

**166<sup>th</sup> Session of the Council**  
**Written Correspondence Procedure – inputs from Members - English version**  
Item 16 - Status of Implementation of Decisions taken at the 165th Session of the Council

Member Name	Comments
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Dominican Republic – Member</b> (Wed 14/04/2021 16:00)</p>	<p>The Dominican Republic takes note of the information contained in document CL 166/LIM/3.</p> <p>We welcome the progress made on Action 9 on FAO’s role in preparing for the UN Food Systems Summit and its support for the preparatory process towards the Summit. We reiterate the importance of continuing to build on this progress, so that this process may be concluded as soon as possible.</p> <p>We appreciate the joint commitment of the Rome-Based Agencies (RBAs) to strengthen their collaboration within the repositioning of the United Nations Development System (UNDS).</p> <p>We encourage FAO to continue to pursue efforts to integrate administrative and oversight functions, particularly in terms of country planning and programming (Action 34).</p> <p>We emphasize the need for the results of the joint evaluation on collaboration among the RBAs to contribute to the Food Systems Summit 2021 (Action 27).</p> <p>We welcome the progress on the “Hand-in-Hand Initiative”, in particular the expansion of the eligibility criteria to include middle- and high-income developing countries. We urge FAO to develop this initiative further, particularly with regard to its budgetary and governance aspects in the context of the Programme of Work and Budget (PWB) for the biennium 2022-23.</p> <p>On the actions related to the new Strategic Framework and FAO’s new Strategy for Private Sector Engagement, we appreciate being kept informed of the results of the cost-benefit analysis, as well as the reallocation of staff and funds within PSR, as planned.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Brazil – Member</b> (Wed 14/04/2021 16:58)</p>	<p>Brazil notes with concern that FAO is preparing a publication with the title "Agroforestry as a nature-based solution for sustainable food systems", as reported on pages 6 and 8 of the document CL 166/LIM/3. There is no multilaterally agreed definition for "nature-based solutions" as acknowledged by the FAO Committee on Forestry in its last session, on October 2020 (para 22. 1 of the report). The FAO Committee on Forestry, the FAO Programme Committee and the FAO Council have repeatedly called on FAO to use only multilaterally-agreed language in its publications. Brazil asks FAO to review the title and content of this publication in line with the aforementioned guidance provided by its Members.</p> <p>Brazil would like to ask for further details on the "decision support framework through which countries can identify tools for managing trade-offs between the agriculture and forestry sectors", mentioned on page 6, in particular how FAO is considering different regional and national experiences in this field and when the initiative would be launched.</p>

<p><b>Australia – Member</b> (Wed 14/04/2021 17:09)</p>	<p>Australia notes the information presented in CL 166/LIM/3 – Status of Implementation of Decisions taken at the 165<sup>th</sup> Council – and offers the following comments:</p> <p><b>Para 2</b> - We welcome the prioritisation of normative and technical work and the emphasis on data in the Strategic Framework 2022-31. We appreciate the Framework's recognition of the FAO's crucial role in gathering, analysing, and improving access to data and information to address major policy and investment gaps, such as through initiatives like the Hand-in-Hand Initiative's Geospatial Platform.</p> <p><b>Para 9</b> - We welcome the FAO's engagement with the Food Systems Summit and its support of the Action Tracks. We are pleased to see that FAO is supporting the Independent Food Systems Summit Dialogues and Member State Dialogues, and particularly welcome its support of data provision, for example via Rapid Food Systems Assessments. Australia encourages the FAO to support sustained investments in data collection and data sharing to address food systems weaknesses, particularly in remote Small Island Developing States (including Pacific Island Countries).</p> <p><b>Para 14</b> - We welcome the inclusion of a One Health Approach in Biodiversity mainstreaming and look forward to the finalisation of the Mainstreaming biodiversity into One Health study.</p> <p><b>Para 16</b> - We are supportive of strengthening coordination between the Committee on Forestry and the Committee on Agriculture, and note that the Committee on Agriculture should be the lead discussant on land clearing and deforestation (caused by agricultural expansion), which have recently only been considered by COFO.</p> <p><b>Paras 27 and 34</b> - Australia welcomes efforts made to improve collaboration between the RBAs in order to maximise the impact of their comparative advantages, capabilities and expertise. The importance of such collaboration has been reinforced during the current pandemic, and Australia appreciates the efforts of the RBAs to coordinate at the global, corporate, regional, and country levels across their country programming and planning, policy and analytical support, advocacy and information, and business continuity activities in response to COVID-19. Australia is supportive of the Rome-based Agencies (RBAs)' joined-up involvement in the UN Food Systems Summit 2021 and encourages these Organizations to foster strong interlinkages across the Action Tracks for which they are responsible. Finally, we reiterate the importance of the RBAs continuing to strengthen their collaboration with attention to the broader context of UN reform.</p> <p><b>Para 32</b> - We are pleased to see the development of a proposal for strengthening the governance of statistical activities. We recognise the crucial role of the FAO in gathering and analysing data and appreciate its investment in improving these processes.</p>
<p><b>European Union – Member</b> (Wed 14/04/2021 23:10)</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 166th Session of the FAO Council.</p> <p>Considering the decisions taken at the 165th Session of the Council, held last December, we request updated information about when the following decisions will be accomplished:</p> <p>The costs and benefits of the “FAO's new Strategy for Private Sector Engagement”, as well as further analysis of FAO's business model and different funding sources, and information on how these will be reported on in Council sessions.</p>

	<p>The resources mobilized and available (from voluntary contributions and from the Technical Cooperation Programme) for the COVID-19 response.</p> <p>The feasibility study of the on the analysis of integration of administrative functions and common specialized expertise regarding Rome-based Agencies collaboration.</p>
<p><b>Guinea on behalf of the Africa Regional Group</b> (Fri 16/04/2021 11:51)</p>	<p>The Republic of Guinea is submitting comments on this item on behalf of the Africa Regional Group.</p> <p>The Africa Regional Group thanks the Secretariat for the preparation of the document “Status of Implementation of Decisions taken at the 165th Session of the Council”.</p> <p>We applaud the efforts made by the FAO Secretariat to respond to the majority of the issues raised by the Council at its 165th Session.</p> <p>The Africa Regional Group appreciates the format of the table that reports on the status of each of the Council’s recommendations; and it notes with satisfaction that of the 34 decisions adopted, 15 have been implemented and implementation is ongoing for the remaining 19.</p> <p>The Africa Regional Group applauds the interest shown by FAO in continuing to prioritize normative and technical activities in the new Programme of Work and Budget 2022-2023, despite the impact of COVID-19.</p> <p>Regarding the Hand-in-Hand Initiative, the Africa Regional Group welcomes the review of the selection criteria to enable other developing countries to benefit from this initiative.</p> <p>With regard to the Food Systems Summit, the Africa Regional Group welcomes the leading role that FAO is playing in the Summit preparation process. We view this as a process that will constantly evolve in the run-up to the Summit.</p> <p>In relation to the Technical Cooperation Programme (TCP), the Regional Group urges FAO to speed up implementation of the Council’s recommendation requesting that Management further streamline the TCP project cycle and approval procedures.</p> <p>With these comments, the Africa Regional Group requests the Council to take note of the information contained in the document.</p>