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Food and Agriculture
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Продовольственная и
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Объединенных Наций

Organización de las
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Alimentación y la Agricultura

منظمة
الأمم المتحدة
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COUNCIL

Hundred and Sixty-fourth Session

6-10 July 2020¹

Status of Implementation of Decisions taken at the 163rd Session of the Council (2-6 December 2019)

Executive Summary

The following table lists decisions taken by Council at its 163rd Session (2-6 December 2019) and includes a reference to: (i) the relevant paragraph(s) of the Council Report; and (ii) the status of implementation of each decision.

The table also contains issues from prior Sessions for which updates have been requested by the Council.

Suggested action by the Council

The Council is invited to take note of the information presented in this document.

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

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¹ Rescheduled from 8-12 June 2020

**STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION OF DECISIONS TAKEN AT THE 163RD SESSION OF THE COUNCIL
(2-6 December 2019)**

	Status of Implementation		COMMENTS
	Completed	Ongoing	
Adjustments to the Programme of Work and Budget 2020-21			
1. The Council (...) <u>welcomed</u> the additional resources allocated to FAO's work on the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) and on the Joint FAO/WHO food safety scientific advice programme which would address the backlog of related work; as well as the resources towards mainstreaming biodiversity; and <u>asked</u> that all these additional resources be incorporated in the ongoing programme of work; (para 7. e)	X		Document <i>Adjustments to the Programme of Work and Budget 2020-21</i> (CL 163/3) includes an increase of USD 1 million in resources each for the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) and Codex Alimentarius incorporated in the ongoing programme of work. Additional measures to emphasize FAO's work on Codex are included in the <i>Further Adjustments to the Programme of Work and Budget 2020-21</i> (CL 164/3) through the proposed FAO/WHO Centre which would house Codex Alimentarius and zoonotic diseases.
Office of the Inspector General			
2. The Council (...) <u>looked forward</u> to adequate funding for the Office of the Inspector General from within existing resources; (para 7. f)	X		The 2020-21 net appropriation budget was increased by USD 400 000 compared to the 2018-19 net appropriation budget to specifically strengthen the investigation function. The Office of Strategy, Planning, and Resources Management and the Office of the Inspector General continue to collaborate on measures to address possible additional requirements for the 2020-21 biennium from within existing net appropriation resources.
3. The Council (...) <u>emphasized the importance</u> of the independence of the Office of the Inspector General (OIG); <u>welcomed</u> the progress on recruitment of a new Inspector General; noted the need for adequate funding of OIG from within the existing PWB appropriation in order to address its increased workload; and <u>looked forward</u> to reviewing the revised Charter for the Office; (para 11. g)	X		The independence of the Office of the Inspector General (OIG) has been confirmed by the Inspector-General (FC 180/11.2), as well as by the FAO Audit Committee. The proposed candidate for recruitment as Inspector-General has been endorsed by the FAO Audit Committee (FC 180/13 Rev.1). The revised Charter for OIG (FC 180/12) was endorsed by the FAO Audit Committee, took effect, on an interim basis, on 25 March 2020, and was submitted to the Finance Committee for approval (FC 180/12).

