina, Canada, China, France, Mali, Norway and Zambia) and others participating virtually (Brazil, India, New Zealand and Sudan) on an exceptional basis due to the COVID-19 pandemic in Italy and worldwide.

5. Having regard to this exceptional modality, the Committee confirmed that participation by designated representatives through virtual modality constituted attendance at the Session, which was convened at the seat of the Organization in accordance with Rule II (5) of the Rules of Procedure of the Committee. The Chairperson informed Members that, should technical connection fail, the meeting would be suspended if the quorum was not reached.

## I. Adoption of the Provisional Agenda and Timetable

6. The Committee noted that items 7, 8, 9 and 10 would be addressed under a written correspondence procedure, and adopted the Provisional Agenda and Timetable for the Session.

## II. Preparation for the Medium Term Plan (Reviewed) 2022-25 - Regional Priorities

7. The Committee:

- a) welcomed key updates arising from the Regional Conferences on regional priorities; and
- b) agreed the regional priorities would be presented jointly in a document with the priorities arising from the Technical Committees at its next Session.

## III. FAO Strategy on Climate Change

8. The Committee:

- a) welcomed the FAO Strategy on Climate Change 2022-2031 with the integration of guidance from relevant Governing Body sessions, such as the 168th Session of the Council, as well as the recommendations from FAO Regional Conferences, and appreciated the open, inclusive and transparent consultative process in its development;
- b) underlined the importance of considering FAO's mandate and comparative advantage and the specific contexts, priorities and capacities globally and across regions, countries and the local level in implementing the Strategy;
- c) acknowledged agrifood systems have become widely recognized and adopted as an integral part of the solution to climate change, and highlighted the importance of supporting countries in tackling climate change in agrifood systems;

<sup>1</sup> H.E. (Mr) Carlos Bernardo Cherniak has been replaced by Mr Guillermo Valentín Rodolico for part of the Session.

<sup>2</sup> Mr LI Bo was designated to replace Mr NI Hongxing.

<sup>3</sup> Ms ZHU Baoying was designated to replace Mr LI Bo for the Session.

<sup>4</sup> H.E. (Ms) Neena Malhotra was designated to replace Mr Bommakanti Rajender.

<sup>5</sup> Ms Bjørg Skotnes was designated to replace H.E. (Mr) Morten von Hanno Aasland.

- d) highlighted the complementary and synergic nature of FAO Strategy on Climate Change, and FAO Science and Innovation Strategy, as well as the FAO Strategy on Mainstreaming Biodiversity across Agricultural Sectors, which, in close articulation, can act as a key driver for boosting sustainability and resilience within agrifood systems; and
- e) recommended the Council to consider and endorse the FAO Strategy on Climate Change 2022-2031 at its 170th Session.

#### IV. FAO Science and Innovation Strategy

##### 9. The Committee:

- a) welcomed the inclusive, transparent and consultative process for developing FAO's first ever Science and Innovation Strategy;
- b) reiterated the importance of considering the specificities of global, regional, national, and local contexts when implementing the Strategy to ensure that all types of knowledge, science and innovation are accessible and adaptable to local realities;
- c) noted that all Regional Conferences welcomed the FAO Science and Innovation Strategy as a key tool to implement the FAO Strategic Framework 2022-31 and to contribute to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;
- d) reiterated the importance of using the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development language and other multilaterally agreed language and concepts, in particular those agreed by FAO Governing Bodies, noting that the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are integrated and indivisible and balanced with the three dimensions of sustainable development;
- e) underlined that the overall aim of the Strategy is to strengthen the implementation of the FAO Strategic Framework in support of Agenda 2030 and speed up progress in meeting the SDGs;
- f) appreciated the additional references to the 2030 Agenda, including in the goal of the Strategy, and the clear articulation of FAO's role;
- g) commended the broad approach to all types of innovation and to all scientific disciplines including systemic approaches, in particular in the development of its Action Plan for the implementation of the Strategy;
- h) stressed the need for science and innovation to be supported by strong institutions, good governance, political will and appropriate regulatory frameworks to promote equity for the benefit of all players in agrifood systems; and
- i) welcomed the inclusion of the knowledge of small-scale producers and the attention given to accessibility and affordability of innovations.

##### 10. Recognizing the complementarity between the Science and Innovation Strategy and the Strategy on Climate Change, the Committee recommended to ensure coherence between the two strategies on key issues, and recommended that the Council consider the following specific adjustments to the text of the Strategy:

- a) recommending to use rights-based and people-centred for the first guiding principle;
- b) specifying the need for gender balance in expert groups, platforms and processes;
- c) highlighting and promoting the important role of youth in the development and use of science and innovation;
- d) rephrasing the reference to the right to food as "the progressive realization of the right to adequate food in the context of national food security" (paragraph 28. i);
- e) rephrasing the reference to Free Prior and Informed Consent as: "respecting the importance of Free Prior and Informed Consent of Indigenous Peoples, as applicable" (paragraph 28. vii);
- f) specifying mechanisms to provide guidance on integration of any relevant ethical, legal, social practices in its work (paragraph 28. vii);
- g) establishing clear links with private sector actors in coherence with the FAO Strategy for Private Sector Engagement;
- h) treating concepts relating to common but differentiated responsibilities (CBDR), technology transfer, and trade, as relevant, similarly in both the Science and Innovation Strategy and the Strategy on Climate Change;
- i) strengthening the links with the FAO Strategy on Mainstreaming Biodiversity across Agricultural Sectors; and

- j) strengthening the linkages with existing science-policy interface mechanisms of the three Rio Conventions.

