

July 2005

E



منظمة الأغذية
والزراعة
للأمم المتحدة

联合国
粮食及
农业组织

Food
and
Agriculture
Organization
of
the
United
Nations

Organisation
des
Nations
Unies
pour
l'alimentation
et
l'agriculture

Organización
de las
Naciones
Unidas
para la
Agricultura
y la
Alimentación

CONFERENCE

Thirty-third Session

Rome, 19 -26 November 2005

Medium Term Plan 2006-2011

(Extract from the Report of the Hundred and Twenty-seventh Council Session)

(November 2004)

MEDIUM TERM PLAN 2006-2011¹²

51. The Council addressed the Medium-Term Plan (MTP) 2006-2011, with the benefit of the comments of the Programme and Finance Committees, including the detailed review of its substantive contents carried out by the Programme Committee. It welcomed the improvements in the document, including the application for the first time of Results-Based Budgeting principles to the non-technical and technical cooperation areas. The Council recalled that the rolling plan and changes to existing entities. The Council welcomed the application of this approach in the current version, and encouraged further steps in this direction in future versions.

52. The Council welcomed the analysis in the document of the application of three basic criteria for priority-setting, which were consistent with the guidance it had provided at earlier sessions (i.e. conformity with the Organization's mandate and relevance to its strategic objectives; expressed priority and usefulness to a broad section of the Membership or to special groups identified by the Governing Bodies; and FAO's comparative advantage).

53. Many Members recommended that greater prominence be given in future documents to the contribution of FAO to the implementation of internationally-agreed development goals, in particular those of the Millennium Declaration. The Council was informed in this connection that

¹² CL 127/7; CL 127/PV/4; CL 127/PV/5; CL 127/PV/6; CL 127/PV/8

For reasons of economy, this document is produced in a limited number of copies. Delegates and observers are kindly requested to bring it to the meetings and to refrain from asking for additional copies, unless strictly indispensable.
Most FAO meeting documents are available on Internet at www.fao.org

such contributions would be better highlighted in a document for the next session of the Committee on World Food Security and that the issue would be duly taken into account in the revision of FAO's Strategic Framework. The importance of pursuing close partnerships with other UN System organizations and of ensuring active participation of FAO in key country-level policy exercises was also emphasized. Some Members regretted that opportunities for extrabudgetary support had not been listed in this version.

54. The Council appreciated that proposals for capital budgeting had been presented for the first time in the MTP to implement the Capital Expenditure Facility, as approved by the last session of the Conference. It concurred with the endorsement of these proposals by the Finance Committee, including the proposal to carry forward any unused balance of arrears as at 31 December 2005 to this Capital Expenditure Facility.

55. The Council reiterated that resource projections in the MTP were of an indicative nature. It recognized that the proposals in the document embodied Real Growth (RG) at a percentage of 2.2 percent per annum, while it was also possible to identify the programme implications of Zero Real Growth (ZRG) resource levels. Among other factors with potential impact on contributions, the Council took note that the amount of US\$14.1 million which had been added by the last FAO Conference to Assessed Contributions for the 2004-05 biennium for the ongoing amortization of After Service Medical Care (ASMC) liabilities, was no longer sufficient on the basis of the latest actuarial valuations. It recognized that the Finance Committee would be considering options for handling this at its next session.

56. Many Members stressed that FAO's effective action depended on the availability of adequate resources. They felt that the 2.2 percent per annum RG rate was not commensurate with expressed demand for FAO services in all regions. They were, however, prepared to accept it, if conducive to general consensus and endorsement. Other Members emphasized that this RG rate was not consistent with recent budgetary decisions in FAO and the difficulties experienced by many countries in meeting their financial obligations to the Organization. The Council recognized that alternative scenarios for the next MTP and PWB would be necessary to enlighten the Membership about the possible impact of alternative allocations, including Zero Real Growth (ZRG), Zero Nominal Growth (ZNG) and Real Growth (RG). In this context, many Members expressed their preference for a more substantive justification for the proposed significant budget increase for the TCP.

57. The Council recalled that the final decisions on the budget level and assessments for the next biennium would take place in connection with the examination of the Summary (SPWB) and full Programme of Work and Budget (PWB) 2006-07 proposals. Among other aspects, while noting that the issue had been under active consideration in the Finance Committee, it looked forward to continued coverage of concrete and future potential efficiency savings in the PWB documents.

58. In addressing the substance, the Council agreed that the MTP proposals had been framed with the clear intent to be broadly responsive to the varied needs of the Membership. It reiterated the importance of maintaining an adequate balance between normative and operational activities CL 127/REP 11 and noted that core activities under the Regular Programme should not be excessively dependent on extra-budgetary resources. The Council supported the new Priority Area for Inter-disciplinary Action (PAIA) on the implications of the HIV/AIDS pandemic on food and agriculture and looked forward to the review of PAIAs by the Programme Committee. It further noted that the Programme Committee would continue to address priority-setting at its next session.

59. In their interventions, Members stressed a number of areas to which they attached particular importance, including: national capacity-building in general; technical assistance to developing countries, including in relation to WTO trade negotiations and in the context of New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD), natural resources management and soil and water conservation; the two components of Emergency Prevention System for Transboundary Animal and Plant Pests and Diseases (EMPRES) dealing with locusts and animal health; assistance in the context of the Avian Influenza epidemic; support to the implementation of the Voluntary Guidelines for the Right to Food; support for development and implementation of Africa's priorities; biotechnology and biosecurity; fisheries, including attention to Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fisheries and support to regional Fisheries Bodies; forestry, including support to regional commissions; key international instruments such as the IPPC, Codex, and the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources; the GIEWS and FIVIMS; data collection and FAOSTAT; gender mainstreaming; the Technical Cooperation Programme (TCP) and Special Programme for Food Security (SPFS).

60. In conclusion, the Council gave its general endorsement of the substantive content of the Medium-Term Plan as a basis for the preparation of PWB proposals for the next biennium, taking account of the comments made by the Programme and Finance Committees, the results of discussions in its Technical Committees early next year, and its own reactions, as summarized above.