	Status of Implementation		COMMENTS
	Completed	Ongoing	
Financial Rules and Regulations of the Organization			
4. The Council (...) noted the outcomes of the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters (CCLM) and the Joint Meeting on the use of unspent balances, and accordingly <u>requested</u> that the Secretariat submit for the benefit of a more fundamental discussion by the Council and its Committees a related paper. The paper shall take into account the need for consistency with the rule established in Financial Regulation 4.2 and other applicable Financial Rules and Regulations of the Organization, as well as related practices at UN and other relevant entities; (para 9. a)		X	A paper was prepared and submitted for consideration by the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters (CCLM) at its 110th Session (document CCLM 110/03). The CCLM reaffirmed the importance of Financial Regulation 4.2 and underscored that FAO, as a rules-based organization, should operate in accordance with its policies and regulations. The CCLM recognized the authority of the Conference to make exceptions to Financial Regulation 4.2 but considered that these should be limited and made in accordance with a clear, well-defined and transparent process. The CCLM would reconsider this matter and provide advice on legal arrangements, which could include, for example, a review of the Financial Regulations, once the Programme and Finance Committees have addressed the technical and policy aspects under their respective mandates (CCLM 110/REP).
Organization's Corporate Zero Tolerance Policy, Processes and Measures on the Prevention of Harassment, Sexual Harassment and Authority Abuse			
5. The Council (...) <u>looked forward to</u> : a strengthened Key Performance Indicator (KPI) in the 2020-21 results framework; a related staff satisfaction survey for all employees of FAO; and an analysis regarding the potential added value of making available for all three Rome-based Agencies (RBAs) a common specialised expertise on investigative functions related to allegations of sexual harassment, sexual exploitation and sexual abuse; (para 9. b)	X		A new stronger Key Performance Indicator (KPI) 10.3.F (Percentage of FAO staff who agree that FAO has effective policies, processes and procedures to address harassment and other unacceptable behaviour) is presented in the document <i>Further Adjustments to the Programme of Work and Budget 2020-21</i> (CL 164/3). FAO's Employee Satisfaction Survey was launched on 16 December 2019 and included specific follow-up questions on the prevention of sexual harassment in the workplace.

	Status of Implementation		COMMENTS
	Completed	Ongoing	
Rome-based Agencies (RBAs) Collaboration			
6. The Council (...) <u>looked forward</u> to further discussion on RBA collaboration within the repositioning of the UN development system, and progress on strengthened partnerships and collaboration, including in strategic, administrative and financial areas; and <u>requested</u> FAO together with WFP and IFAD to provide a first assessment regarding the feasibility of integrating administrative functions, and greater collaboration in some oversight functions, to be submitted to the 2020 end of year sessions of the FAO Council and the Executive Boards of IFAD and WFP for consideration; (para 9. c)		X	<p>RBAs collaboration is a priority for all three agencies and of recent, has been strengthened, in response to the Covid-19 pandemic. The UN Secretary-General's Policy Brief on the "<i>Impact of Covid-19 on Food Security and Nutrition</i>", of 9 June 2020, is a tangible result of FAO-led collaborative work of the RBAs, and equips United Nations Country Teams (UNCTs) to better respond to countries' urgent needs in Food Security and Nutrition. With the Senior Consultative Group (SCG) as the main coordination platform, RBAs are meeting more frequently in order to ensure strong collaboration in the current crisis.</p> <p>In the context of the UN development system repositioning, RBA teams on the ground are teaming up to support joint Covid-19 impact assessments as well as to prepare joint proposals to Covid-19 Multi-Partner Trust Fund (MPTF). At country programming and planning level, RBAs work together to ensure that food systems, agriculture and nutrition are high on the agenda of the UN Common Country Analysis (CCA) and the new UN Cooperation Frameworks.</p> <p>Regarding administrative areas and oversight functions, the three agencies are taking actions to improve efficiencies and are in discussion regarding the feasibility assessment. On all matters, RBAs will report to FAO Council and the Executive Boards of IFAD and WFP at the end of the year.</p>

	Status of Implementation		COMMENTS
	Completed	Ongoing	
Hand-in-Hand Initiative			
7. The Council (...) <u>looked forward</u> to further development of the [Hand-in-Hand] Initiative, as well as the inclusion of all countries, including middle-income countries; (para 9. d)		X	A detailed description of the Hand-in-Hand Initiative was prepared for the five FAO Regional Conferences. The Assistant Director-General, Economic and Social Development Department/ Chief Economist provided additional updates to Members during an informal briefing on 8 April 2020, and in an informal briefing to the Programme Committee on 20 April 2020. Document PC 128/8 provides a complete update of progress from December 2019 until mid-May 2020. In addition to the 44 countries that were invited to participate in the Initiative as beneficiaries, 80 countries were invited to participate as supporting countries. An additional 20 middle-income countries have requested to participate in the Initiative as both beneficiary and contributor countries. Participation in the Initiative is open to all FAO Members. FAO commits to support, out of its own resources, only the 44 low-income countries and countries in protracted crisis.

