



# COUNCIL

## Hundred and Seventy-fourth Session

Rome, 4-8 December 2023

### Report of the Joint Meeting of the 137th Session of the Programme Committee and 198th Session of the Finance Committee (Rome, 6, 8 and 10 November 2023)

#### 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 Adjustments to the Programme of Work and Budget 2024-25; and
- 2) **brings to the attention of the Council for its endorsement**, the conclusions regarding: the Implementation of integrated water resources management: progress and needs; the Follow-up from the UN Food Systems Summit +2 Stocktaking Moment; the update on FAO's collaboration with other United Nations (UN) system entities; the Annual Report on Corporate Policy, Processes and Measures on the Prevention of Harassment, Sexual Harassment and Sexual Exploitation and Abuse.

### **Suggested action by the Council**

The Council is invited to:

- 1) **endorse** the recommendations of the Joint Meeting on:
  - a) the Adjustments to the Programme of Work and Budget 2024-25
- 2) **endorse** the conclusions of the Joint Meeting on:
  - a) the Implementation of integrated water resources management: progress and needs;
  - b) the Follow-up from the UN Food Systems Summit +2 Stocktaking Moment;
  - c) the update on FAO's collaboration with other UN system entities; and
  - d) the Annual Report on Corporate Policy, Processes and Measures on the Prevention of Harassment, Sexual Harassment and Sexual Exploitation and Abuse.

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

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## Introductory Items

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

H.E. (Mr) Carlos Bernardo Cherniak (Argentina)	H.E. (Mr) Marcel Beukeboom (Netherlands [Kingdom of])
Ms Emma Hatcher (Australia)	Ms Jenny Reid (New Zealand)
H.E. (Ms) Carla Barroso Carneiro (Brazil) <sup>1</sup>	Ms Fadia Aljamal (Oman)
Mr Maarten de Groot (Canada)	H.E. (Ms) Nosipho Nausca Jean Jezile (South Africa)
Mr LI Bo (China) <sup>2</sup>	Ms Sadia 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 Sultan Alotaibi (Kuwait)	Ms Jacqueline Boniface Mbuya (United Republic of Tanzania)
Mr Shindo Mitsuaki (Japan) <sup>3</sup>	Mr Rodney M. Hunter (United States of America)
Mr Abdul Rahman Bin 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 in these very unprecedented times.

### I. Adoption of the Provisional Agenda

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

### II. Adjustments to the Programme of Work and Budget 2024-25

5. The Joint Meeting:
  - a) recalled that the Conference approved the Programme of Work and Budget (PWB) 2024-25 budget level of USD 1 021.7 million (Resolution 4/2023);
  - b) welcomed the document CL174/3 - *Adjustments to the Programme of Work and Budget 2024-25*;
  - c) noted that within the PWB 2024-25, USD 22.7 million of incremental support cost recovery was re-allocated to fund strengthened programming and programmatic support, management and oversight, and support services, including investigations and audit functions, evaluation, finance and human resources;
  - d) reiterated the importance of funding science- and evidence-based normative work and statistics, and welcomed the assurance that FAO would continue to leverage its comparative advantage in science and evidence-based normative and standard setting work such as CODEX Alimentarius, the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) along with its ePhyto Solution, as well as data and statistics global public goods, while

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<sup>1</sup> Mr Arnaldo de Baena Fernandes was designated to replace H.E. (Ms) Carla Barroso Carneiro for part of this session.

<sup>2</sup> Mr. GUO Su was designated to replace Mr LI Bo for part of this Session.

