

170th Session of the Council

Item 15: Governance of FAO's statistical and other data activities and their alignment with the cross-cutting FAO policies on Protection of Data and Intellectual Property Rights

The Council document CL 170/18, *Governance of FAO's statistical and other data activities and their alignment with the cross-cutting FAO policies on Protection of Data and Intellectual Property Rights*, is a revamped version of Programme Committee (PC) document PC 132/5, *Proposal for improved governance of FAO statistical activities*.

On the one hand, it summarizes document PC 132/5, and on the other hand, clarifies the relationship between document PC 132/5 and the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters (CCLM) document CCLM 113/4, *FAO Policies on Protection of Data and Intellectual Property Rights: FAO Data Protection Principles and Rules*.

In addition, it also addresses a series of other queries expressed by Members regarding document PC 132/5.

The first major clarification included in the present document regards the scope of the term "data", and by extension, the relationship between document PC 132/5 and document CCLM 113/4.

The present document clarifies that the term "data" as used in document PC 132/5 is limited to data for the elaboration of statistics and does not extend to other kinds of data, such as Human Resources or personal data.

Thus, it differs in scope from document CCLM 113/4, and is also distinct from the CCLM's earlier consideration of data protection matters.

However, data protection and confidentiality principles can also apply to statistical data. Therefore, once the policy on Data Protection is formally endorsed, relevant statistics policies and procedures will be reviewed by FAO's statistics internal coordination structure to ensure that they are fully aligned with the Policy.

In this respect, I should recall that FAO statistics is already rather advanced in the implementation of the main principles foreseen by the data protection and confidentiality policy under review, as explained in paragraph 28 of CL 170/18.

The current document further elaborates on the proposal for an improved internal coordination of FAO's statistical and other data activities related to statistics.

As presented in document PC 132/5, the proposal is articulated across four major priority action areas:

1. Integrate and improve the internal coordination of FAO data and statistics;
2. Strengthen the statistical capacity of Decentralized Offices;
3. Optimize resource allocation and intensify resource mobilization;
4. Improve the quality of the IT infrastructure supporting data and statistics work.

With respect to these arrangements, the present document clarifies that these arrangements all pertain to FAO internal coordination structures. As such, the document does not foresee adjustments to FAO's external governance mechanisms in which countries can be involved in strategic decisions concerning statistical matters, though these are recalled in paragraph 16.

I would also like to recall that the recent 133rd Session of the Programme Committee has already been briefed on the substantive content of this document, whereas the CCLM, at its 115th Session, assessed

the alignment of this document with the Data Protection Policy and decided to close its consideration on this matter.

Based on the above considerations, the Council is invited to review this document and endorse its recommended actions.

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