	Status of Implementation		COMMENTS
	Completed	Ongoing	
UN Food Systems Summit 2021			
8. The Council (...) <u>emphasized the need</u> for FAO Members to be fully involved in the preparatory process [of the Food Systems Summit] from the beginning; (para 9. e)		X	The United Nations Secretary-General's Special Envoy to the Food Systems Summit 2021, Dr Agnes Kalibata, held a number of engagements with the Rome-based Agency (RBA) membership since she took office in December 2019. The Chairpersons of the three Governing Bodies of the RBAs held a first briefing with Dr Kalibata, the three Principals and the membership on 10 February 2020 at FAO headquarters, and a further briefing with the membership and Dr Kalibata was held virtually on 6 May 2020. In addition, the Special Envoy has circulated Information Notes to the RBA membership in January and April 2020 to inform of developments in the preparatory process towards the Food Systems Summit. A Group of Friends of the Food Systems Summit (GOFFSS) has been convened by a group of Members, which is open to all Members as an open platform to foster the RBA membership's engagement with the preparatory process of the Summit. The first meeting of the GOFFSS is scheduled for 18/19 June 2020.
9. The Council (...) <u>encouraged</u> consideration of CFS involvement in the preparation of the planned World Food Systems Summit; (para 15. g)		X	As outlined in the Special Envoy's Information Note of April 2020, a number of engagements have been held, including with the Committee on World Food Security (CFS), which have achieved a general alignment around the need to transform food systems to achieve the 2030 Agenda, and on the emerging action tracks for the Summit.

	Status of Implementation		COMMENTS
	Completed	Ongoing	
New Strategic Framework			
10. The Council (...) <u>concurred</u> with the recommendations of the Evaluation of FAO's strategic results framework, noting in particular the need for: (...) an inclusive process for the development of the new Strategic Framework (including results indicators) that includes consultations with Members in FAO Governing Bodies, and in stand-alone consultations and extensive internal consultations at all levels; (para 10. a iii)		X	For this ongoing process initial considerations are presented in the Provisional outline of the New Strategic Framework (PC 128/2).
11. With regard to FAO's work on antimicrobial resistance (AMR), [the Council] <u>welcomed</u> the agreement to include an indicator from the Tripartite Global Action Plan results framework in the FAO strategic results framework; (para 7. g)	X		An AMR Output-level indicator 5.2.1-B has been included in the Further Adjustments to the Programme of Work and Budget 2020- 21 (CL 164/3).
FAO Gender Action Plan			
12. The Council (...) <u>welcomed</u> the progress on the updated Gender Strategy for the Organization, <u>recognized</u> the importance of alignment with international frameworks, and <u>looked forward</u> to the FAO Gender Action Plan to be prepared in 2020; (para 10. c)		X	<p>The updated Gender Equality Policy is currently under review by senior Management. The preparation of the revised Strategic Framework and the Medium Term Plan 2022-25 is currently under way, and the Gender Action Plan will be developed in alignment with this corporate process, ensuring linkages to the objectives of the updated Gender Equality Policy.</p> <p>By November 2020, FAO will also compile an overview of key gender-related areas of work and results prioritized for the current biennium (PWB 2020-21), to illustrate the linkages between the updated Gender Equality Policy and the Strategic Framework.</p>

