

Multi-year Programmes of Work for the Governing Bodies

1. Context

1. Under the Immediate Plan of Action for FAO Renewal (IPA), governance reform actions include the development of Multi-year Programmes of Work (MYPOWs) for the Governing Bodies. In this regard, the IPA provides for the following:

The Council, Programme and Finance Committees, CCLM, Regional Conferences and Technical Committees will each: (Action 2.70)

- a) *prepare a multiyear programme of work of at least four years duration, once per biennium which will be reviewed by the Council and/or Conference (in accordance with their respective reporting lines) (Action 2.71);*
- b) *prepare a report of their progress against the Programme of Work once every two years also for review by the Council and/or Conference (Action 2.72).*

2. These actions were confirmed by the Conference in November 2009¹, and further supported by the Council in May 2010².

2. Achievements so far

Development of the Council Multi-year Programme of Work 2010-13

5. The Independent Chairperson of the Council prepared a draft Multi-year Programme of Work 2010-13 for the Council, which was discussed by the Membership at two informal seminars in July and September 2010, and was improved based on feedback from the Members. The draft MYPOW is tabled on the agenda of the next session of the Council in November-December 2010.

Approval of the Programme Committee Multi-year Programme of Work 2010-13

3. At its April 2010 session, the Programme Committee considered and approved its Multi-year Programme of Work 2010-13, which had been prepared by the Chairperson of the Committee, in consultation with Committee Members, in the course of two informal seminars held in February and March 2010³. The Committee's approved MYPOW was then endorsed by Council in May 2010⁴.

Development of the Finance Committee Multi-year Programme of Work 2010-13

4. At its April 2010 session, the Finance Committee considered its draft Multi-year Programme of Work 2010-13, which had been formulated through informal discussions amongst Committee Members earlier in the same month. The Committee further examined and enhanced its draft MYPOW at an informal meeting on 1 June 2010. Based on additional inputs made by Members, the document was adjusted for subsequent consideration and final approval by the Committee at its forthcoming session in late October 2010⁵.

¹ *Report of the Conference of FAO, Thirty-sixth Session, Rome, 18-23 November 2009*, C 2009/REP, Resolution 4/2009, p. 20, and Annex D, paragraph 72, p. D25; *Report of the CoC-IEE to the FAO Conference on the Immediate Plan of Action for FAO Renewal*, C 2009/7, paragraph 72, p. 29.

² *Hundred and Thirty-ninth Session of the Council, Rome, 17-21 May 2010*, CL 139/REP, paragraph 53.

³ *Programme Committee Multi-year Programme of Work 2010-13*, CL 139/4 Annex 2.

⁴ *Hundred and Thirty-ninth Session of the Council, Rome, 17-21 May 2010*, CL 139/REP, paragraph 33.

⁵ *The Multi-Year Programme of Work of the Finance Committee 2010-13*, FC 135/18.

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Preparation of the CCLM Multi-year Programme of Work 2010-13

6. At its recently concluded session of September 2010, the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters examined a document on the draft MYPOW for the CCLM⁶, which highlighted some distinctive characteristics of the Committee, in particular the fact that it does not have pre-determined, recurrent or standing items on its agendas, which would need to be reviewed in accordance with a pre-set programme of work. The CCLM considered, as a general rule, that it would not be possible for it to establish a MYPOW like the other Committees. Nevertheless, the CCLM decided to keep the issue of its MYPOW under review, while recommending to the Council that the distinctive features of its *modus operandi* be duly taken into account.

3. Expected developments

In 2010

7. The Finance Committee's agreed MYPOW is expected to be considered and endorsed by the Council at its 140th Session in November-December 2010.

8. At the same session, the Council is expected to review, amend as needed, and possibly approve its MYPOW.

In 2011

9. At its March 2011 session, the CCLM might further review the issue of its MYPOW, based on any guidance that might be provided by the Council at its November-December 2010 session.

10. As the Committee on World Food Security meets annually, it should be in position to examine and approve its draft MYPOW at its October 2011 session, for subsequent consideration and possible endorsement by the Council at its November 2011 session.

In 2012

11. As noted at the last meeting of the CoC-IEE in June 2010, MYPOWs have not been put on the 2010 agendas of the Regional Conferences and the Technical Committees. Since these Governing Bodies hold only one session every two years, their MYPOWs should be adopted when they meet next in 2012, following preparatory work that would begin during the current biennium⁷.

⁶ Draft multi-year programme of work for the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters, CCLM 91/8.

⁷ Chair's Aide-Mémoire, 23 June 2010 (http://typo3.fao.org/fileadmin/user_upload/IEE/Aidememoire_CoC_23June_E.pdf).