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COUNCIL

Hundred and Thirty-seventh Session

Rome, 28 September – 2 October 2009

**Report of the Joint Meeting of the Hundred and Second Session of the
Programme Committee and the Hundred and Twenty-eighth
Session of the Finance Committee
Rome, 29 July 2009**

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REPORT OF THE JOINT MEETING OF THE PROGRAMME AND FINANCE COMMITTEES

Rome, 29 July 2009

INTRODUCTION

1. The Joint Meeting submits its Report to the Council.
2. The following Members were present at the meeting:

Programme Committee

Chairperson

Mr V. Heard (United Kingdom)

Members

Mr A.R. Ayazi (Afghanistan)
 Mr C.A. Amaral (Angola)
 Ms M. del Carmen Squeff (Argentina)
 Ms F. Bartlett (Australia)
 H.E. J.A. Marcondes de Carvalho (Brazil)
 Mr M. Valicenti (Canada)
 Mr A.A.M. Hosni Abdel Aziz (Egypt)
 H.E. C. Obama Ondo (Equatorial Guinea)
 Mr K. Shioya (Japan)

Finance Committee

Chairperson

Mr Y.A.R. Sorour (Egypt)

Members

Mr M. Médi (Cameroon)
 Mr Li Zhengdong (China)
 Mr S. Skafté (Denmark)
 Mr J.-J. Soula (France)
 Mr E.W. Hein (Germany)
 H.E. J.E. Chen Charpentier (Mexico)
 Mr R.H. Qureshi (Pakistan)
 Mr. Horacio Maltez (Panama)
 Mr R. Sabiiti (Uganda)
 Mr C. Hegadorn (USA)

3. The Joint Meeting appreciated the opening address from the Director-General, the full text of which may be found on FAO's Permanent Representatives Web site (<http://permreps.fao.org/>).

Item 1: Adoption of the Agenda¹

4. The Agenda for the Joint Meeting was approved.

Item 2: Strategic Framework² and Item 3: Medium Term Plan 2010-13 and Programme of Work and Budget 2010-11³

5. After receiving oral reports from the respective Chairpersons on proceedings in the two Committees, the Meeting jointly addressed the Strategic Framework, Medium Term Plan 2010-13 and Programme of Work and Budget 2010-11.
6. The Joint Meeting welcomed the new documentation as a first step in implementing the results-based framework funded from an integrated budget, which represented a significant innovation and important milestone in the formulation and implementation of FAO's programmes and of the Immediate Plan of Action (IPA) for FAO Renewal. The Joint Meeting complimented

¹ JM 09.2/1

² PC 102/2 – FC 128/11

³ PC 102/3 – FC 128/11 a (Rev. 1 - English version only)

the Secretariat for its efforts to transform the considerations and instructions from the Conference Committee for the Follow-up to the Independent External Evaluation of FAO (CoC-IEE), the Technical Committees and Council into the draft Strategic Framework, Medium Term Plan 2010-13 and Programme of Work and Budget 2010-11.

7. The Joint Meeting underlined the importance of dynamically adapting FAO's programmes to the changing needs of the development environment, in line with results-based management principles, while maintaining their overall capacity to deliver quality services at global, regional and national levels. The Joint Meeting recognized that the foundations of the new planning framework had fundamentally changed, with a strong focus on identifying priorities among the 13 new Strategic and Functional Objectives (comprising 56 Organizational Results) rather than the 43 Programmes (with 183 Programme Entities) of the previous biennium.

8. The Joint Meeting focused its discussion on five main aspects of the PWB: comparison with current programmes; the proposed category of Core Voluntary contributions; the proposed funding of the IPA; the possible inclusion of the concept of Impact Focus Areas (IFAs) in the PWB; and the proposed Chapter structure. The Joint Meeting was unable to conclude its deliberation on these issues.