	Status of Implementation		COMMENTS
	Completed	Ongoing	
Private Sector Partnerships			
13. The Council (...) <u>encouraged</u> FAO to develop a new vision for private sector partnerships, and further integrate such partnerships in its work, underlining the need for due diligence processes, including related to conflicts of interests, balanced with transparent partnerships and cooperation in this regard; (para 10. b)		X	<p>A reporting line for due diligence processes outside the partnerships function was established by transferring the due diligence team which now reports directly to the newly appointed Deputy Director-General. A revamped due diligence procedure, based on the United Nations Sustainable Development Group Common Approach, is being finalized as the basis for a new, agile process.</p> <p>As a follow-up to the Council's recommendation for FAO to consolidate its new vision into the updated Strategy for Engagement with the Private Sector, efforts were made to further reflect Members' inputs in the ongoing consultation process. The new framework for engagement with the private sector was presented to the Second Informal Meeting of the Programme Committee on 21 April 2020. This framework sets the direction of the new Strategy as well as the roadmap for consultation, both with Members and the private sector. It addresses the recommendations made by the Evaluation of the 2013 Strategy for Partnership with the Private Sector and the Management Response. The updated Strategy, with its new vision for engagement with the private sector, will be presented at the Joint Meeting of the Programme and Finance Committees in November 2020 and subsequently at the 165th Session of the Council in December 2020.</p>

	Status of Implementation		COMMENTS
	Completed	Ongoing	
Peste des Petits Ruminants (PPR)			
14. The Council (...) <u>requested</u> that progress on efforts for the eradication of <i>peste des petits ruminants</i> (PPR) be considered at the May 2020 session of the Programme Committee; (para 10. f)	X		The report on the progress on efforts for the eradication of <i>peste des petits ruminants</i> (PPR) was presented to the 128th Session of the Programme Committee in June 2020 (PC 128/11). The draft resolution on PPR Global Eradication Programme (GEP) is also annexed to document COAG/2020/6 “Preventing, anticipating and responding to high-impact animal and plant pests and diseases”, to be considered by the 27th Session of COAG in September/October 2020.
Voluntary Contributions			
15. The Council (...) noted document CL 163/3 - Information Note 2 on voluntary contributions detailed by programmatic and geographic dimensions and <u>requested</u> presentation of this information on a regular basis; (para 10. i)	X		The last two biennia have been outstanding in terms of resource mobilization. The targets set in the respective Programmes of Work and Budget have been consistently exceeded by considerable amounts. In the last biennium, FAO surpassed the target by 44 percent and reached all-time high levels. In the first four months of the current biennium (2020-21) FAO has already completed 19 percent of the resource mobilization target.

	Status of Implementation		COMMENTS
	Completed	Ongoing	
Human Resources Management			
16. The Council (...) <u>welcomed</u> FAO Management's commitment to reviewing the Organization's human resources (HR) management, and to increasing staff morale; and <u>urged</u> further efforts, especially in respect of delegation of authority, reducing vacancy rates, improving geographic representation and gender parity, especially at senior levels, while maintaining merit as the primordial criterion, and introducing more transparent recruitment processes; <u>emphasized the need</u> for professional leadership and capacity within the Office for Human Resources; and <u>looked forward</u> to completion of the 2019 staff satisfaction survey for all employees of FAO, as well as an HR action plan with timelines and results to be achieved to improve FAO's HR management; (para 11. c)		X	<p>A new Director of the Office of Human Resources was appointed on 2 March 2019. In accordance with the Director-General's vision and Council's recommendation (CL 163/5), one of the main priorities for the Organization's human resources (HR) management is to develop an HR strategic plan with the goal to ensure that FAO has the right staff in the right place at the right time, engaged and performing at the highest level of effectiveness to achieve its mandate. The plan will contain a clear roadmap articulating priorities and expected results with timelines and milestones, as well as indicators, enabling the measurement of performance in terms of progress and potential gaps to be communicated to stakeholders. Due consideration is expected to be given to the capacity of the Organization and its HR teams to deliver on the HR strategic plan in terms of staffing, accountability, roles and responsibilities, delegation of authority, and various tools and IT systems to enhance further effectiveness and efficiency of the Organization.</p> <p>FAO's Employee Satisfaction Survey was launched on 16 December 2019 to 13 549 employees. The Survey covered the period ending 31 July 2019 and closed on 7 February 2020 with a response rate of 41 percent. Following the analysis and communication of the high-level results, a corporate action plan will be defined through a comprehensive action planning exercise including the establishment of a task force. This will address the feedback from the Survey and construct a timeline to convert actionable information into positive change. A senior level Survey Champion has been designated by the Director-General to help drive this process. FAO will establish an ongoing communication plan to provide updates to employees on the progress of the corporate action plan. A new full survey will be carried out in early 2022 (and every two years thereafter).</p>

