



COUNCIL

Hundred and Seventy-fifth Session

Rome, 10-14 June 2024

Report of the Joint Meeting of the 138th Session of the Programme Committee and 199th Session of the Finance Committee (Rome, 20 and 24 May 2024)

Executive summary

In its Report, the Joint Meeting of the Programme and Finance Committees:

- 1) **makes specific recommendations for decision by the Council** on: the Programme Implementation Report 2022-23; and
- 2) **brings to the attention of the Council for its endorsement**, the conclusions regarding: the FAO Country Office Network-Current Status and Way Forward.

Suggested action by the Council

The Council is invited to:

- 1) **endorse** the recommendations of the Joint Meeting on the Programme Implementation Report 2022-23; and
- 2) **endorse** the conclusions of the Joint Meeting on the FAO Country Office Network-Current Status and Way Forward.

Queries on the substantive content of this document may be addressed to:

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Introduction

1. The Joint Meeting submitted its Report to the Council.
2. In addition to the Chairperson, Mr Mina Rizk (Egypt), and Ms Yael Rubinstein (Israel), the Chairperson of the Programme Committee, the following representatives of Members were present:

H.E. (Mr) Carlos Bernardo Cherniak (Argentina)	H.E. (Mr) Marcel Beukeboom (Netherlands [Kingdom of the])
Ms Emma Hatcher (Australia)	Ms Jenny Reid (New Zealand)
H.E. (Ms) Carla Barroso Carneiro (Brazil)	Ms Fadia Aljamal (Oman)
Mr Maarten de Groot (Canada)	H.E. (Ms) Nosipho Nausca-Jean Jezile (South Africa)
Mr LI Bo (China) ¹	Ms Saadia Elmubarak Ahmed Daak (Sudan)
Mr Bienvenu Ntsouanva (Congo)	Ms Pernilla Ivarsson (Sweden)
Ms Berioska Morrison González (Dominican Republic)	H.E. (Ms) Krisztina Bende (Switzerland)
Mr Jujjavarapu Balaji (India)	Mr Christopher Mace (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland)
Mr SHINDO Mitsuaki (Japan)	Ms Jacqueline Boniface Mbuya (United Republic of Tanzania)
Mr Sultan Alotaibi (Kuwait)	Mr Rodney M. Hunter (United States of America)
Mr Abdul Rahman Abdul Wahab (Malaysia)	
H.E. (Mr) Miguel Jorge García Winder (Mexico)	
Mr Abdellah Larhmaid (Morocco)	
3. The Joint Meeting thanked the Director-General for his comprehensive statement and appreciated his leadership of the Organization.

I. Adoption of the Provisional Agenda

4. The Joint Meeting adopted the Provisional Agenda for the Session.

II. Programme Implementation Report 2022-23

5. The Joint Meeting welcomed the Programme Implementation Report (PIR) 2022-23, and particularly appreciated the presentation of the document.
6. The Joint Meeting:
 - a) commended FAO's approach to assist Members in addressing the overlapping global crises in 2022-23;
 - b) appreciated the support of the Organization to Members to fulfil the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, in line with commitments in the Programme of Work and Budget 2022-23 and subsequent adjustments, as presented in the main document and its Annexes;
 - c) requested Management to apply a similar approach to reporting, as was done for the Strategies on Climate Change and Science and Innovation, on the results of major Strategies in future editions of the PIR, including the FAO Strategy on Mainstreaming Biodiversity across Agricultural Sectors;
 - d) underlined the need to ensure that supporting functions of the Organization are adequately resourced and requested a more transparent reporting on how the additional cost recovery is distributed to meet these needs;

¹ Mr GUO Su was designated to replace Mr LI Bo for part of this Session.

- e) commended FAO's resource mobilization efforts, reaching the notable level of USD 4.2 billion;
- f) encouraged FAO to continue advancing science- and evidence- based normative and standard setting work, including by supporting Codex Alimentarius, and the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) along with its ePhyto solution;
- g) requested more information in the next PIR on how the Organization has been supporting the implementation of the UN Decade of Family Farming in the last biennium;
- h) encouraged the Organization to capture both successful and unsuccessful efforts at addressing operational challenges in its reporting on lessons learned, to better inform organizational decisions;
- i) noted the financial performance as illustrated in Annex 2, called upon FAO to facilitate, in sessions of the Joint Meeting, as relevant, further inclusive discussions on this issue, including updated and transparent information on the application of voluntary contributions; and
- j) recommended the endorsement by the Council of the Programme Implementation Report 2022-23.

III. FAO Country Office Network-Current Status and Way Forward

7. The Joint Meeting:

- a) welcomed the Reports of the Regional Conferences in 2024 on the Country Office Network;
- b) expressed support for the principles outlined to support more efficient and effective delivery of FAO's work at country level;
- c) encouraged Management to proceed with inclusive, effective, transparent and iterative consultations with Member countries on this topic; and
- d) encouraged Management to provide formal and informal updates and additional information to Members and looked forward to further discussions and guidance on this important matter from successive Governing Body sessions.