9. Although recognizing that this was a new approach for the PWB, the Joint Meeting noted that there was no clear basis for comparison with the previous PWB. Therefore, the Secretariat agreed to provide additional information to enable a programmatic comparison of the regular budgets for the 2008-09 and 2010-11 biennia. The Joint Meeting asked the Secretariat to provide additional information prior to the next Council Session on the proposed category of Core Voluntary contributions, in order to better understand the elements within this category, including its nature and relationship with other sources of funding, e.g. the Net Appropriation, and the degree to which the items represented a reliable source of funding.

10. The Joint Meeting stressed the paramount importance of the reform process and guaranteed funding for the IPA. Several Members questioned the proposed funding modality for the IPA, in light of the decision taken at the Conference in 2008, and argued for the necessity of having it within the Net Appropriation of the PWB. The Joint Meeting also noted the Director-General's commitment to review the assumptions underpinning the costs of the IPA in 2010-11 and adjusting them prior to finalization of the PWB proposals.

11. Several Members provided their views on the proposed Chapter structure under the new results framework, with the majority supporting Option 1. Questions were raised concerning treatment of FAOR and TCP.

12. Given the importance of the topics at hand, and taking into account that the final draft MTP/PWB and additional information would be forthcoming from the Secretariat, the Joint Meeting welcomed the proposal of the Finance Committee to hold an additional one-day session prior to the Council Session in September.

Item 4: Directions for Collaboration among the Rome-based Agencies⁴

13. The Joint Meeting welcomed the strategy document *Directions for Collaboration among Rome-based Agencies* jointly prepared by FAO, IFAD and WFP. The Joint Meeting recommended that the document be presented to the next session of the FAO Council and noted that it would be presented to the Governing Boards of IFAD and WFP later in 2009. The Joint Meeting found that the document provided a good basis for strengthened future partnerships and collaboration among the Rome-based Agencies.

⁴ JM 09.2/4

14. The representatives of IFAD and WFP fully associated themselves with the contents of the joint strategy paper and reaffirmed their commitment to the collaboration, including on the preparations for the forthcoming World Summit on Food Security.

Item 5: Collaboration on Administrative and Processing Work between FAO, WFP and IFAD – Progress Report⁵

15. The Joint Meeting expressed its appreciation for the Collaboration on Administrative and Processing Work between FAO, WFP and IFAD as contained in the Progress Report and expressed its continued support for Rome-based Agency collaboration, whenever possible.

16. The Joint Meeting took note of the information in the document and noted that one important tangible outcome of the collaboration was the agreement of the three agencies to a recommendation made under the Root and Branch review to establish a joint procurement unit functioning as one for the three Rome-based Agencies. This joint procurement unit would be implemented on a one-year pilot basis from 1 January 2010 and was an important first step in realizing the savings anticipated in the Root and Branch review, as also reflected in the draft PWB 2010-11.

17. The Joint Meeting acknowledged the actions initiated by Management to review and strengthen the tools necessary for quantifying efficiency savings resulting from the Rome-based Agency collaboration.

18. The Joint Meeting expressed its appreciation for the attendance by WFP and IFAD at this Session.

Item 6: Management of the TCP Appropriation⁶

19. The Joint Meeting noted the information provided on the issue of the management of the TCP appropriation, including the reasons for the low level of expenditures in 2006-07, and the activities carried out by the Secretariat to complete, as far as possible, the implementation of projects approved against the 2006-07 appropriation and commit the 2008-09 appropriation before the end of 2009. It was noted that the Finance Committee had yet to address the implementation of the 2006-07 TCP appropriation.

20. The Joint Meeting also welcomed the information provided on the action envisaged by the Secretariat to ensure the smooth management of the TCP appropriation and the maximum utilization of the resources in the context of the decentralization of the TCP management as from 1 January 2010. The Joint Meeting declared its intention to follow the development and implementation of decentralization.

Item 7: Any Other Business

21. There was no discussion under this agenda item.

⁵ JM 09.2/5

⁶ JM 09.2/6