	Status of Implementation		COMMENTS
	Completed	Ongoing	
Technical Cooperation Programme (TCP)			
17. The Council (...) <u>looked forward</u> to receiving regular information on TCP implementation and performance in future reports on the financial position of the Organization to the Finance Committee; (para 11. d)	X		The report on the financial position of the Organization has been enhanced to include more comprehensive data on the implementation and performance of the TCP .
18. The Council (...) <u>looked forward</u> to reviewing the comprehensive evaluation of the TCP in 2020 to be presented to the Council through the Finance and Programme Committees; (para 11. e)		X	An evaluation of the TCP has been launched by the Office of Evaluation (OED). The findings will be presented to the autumn 2020 session of the Programme Committee.
Oversight Matters			
19. The Council (...) <u>endorsed</u> the [Finance] Committee's guidance provided on oversight matters, including with regard to the significant progress in implementing the recommendations of the Audit Committee, and the External Auditor, and <u>requested</u> Management to implement the remaining outstanding recommendations; (para 11. f)	X		The Report of the Audit Committee was submitted to the 180th Session of the Finance Committee, and included a status of implementation of the Audit Committee's recommendations (FC 180/9, Annex 2). Of the six outstanding recommendations from 2018, the Audit Committee reviewed their implementation status and closed five in 2019 and the remaining one was closed at the 54th meeting of the Audit Committee in February 2020. Progress was made in closing long outstanding external audit recommendations, closing 36 such external audit recommendations in 2019, and thus reducing the number from 45 to 9. An Action Plan to address HR-related recommendations is before the 180 th Finance Committee, as is further information relevant to external audit recommendations in the Annual Report on Budgetary Performance and Programme and Budgetary Transfers in the 2018/2019 Biennium.

	Status of Implementation		COMMENTS
	Completed	Ongoing	
Voting Procedures			
<p>20. The Council <u>endorsed</u> the Report of the 109th Session of the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters (CCLM), in particular its recommendations with regard to “Voting procedures under Rule XII, paragraph 10 of the General Rules of the Organization”, and <u>looked forward</u> in this regard to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) a comparative study on the rules and best practices of UN and other relevant entities; b) consultations of the Independent Chairperson of the Council with the Regional Groups; and c) discussion of these issues by the Council through the CCLM and, as appropriate, its other Committees; (para 12) 		X	<p>A comparative study was prepared by the Secretariat and considered by the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters (CCLM) at its 110th Session (documents CCLM 110/2 and CCLM 110/2 WA1 and WA2). A comparative study was also provided to support the consultations of the Independent Chairperson of the Council (ICC) in his informal meetings with the Regional Groups. The CCLM requested the development of a draft code of conduct addressing candidates, Members and the Secretariat, which is consistent with the General Rules of the Organization (GRO) and specifically Rule XII of the GRO. The CCLM considered that the drafting of the code should be member-led and facilitate further ICC consultations with the Regional Groups, and should be submitted for consideration by the CCLM, with a view to having it finalized prior to the 42nd Session of the Conference (CCLM 110/REP).</p>

**STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION OF DECISIONS TAKEN AT THE 161ST SESSION OF THE COUNCIL
(8-12 April 2019)**