11. With the above guidance, the Committee recommended the 170th Session of the Council to consider and endorse the FAO Science and Innovation Strategy.

## **V. Governance of FAO's statistical and other data activities and their alignment with the cross-cutting FAO policies on Protection of Data and Intellectual Property Rights and follow-up report on the Evaluation of FAO's Statistical Work**

12. The Committee:

- a) took note of the explanations provided in document PC 133/2, in particular, that the follow-up report on the Evaluation of FAO's Statistical Work is subsumed in documents CL 170/18 *Governance of FAO's statistical and other data activities and their alignment with the cross-cutting FAO policies on Protection of Data and Intellectual Property Rights - Proposal for an improved internal coordination and its alignment with corporate policies on Data Protection and Intellectual Property Rights* and PC 132/5 *Proposal for improved governance of FAO statistical activities*;
- b) welcomed the clarifications made to the proposal for improved internal coordination of FAO statistical activities and other data for statistics presented in document CL 170/18, particularly with regard to its alignment with FAO's corporate policies on data protection and intellectual property rights;
- c) noted the conclusions of the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters (CCLM) at its 115th Session on this matter;
- d) recommended that the linkages between the internal structures addressing data protection, data and statistics governance and data in general be clarified with particular regard to programmatic considerations;
- e) reiterated the importance and critical role of the Organization's statistical work;
- f) encouraged Management to continue improving internal coordination of FAO statistical activities, and to update Members regularly, and strengthening capacity building at the country level through invigorating Decentralized Offices in statistical matters and scaling up related resource mobilization efforts;
- g) suggested FAO organize informal technical discussions with Members on the content, use and technical characteristics of data and statistical tools and platforms deployed by FAO, as well as on intellectual property rights;
- h) appreciated Management's clarification of the scope of the term "data" and its reference for statistical purposes; and
- i) requested follow up of FAO's work on statistics to be shared regularly with the Programme Committee, as deemed possible.

## **VI. Concept note in relation to the types of FAO products and the means for their development**

13. The Committee:

- a) welcomed document CL 170/INF/6 *Concept note in relation to the types of FAO products and the means for their development* providing non-exhaustive guidance on the practice of the Organization in relation to the types of FAO products, and supported the conclusions of the CCLM, at its 115th Session on this matter;
- b) encouraged inclusive and transparent consultations with Members where the means of development for FAO products are unclear, in particular, to ensure appropriate Member's involvement on strategies and action plans; and
- c) invited the Council to note this document as an orientation tool to guide Members.

## **VII. Update on FAO's work on the One Health approach including the One Health Joint Plan of Action**

### 14. The Committee:

- a) noted with appreciation the focus of the One Health Programme Priority Area (OH PPA) to apply an integrated, holistic and coordinated multisectoral One Health approach to promote sustainable and resilient agrifood systems, reducing pest and disease losses while ensuring sustainable, resilient, and inclusive value chains;
- b) acknowledged the role of the FAO Action Plan on Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) 2021-2025 and invited FAO to continue strengthening Members' capacities, as appropriate, to achieve its five objectives;
- c) welcomed the enhanced coordination of One Health activities through the revised Memorandum of Understanding between FAO, the World Health Organization (WHO), the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE), and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), by which UNEP joined the former Tripartite to form a new Quadripartite for One Health, and stressed the importance of collaboration between FAO and the other Quadripartite partners;
- d) took note of the development of the One Health Joint Plan of Action (OH JPA) by the Quadripartite under FAO's leadership and looked forward to the forthcoming consultation process with FAO Members in order to provide inputs to finalize the OH JPA;
- e) welcomed the progressive management pathway for biosecurity as a framework to reduce the risks of animal diseases, emerging zoonoses and AMR, and acknowledged that it would be an essential component of the OH PPA and OH JPA;
- f) took note of the progress made in the development of AMR Strategic Framework and in establishing the AMR Multi-stakeholders Partnership Platform, and encouraged relevant stakeholders from the agriculture sector to actively engage in it;
- g) recalled the important role of FAO and its Members in the global governance of One Health; and
- h) recommended FAO's continued engagement in existing One Health initiatives and structures.

