

165th Session of the Council – written correspondence procedure
Item 19: Developments in *Fora* of Importance for the Mandate of FAO
Secretariat response to written inputs from the Council

Latest developments on the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) Indicator Framework and the financing mechanism for SDG Data and Statistics

The Clearinghouse for Financing Development Data and FAO’s Hand-in-Hand Initiative share a similar “match-making” conceptual approach in facilitating the connection between the needs of recipient countries and the interests of donors. The thematic focus of this “match-making”, however, is rather different, as in the former case the focus is on data and statistics projects, whereas in the latter case the focus is on agricultural development projects. The Hand-in-Hand Initiative is therefore not expected to receive any direct funding from the Clearinghouse, although it may benefit indirectly when funding from the Clearinghouse supports data and statistics that the Hand-in-Hand can use for its own match-making. Therefore, the effective complementarities between the two initiatives are likely to arise on a more “case-by-case” basis, where data and statistics themselves become the main focus of a development intervention.

The Hand-in-Hand’s principal focus is on enhancing agricultural productivity to improve nutrition, raise rural living standards and contribute to global economic growth. To this end, it offers a multidimensional Geographic Information System (GIS) data platform that pools together a variety of traditional and new/alternative data sources, helping countries, donors and multilateral organizations identify investment gaps, prioritize or target their interventions more synergistically, and ultimately helping farmers achieve a level of potential that will allow them to move out of poverty.

By contrast, the Clearinghouse for Financing Development Data aims to match the supply and demand of financing for data and statistics and thus facilitate coordination among donors and prospective partner countries in this area. Donors and recipients can use it to identify key funding gaps in data and statistics, highlight opportunities for joint projects and plan investments accordingly.

Data are evidently the key intersection between the two initiatives, and therefore where the greatest potential complementarities could arise. While it is rather early now to provide a clear picture, given that the Clearinghouse will not be launched before October 2021, it is conceivable that in a given country, the two initiatives can benefit from each other in several ways. For instance, the Hand-in-Hand would be able to quickly shed light on critical data gaps in the food and agriculture domain, which an investment through the Clearinghouse could come in and aim to address. In turn, by strengthening data and statistics in this way, the Clearinghouse would bolster the arsenal of data sources available to the Hand-in-Hand Initiative to pinpoint with even greater accuracy the areas with the greatest potential scope for productivity enhancement, and therefore target relevant funding more effectively.

Global Leaders Group on Antimicrobial Resistance

FAO thanks Australia for its comment on the establishment of the One Health Global Leaders Group on Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) and congratulates the Honourable Sussan Ley MP on her appointment as one of the leaders. The composition of the Group is considered to reflect the full spectrum of One Health across animal, human and plant health, food and feed production and the environment. FAO is pleased to note that her appointment represents Australia’s support for the establishment of the Group and we look forward to a close cooperation and progress on issues of mutual concern.

FAO wishes to convey its commitment to working together with the World Health Organization (WHO) and the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) taking the lead in tackling AMR through the One Health approach. The Global Leaders Group is a key global governance structure and will also have a catalytic effect demonstrating strong leadership in advancing the response on AMR. It will sustain the

political momentum and encourage investments that will translate into high-level political engagement and support to advance the response to AMR at the regional and national levels.

FAO thanks the Dominican Republic for its comments on the establishment of the One Health Global Leaders Group on Antimicrobial Resistance, and joins the Dominican Republic in celebrating the gender equality and geographical distribution balanced achieved in its composition, fully in line with FAO's policies.

The Global Leaders Group is a key global AMR governance structure, and will be supported by the Partnership Platform for Action against AMR (PPAA) and the Independent Panel on Evidence for Action Against AMR. The former is at the Terms of Reference discussion stage while the latter is still at the early stages of its development. The Council will be regularly updated on their establishment.

United Nations Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management (UN-GGIM)

FAO appreciates the acknowledgement and support by the Dominican Republic for the contributions by FAO to the United Nations Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management (UN-GGIM), as well as for the encouragement to continue strengthening the Geospatial Platform of the Hand-in-Hand Initiative, which promotes transparency, accountability and learning, thereby contributing to the creation of resilient and sustainable food systems and the achievement of the SDGs, which is noted and appreciated.

UN Summit on Biodiversity

The UN Summit on Biodiversity reinforces the recent decisions by the FAO Conference, Council, Technical Committees and Programme Committee on biodiversity, as well as the work of the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (CGRFA) and the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (ITPGRFA). The last Sessions of the Committee on Agriculture (COAG) and the Committee on Forestry (COFO) have addressed biodiversity mainstreaming and made recommendations on the finalization of the *Draft 2021-23 Action Plan for the Implementation of the FAO Strategy on Mainstreaming Biodiversity across Agricultural Sectors*; the same item is on the agenda of the Committee on Fisheries (COFI).

COAG “highlighted that the Action Plan should aim at integrating biodiversity across agricultural sectors as a strategy to achieve sustainable food systems and nutrition”,¹ a notion that is mirrored in the Summit and the ongoing development of the Convention on Biological Diversity's (CBD) Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework, all of which place the transformation of agriculture and food systems at the forefront of biodiversity conservation. Therefore, rather than having specific implications on Bodies of FAO, the outcomes of the Summit highlight the importance of firmly embedding biodiversity and genetic resources sustainable use and conservation as well as biodiversity mainstreaming in FAO's new Strategic Framework.

FAO will continue to participate in international events and processes that address the linkages between biodiversity, food systems and food security and nutrition in a balanced and science-based way. For example, FAO submitted a report to the CBD (CBD/SBSTTA/24/INF/14; CBD/SBI/3/INF/6 *Progress on mainstreaming biodiversity across agricultural sectors: report by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations*), including on financial support to countries. FAO will continue reporting to the Governing Bodies on biodiversity related events.

¹ C 2021/21, paragraph 71.