	Status of Implementation		COMMENTS
	Completed	Ongoing	
Medium Term Plan 2018-21 (Reviewed) and Programme of Work and Budget 2020-21			
Technical Cooperation Programme (TCP)			
21. The Council (...) <u>requested</u> a comprehensive monitoring and evaluation review of TCP implementation in the next biennium; (para 11. g)		X	The Office of Evaluation (OED) launched an evaluation of the TCP. The findings will be presented to the Programme Committee at its autumn session in 2020. A report has also been published on FAO's website which contains a comprehensive review of TCP projects implemented in 2018: http://www.fao.org/technical-cooperation-programme .
Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR)			
22. The Council (...) <u>stressed</u> the need for continued work and maintenance of current resource allocation for addressing AMR in agriculture in all regions; (para 12. e)		X	The biennial Programme of Work and Budget (PWB) 2020-21 takes into account the importance for FAO to continue addressing the increasing global threat of AMR through a coordinated, multi-sectoral One Health approach in the context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and in close cooperation with the Tripartite Agencies (WHO and OIE).
UN System Survey on Sexual Harassment in our Workplace			
23. The Council (...) noted the outcomes of the UN System survey on Sexual Harassment in our Workplace and <u>appreciated</u> the informal seminar held by the Director-General during which the outcomes of the survey were shared with Members, and <u>looked forward</u> to a further survey, in coordination with the Rome-based Agencies, with an improved response rate; (para 17. b)	X		Paragraph 16 above provides detailed information.

**STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION OF DECISIONS TAKEN AT THE 161ST SESSION OF THE COUNCIL
(8-12 April 2019)**

	Status of Implementation		COMMENTS
	Completed	Ongoing	
Nutrition Strategy			
24. The Council (...) <u>looked forward</u> to reviewing an updated Nutrition Strategy at its December 2019 session with an expanded scope, which would give consideration to nutrition from the perspective of sustainable agriculture and food systems and healthy diets, and addressing all forms of malnutrition; (para 18. a)	X		Document PC 127/8 “Progress on updating the Strategy on Nutrition” was submitted to the 127th Session of the Programme Committee in November 2019. The Council, at its 163rd Session, welcomed the update on the Strategy and Vision for FAO’s work in nutrition and, with regard to the introduction of a new concept of “sustainable healthy diet”, recalled the terminology within the UN, including the Second International Conference on Nutrition (ICN2) jointly organized by FAO and WHO, and stressed the need for harmonizing with agreed UN language. (CL 163/REP, para 10 (d))

**STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION OF DECISIONS TAKEN AT THE 160TH SESSION OF THE COUNCIL
(3-7 December 2018)**

	Status of Implementation		COMMENTS
	Completed	Ongoing	
Article XIV Bodies			
25. The Council (...) <u>requested</u> the ICC to continue his consultations with the concerned Article XIV Bodies and the FAO Secretariat towards agreement on a proposal on procedures for the appointment of Secretaries to these Bodies by December 2019; (para 13. b)		X	The Independent Chairperson of the Council (ICC) has had further exchanges with the Chairpersons of Article XIV Bodies with the aim of finalizing the long-term procedures for the appointment and selection of Secretaries of Article XIV Bodies. On 3 February 2020, the ICC met with the Chairperson of the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC) and proposed a procedure by which members of the IOTC participate in preparing the shortlist for interviews as well as the interview panel. The Chairperson of the IOTC insisted that the participation of members of the IOTC in the creation of the shortlist for interview was key to a favourable process, and agreed to wait for the results of the ICC's consultations with the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (the Treaty). In May 2020, the ICC shared with FAO Management the proposal of the Governing Body of the Treaty, agreed to at its 8th Session in November 2019, on the long-term procedures. FAO Management informed in a letter dated 28 May 2020 that it was not in a position to accept the proposed procedures but endorsed a compromise proposal suggested by the ICC. Management considered that the ICC proposal adequately reflected the measure of functional autonomy enjoyed by Article XIV Bodies while also respecting the Basic Texts of the Organization. This proposed procedure would allow an equal number of representatives of FAO Management and the Article XIV Body concerned (two plus two, with an additional independent external member) to participate in the interview panel, and the participation of the two panel members of the Article XIV Body in the shortlisting of candidates to be interviewed as well. The ICC has kept Members updated through regular informal meetings

			with the Chairpersons and Vice-Chairpersons of the Regional Groups. At the date of preparation of this document, the ICC is in the process of communicating with the Chairpersons of the Treaty and the IOTC.
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