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PROGRAMME COMMITTEE

Rome, 7 - 11 May 2012

**FOLLOW-UP TO THE EVALUATION OF FAO'S ROLE AND WORK
RELATED TO WATER**

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Background

1. At its 103rd Session in April 2010, the Committee considered the *Evaluation of FAO's work and role related to water*, and the Management Response to that Evaluation.
2. At this session, the Committee is presented with: (i) a Follow-up report charting the progress of implementation of the recommendations of the Evaluation; and (ii) a Validation report of the Follow-up report prepared by the Office of Evaluation (OED).
3. With regard to the Validation report, it is noted that in May 2011 the Committee requested OED to propose a methodology for validating statements of progress made in implementing accepted recommendations as contained in Follow-up reports to Management Responses. Accordingly, OED developed a methodology and tested it on the Follow-up report to the Management Response to the thematic *Evaluation of FAO's role and work related to water*. The validation process was carried out in February 2012.

Follow-up key issues

4. Good progress is reported on implementation of many of the Evaluation's recommendations, and in particular the steps taken in addressing the main finding of the Evaluation for establishment of a FAO Water Platform. Currently, all of FAO's water-related activities are streamlined through the Platform which has dedicated resources allocated within the PWB 2012-13 for its coordination work.

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5. The Organization has been able to give attention to nearly all the recommendations of the Evaluation despite the complexity of their broad span and range, as well as budgetary and other constraints. Looking forward, the revision of the Strategic Framework and preparation of the Medium Term Plan 2014-17 offer opportunities for further addressing the recommendations.

Validation findings

6. The Follow up report was compiled with contributions from different stakeholders in the Organization and provides an overall idea about progress made and some of the constraints faced in the implementation of the recommendations.

7. The major recommendation that Water in FAO required specific additional resources was not integrated by the Organization in the PWB 2012-13, aside from the assignment of a dedicated senior professional officer and one support staff to provide Secretariat of the Water Platform.

Guidance sought

8. The Programme Committee may wish to provide its views and guidance on the usefulness of the Validation report and whether OED should mainstream the procedure in its reporting to the Committee, as well as on the follow-up actions by Management.