## **VIII. Report on progress and achievements in the implementation of the FAO Strategy for Private Sector Engagement 2021-2025 (Item for information)**

### 15. The Committee:

- a) noted with appreciation the progress and achievements in the implementation of the FAO Strategy for Private Sector Engagement 2021-2025; and
- b) welcomed the key directions for the future outlined in this report, and supported continued engagement of FAO with the private sector in support of Members' achievement of SDGs.

## **IX. Update on the International Platform for Digital Food and Agriculture (Item for information)**

### 16. The Committee:

- a) took note of the update and progress of the key activities towards the establishment of the International Platform for Digital Food and Agriculture;
- b) noted that dedicated resources are needed to support the implementation of the operating mechanism of the International Platform for Digital Food and Agriculture and looked forward to future updates on voluntary contributions received for that purpose; and
- c) looked forward to receiving information on progress and achievements of the activities of the Platform at a future session.

## **X. Real-time Evaluation of FAO's COVID-19 Response and Recovery Programme - Phase II Progress report**

17. The Committee:

- a) welcomed the progress in carrying out the second phase of the real time evaluation of FAO's COVID-19 Response and Recovery Programme (RRP);
- b) appreciated the update on the work being carried out to assess the contributions of FAO's COVID-19 RRP;
- c) noted that the country case studies are being conducted and that a series of self-assessed contributions are being prepared encompassing all seven RRP priority areas; and
- d) underlined the complexity of the evaluation, which affected the timeframe of the exercise, and looked forward to receiving the final report of the real-time evaluation as well as the Management Response at its next session.

## **XI. Evaluation of FAO's contribution to availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all (SDG 6) and Management's Response**

18. The Committee:

- a) welcomed this timely and strategic evaluation and Management's acceptance of the majority of the recommendations;
- b) underlined the fundamental importance of sustainable management of water resources to FAO's core mandate and the need for the Organization to articulate a strategic and coherent approach to water-related activities;
- c) commended FAO's significant contribution to relevant SDG 6 "Clean water and sanitation" targets, including the fulfilment of its custodial role for two SDG 6 indicators and its comparative advantage in helping Members pursue them;
- d) stressed the urgent need to address the links between agriculture and water quality and pollution, within FAO's mandate, in collaboration with relevant UN agencies;
- e) called for water issues to be considered with a cross-sectoral perspective within FAO's mandate, in particular by encouraging its discussion by relevant Governing Bodies;
- f) recognized FAO's technical expertise in supporting its Members on crop production, livestock, fisheries, forestry, aquaculture, agriculture, irrigated agriculture, agrochemicals and other pollutants in relation to their impacts on water quality, and encouraged FAO to strengthen its work in this area;
- g) acknowledged that FAO's work on water governance has high potential to contribute to transformative changes, as appropriate, to support the achievement of SDG 6, and invited FAO to support Members on how to address water governance issues; and
- h) highlighted FAO's comprehensive policies and strategies on social inclusiveness, participation and gender equality relating to SDG 6 related issues and encouraged their full implementation, as appropriate, at all levels to ensure that no one is left behind.

## **XII. Summary report on the joint evaluation of collaboration among the United Nations Rome-based Agencies and Coordinated Response to the Joint Evaluation of Collaboration among the United Nations Rome-based Agencies**

19. The Committee welcomed the summary report on the Joint Evaluation of collaboration among the United Nations Rome-based Agencies and the Coordinated Response, and concurred with the recommendations of the Joint Meeting of the 133rd Session of the Programme Committee and 191st Session of the Finance Committee on this matter, and in particular:

- a) reiterated the need to avoid overlap, competition and duplication of work, encouraged further actions to build on a clear understanding of their respective mandates, and strengthen synergies, complementarities and comparative advantages to improve Rome-based Agencies (RBAs) collaboration and agreed that collaboration is essential as a part of the ongoing United Nations development system (UNDS) repositioning; and
- b) looked forward to receiving regular updates on the status of the implementation of the recommendations.

### **XIII. Update on the selection process of the Director of Evaluation (Item for information)**

20. The Committee welcomed the update provided by Management on the selection and appointment of Ms Clemencia Cosentino for the position of FAO Director of Office of Evaluation.

### **XIV. Tentative agenda for the 134th Session of the Programme Committee (Item for information)**

21. Having regard to Rule III of the Rules of Procedure of the Programme Committee, the Committee took note of document PC 133/INF/5, and recommended the inclusion of items on:

- a) update on FAO's Country Programming Frameworks;
- b) update on FAO statistics work for SDG indicators and the UN Statistics Commission;
- c) update on the Governance of FAO's statistical data and other data activities and their alignment with the cross-cutting FAO policies on Protection of Data and Intellectual Property Rights; and
- d) update on action plans of Strategies on Climate Change and Science and Innovation.

### **XV. Date and Place of the next session**

22. The Committee took note of the proposed dates for its 134th Session, to be held from 7 to 11 November 2022, Rome, and acknowledged that the arrangements for the Session would be established in accordance with the evolving COVID-19 restrictions.