<sup>3</sup> Mr Shindo Mitsuaki was designated to replace Mr Kuraya Yoshihiro for the remainder of the term as Member of the Programme Committee.

noting the importance of protecting and funding inter-governmental arrangements, such as the Committee on World Food Security (CFS);

- e) underlined the importance of One Health work playing a cross-cutting role in FAO;
- f) appreciated the information provided on savings and efficiency measures and recommended that the Council request regular annual reporting on efficiencies and savings, both accrued and anticipated;
- g) underscored the importance of strengthening and expanding partnerships and strategic alliances, recognized the important and instrumental role of South-South and Triangular Cooperation (SSTC), and reiterated the importance of strengthened partnership arrangements to achieve the Programme Priority Areas (PPAs);
- h) took note of the estimates for extra budgetary resources (*Table 2*) and encouraged Members to provide voluntary contributions to facilitate achievement of the Strategic Framework 2022-31 and implementation of the integrated PWB;
- i) stressed the importance of Management and Members continuing dialogue on all sources of funds with full spectrum of financial resources, and recommended Management to develop a comprehensive approach for the funding of the Organization and provide regular updates to Members including through the Programme Implementation Report (PIR);
- j) noted the revised distribution of the net appropriation by budgetary chapter as reflected in *Table 1 of CL 174/3 Corr.1*;
- k) encouraged Management to provide further information on the options for the *Office of Youth and Women* and any budgetary implication contained in this matter;
- l) noted the revised budgeted post establishment presented in Section III.B and Annex 6; and
- m) recommended the document for further consideration by the Council at its 174th Session.

### **III. Implementation of integrated water resources management: progress and needs**

- 6. The Joint Meeting:
  - a) acknowledged the progress made on FAO's work on integrated water resources management (IWRM) and appreciated FAO's engagement and coordinated actions in global fora;
  - b) recognized the needs identified for accelerating and scaling up FAO interventions on IWRM from global to local level;
  - c) took note of the priorities of the work outlined in paragraph 34 of the document; and
  - d) recommended FAO to provide updates on IWRM including on the programmatic initiatives, resources, partnerships and collaboration to Governing Bodies during the biennium 2024-2025.

### **IV. Follow-up from the UN Food Systems Summit +2 Stocktaking Moment**

- 7. The Joint Meeting:
  - a) took note of the document and the details provided on the preparations and realization of the UN Food Systems Summit +2 Stocktaking Moment (UNFSS+2); and
  - b) advised the need to draw lessons from UNFSS+2.

## V. Update on FAO's collaboration with other UN system entities

### 8. The Joint Meeting:

- a) expressed appreciation for document CL174/12, which covers FAO collaboration within the UN system, commended FAO for its ongoing efforts, and encouraged the Organization to further strengthen and deepen its collaboration across the UN system, acknowledging the foundational importance of Rome-based Agencies (RBAs) collaboration;
- b) encouraged FAO to further enhance its collaboration across the UN system in support of achieving the Sustainable Development Goals of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (SDGs) and delivering on the Strategic Framework by leveraging joint funding mechanisms, developing policy tools to facilitate the integration of the agrifood systems approach in key UN development system frameworks at the global, regional and country levels, and by strengthening FAO's partnerships with UN Resident Coordinators and UN Country Teams; and
- c) looked forward to future updates on the progress, challenges and impact of FAO's collaboration with other UN system entities in support of agrifood systems transformation in accordance with national contexts, priorities and capacities.

## VI. Annual Report on Corporate Policy, Processes and Measures on the Prevention of Harassment, Sexual Harassment and Sexual Exploitation and Abuse

### 9. The Joint Meeting:

- a) welcomed the update and appreciated FAO's comprehensive approach and ongoing work aimed at ensuring its culture emphasizes a victim/survivor-centred, transparent, accountable, inclusive, engaged and ethical workplace, and the progress made in aligning FAO with UN system-wide initiatives and inter-agency collaboration;
- b) encouraged FAO to continue its efforts in reviewing and updating its policies on protection from sexual exploitation and abuse, harassment, sexual harassment, discrimination and abuse of authority, ensuring a victim/survivor-centred approach and mainstreaming a culture of respect in all aspects of its work;
- c) stressed the need to ensure that safe and confidential decentralized-level complaint and feedback mechanisms are in place and readily available for any potential complainant, including for those most at risk and in emergency settings; and
- d) encouraged FAO to be even more proactive in its public communication on its policies and accountability mechanisms, including via the Organization's homepage, social media and websites of responsible units.