

Second Session of the COAG Sub-Committee on Livestock

Written Correspondence Procedure (WCP)

Agenda item 5.1: Review of the Multi-Year Programme of Work 2024–27

Secretariat response to written comments from Members received by 3 July 2024

The Secretariat expresses appreciation for the comments received from Members on agenda item 5.1. Comments were received from the European Union and its 27 Member Nations (Albania, Moldova and Montenegro also align themselves with the statement), Malaysia, New Zealand, Philippines, Switzerland and United States of America.

FAO thanks New Zealand for its support to the work of the Sub-Committee and the Multi-Year Programme of Work (MYPOW) 2024-27. FAO notes the preference of New Zealand to have this item discussed in plenary. FAO recalls that, as per established practice of the WCP and as indicated in COAG:LI/2024/INF/2 Rev.1, the sovereign right of Members to discuss an agenda item in the plenary session is not constrained by it being addressed by the WCP. FAO also takes note of the request to fully engage the Southwest Pacific region in any potential consultations on the proposed Global Plan of Action for Sustainable Livestock Transformation.

FAO takes note of the specific remarks by Switzerland on the Sub-Committee's three major areas of work. Regarding the lack of reference to specific FAO and international instruments, the Secretariat notes that the important role of these instruments was highlighted in different discussion documents, specifically the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (mentioned in COAG:LI/2024/8 and COAG:LI/2024/9), the FAO Strategy on Climate Change 2022-2031 (COAG:LI/2024/3 and COAG:LI/2024/8) and the FAO Strategy on Mainstreaming Biodiversity across Agricultural Sectors (COAG:LI/2024/3), that fed into the MYPOW document.

FAO appreciates the welcome given by Switzerland to the development of a Global Plan of Action, as well as the need to include all relevant stakeholders in the process, in particular multistakeholder partnerships such as the Global Agenda for Sustainable Livestock (GASL), Livestock Environmental Assessment and Performance (LEAP) Partnership and Global Research Alliance on Agricultural Greenhouse Gases (GRA). Regarding the potential budgetary and human resource implications of organizing an extraordinary Sub-Committee on Livestock session in 2025, FAO notes that the Sub-Committee has been operating with the use of limited extrabudgetary resources, mainly to prepare and run the Sub-Committee regular sessions. If approved by COAG, a detailed work plan and budget for the development of a Global Plan of Action, including the involvement of all relevant stakeholders, such as the mentioned multistakeholder partnerships, will be presented to the Sub-Committee Bureau to be shared with the Sub-Committee members.

FAO welcomes the remarks by the United States of America and appreciates its recognition of the importance of collaboration with other relevant stakeholders. FAO thanks Malaysia for its remarks.

FAO welcomes the support given by the European Union (and its 27 Member States as well as Albania, Moldova and Montenegro who align themselves with the statement) to the MYPOW. FAO welcomes the emphasis given for a balanced and integrated approach to the Sub-Committee work that considers the three dimensions of sustainability on an equal footing. FAO takes note of the specific points made about the different elements of the proposed MYPOW. The Secretariat also welcomes the call for FAO to develop a Global Plan of Action, taking into account the outcomes of the Sustainable Livestock Transformation conference of September 2023 and of the Sub-Committee. FAO also notes the comment

that, in order to do this effectively, such a plan must not duplicate or detract from any of the individual actions foreseen in the Sub-Committee work programme. FAO acknowledges with gratitude the financial support from Australia, France, Ireland and Switzerland to the Sub-Committee's programme of work.