

171st Session of the Council

Written Correspondence Procedure – inputs from Members – English version

Item 4 - Update on the Hand-in-Hand Initiative

Member Name	Comments
Australia (Wednesday, 16 November 2022 – 14.13)	<p>Australia thanks FAO for this timely update on the Hand-in-Hand (HIH) Initiative, and we acknowledge the successful recent hosting of the HIH Investment Forum for which we respectfully request Members be provided with further detail, particularly in regards to its outcomes. We are pleased to note the continued growth in the number of countries participating in the HIH and encourage FAO to continue to identify and maximise potential partnerships and investment opportunities, particularly in the South-West Pacific region. We provide the following comments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li data-bbox="533 678 1892 808">• We reiterate the importance of clear and consistent communication with Members, particularly around the status of HIH implementation in those countries not included in this most recent update. We welcome the potential contribution that the development of the dashboard and the global level communications strategy could make in this regard.<li data-bbox="533 829 1892 992">• We welcome further information as to how FAO intends to realise more efficient donor and investment match-making, including detail on outreach activities and coordination with development and resource partners. We emphasise the value in regular engagement and coordination with existing development and resource partners in country, to help maximise synergies and prevent duplication and/or misalignment of objectives across programmes and investments.<li data-bbox="533 1013 1892 1208">• We note the importance of ensuring HIH activities and processes are integrated and aligned with development and planning processes at the country and regional level, including <i>inter alia</i>, Food Systems Summit National Pathways, One Country One Priority Product and Country Programming Frameworks – and we respectfully request that further information be provided to all Members (for example via a webinar) as to how the HIH, as a Programme Priority Area under the FAO Strategic Framework 2022-31, is aligned with, contributes to, and/or may be utilised as a tool in these contexts.
Japan (Wednesday, 16 November 2022 – 16.09)	<p>Japan expresses its gratitude to FAO for regular progress updates on the Hand-in-Hand Initiative.</p> <p>Recalling the discussions at the last Council, it was explained that the identifications of the operators for development of the Dashboard will have been finished within the next few months. Japan wishes to receive updates on the progress being made, as well as those on the most recent plans going forward.</p>

	<p>Can we assume that a global communications strategy, as described in CL 171/4, will eventually be made available to the public, although it has yet to be uploaded on the FAO website?</p> <p>Japan wishes to request FAO to give thoughts and carry out an exercise to sort and determine what can be made public in the initiative and those that must remain for internal use and share with us the outcomes. Japan would also wish to request FAO to ensure timely communications with its member countries of any information that has been made public through such measures as the CSGS and others.</p>
<p>European Union (Friday, 18 November 2022, 11.08)</p>	<p>Chairperson,</p> <p>I am honoured to write to you on behalf of the European Union and its 27 Member States regarding the above-mentioned agenda item for the 171st Session of the FAO Council.</p> <p>The EU and its Member States take note of the latest progress report on the Hand-in-Hand Initiative (HIH). We would recall the continued importance of ensuring alignment of the Initiative with the UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF), the joint programming of the UN development system and the 2030 Agenda. To that end, we encourage FAO, in accordance with its mandate, to continue the close coordination of its work on the Initiative with other relevant agencies and developing partners.</p> <p>We note the information on last October’s Hand-in-Hand Investment Forum, in particular the overview of the achievements in the various regions. Exploring possibilities for mobilising additional funding and attracting investments is essential for taking the Initiative forward in participating countries. It is critically important to ensure that such investments are duly aligned with the Committee on World Food Security (CFS) Principles for Responsible Investment in Agriculture and Food Systems and other relevant CFS policy recommendations and guidelines. In addition, continued attention is needed in order to provide full transparency on the financing and to ensure that the Initiative will have no further impact on the regular agreed budget.</p> <p>We welcome the continued development of the Programme Dashboard, the outsourced development of a Global Communications Strategy as well as the increased number of databases integrated within the HIH Initiative Geospatial platform.</p> <p>To conclude, we thank FAO for the information provided on the Initiative as an additional means of contributing to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) within FAO’s mandate and ask that FAO continues providing regular updates on the progress made in implementing the Initiative and the results achieved.</p>
<p>Burkina Faso (Wednesday, 23 November 2022 – 21.00)</p>	<p>Burkina Faso:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. welcomes the growing enthusiasm for the Hand-in-Hand Initiative, which is registering new memberships;

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| | <ol style="list-style-type: none">2. appreciates the development of a regularly updated dashboard which provides real-time information on the progress made, in order to clarify and improve the implementation of the Initiative and the evaluation of its impact;3. welcomes the resolution taken at the World Food Forum 2022 to launch the Regional Initiative for the Sahel;4. welcomes the framework offered to countries that have joined the Hand-in-Hand Initiative, including Burkina Faso, at the October 2022 Investment Forum, which allowed its delegates to present investment proposals. These have aroused the interest of partners and we hope that these partnerships will materialize with the support of FAO; and5. takes note of the development of the global-level communications strategy to build on and highlight the progress made under the Hand-in-Hand Initiative and encourages its timely implementation, in order to capitalize on the momentum generated by the Forum in October 2022. |
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