

42nd Session of the Conference

Introduction to Item 13:

Interim report on the Quadrennial Comprehensive Policy Review (QCPR) of Operational Activities for Development of the United Nations System

The Quadrennial Comprehensive Policy Review (QCPR) is the primary policy instrument of the UN General Assembly to define the way the UN development system operates to support programme countries in their development efforts. FAO Conference Resolutions 13/2005 and 2/2007 requested that the Director-General take action to implement the UN General Assembly Resolutions on the QCPR.

This is the eighth progress report on the implementation of the QCPR presented to the Conference, which covers the period from June 2019 to June 2021. It follows the seven *interim* reports already presented to each regular session of the Conference from 2007 to 2019. [The QCPR Resolutions report follows a cumulative approach.]

In this progress report, FAO highlights major progress in the following areas:

(a) Funding of operational activities for development:

As described in the report, FAO made remarkable progress in addressing the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic by, for instance, launching in July 2020 - as part of the UN efforts for a sustainable response to COVID-19 - a major programme to respond to the impacts of the pandemic, *the FAO COVID-19 Response and Recovery Programme*. In addition, FAO made notable progress in diversifying and improving the donor base and, despite the unprecedented challenges posed by COVID-19, managed to mobilize in 2020 USD 1 285 billion in voluntary contributions from a wide range of traditional and non-traditional resource partners.

(b) Efficiency, effectiveness and FAO's participation in the UN System coordination mechanisms:

FAO is actively engaged in the preparation of the Common Country Analysis (CCAs) and in the formulation of the Cooperation Frameworks to make sure FAO's comparative advantage is considered as an integral part of the UN collective offer at country level. FAO is also ensuring that its FAO Country Programming Framework (CPF) is duly derived from the Cooperation Framework and, thus, contributing to the achievement of government priorities and relevant SDG Targets in support of the 2030 Agenda. Furthermore, FAO strengthened joint programming processes and, in 2020, was the fourth largest UN Agency in terms of participation in the UN joint programmes (114). In addition, FAO made substantive progress in the involvement in the UN System coordination and the Resident Coordinator (RC) System, being, for instance, the fifth largest contributor to the RC system among 19 UN entities and being fully engaged in the repositioned UN Sustainable Development Group (UNSDG). Moreover, FAO showed greater commitment in engaging in results-oriented and innovative national, regional and global partnerships, by redefining, as a concrete illustration, its Due Diligence approach in the context of the new FAO Strategy for Private Sector Engagement 2021-2025, as well as in the simplification and harmonization of business practices by clearly advancing in the consolidation of business operations at country level.

(c) Other areas of implementation of the QCPR of relevance to FAO:

FAO clearly strengthened country-level data and statistics with a new model consisting of an integrated approach for statistical capacity development, delivered through three complementary initiatives that target key aspects of the data production cycle and country-specific statistical development needs. Furthermore, FAO enhanced its participation in joint evaluations and in strengthening national evaluation functions. For example, in 2020, FAO, jointly with WFP and IFAD, initiated a major evaluation of the collaboration among the Rome-based Agencies. In addition, through its active support to the Community

of Practice (CoP), in 2018, FAO launched EvalForward (www.evalforward.org) in collaboration with IFAD, WFP and the CGIAR with over 900 members in 103 countries, and continues to support the development of capacities for evaluation in developing countries. The progress report also underscores FAO's commitment in ensuring complementarity between humanitarian and development activities. For instance, as a member of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC), in 2020 FAO led and/or contributed to various IASC products aimed at strengthening humanitarian development collaboration and its contribution to peace.

Finally, in December 2020, the UN General Assembly adopted a new Resolution (75/233) on the QCPR of the UN operational activities for development that builds on and continues the work of the 2016 QCPR Resolution (71/243) towards an effective, efficient and coherent UN development system, with several areas that are new or are viewed with a renewed emphasis. This is addressed in section **d) Emerging trends** in which FAO highlights its increased attention to several of these areas of work, as per the new FAO Strategic Framework 2022-2031 and Medium Term Plan 2022-2025.

Action by Conference: The FAO Secretariat invites the Conference to take note of the progress made by FAO and to submit another progress report at the next regular session of the Conference (2023).