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**Rome, 3-8 July 2017
Rome, 3-8 juillet 2017
Roma, 3-8 de julio de 2017**

**FIRST MEETING OF COMMISSION II
PREMIÈRE SÉANCE DE LA COMMISSION II
PRIMERA REUNIÓN DE LA COMISIÓN II**

3 July 2017

The First Meeting was opened at 16.03 hours
Mr Johannes Petrus Hoogeveen,
Chairperson of Commission II, presiding

La première séance est ouverte à 16 h 03
sous la présidence de M. Johannes Petrus Hoogeveen,
Président de la Commission II

Se abre la primera reunión a las 16.03
bajo la presidencia de la Sr. Johannes Petrus Hoogeveen,
Presidente de la Comisión II

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Para todas las correcciones dirigirse a la Oficina A138.

Email: Verbatim-Team@fao.org



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Table of Contents – Table des matières – Índice

	Page
Item 21. Programme Implementation Report 2014-15	
Point 21. Rapport sur l'exécution du Programme 2014–2014	
Tema 21. Informe sobre la ejecución del programa en 2014-15 (<i>C 2017/8; C 2017/LIM/2</i>)	1
Item 22. Programme Evaluation Report 2017	
Point 22. Rapport d'évaluation du Programme 2017	
Tema 22. Informe sobre la evaluación del programa en 2017 (<i>C 2017/4</i>)	9

CHAIRPERSON

Distinguished colleagues and dear friends, I would like to extend to you a warm welcome.

We're starting a little bit later but that was necessary because we have to have a quorum in the room. We have it now. Of course, especially today, many things are going on with a lot of Ministers here; more than 80, with a lot of meetings going on in parallel, the Plenary with the Ministers, Commission one and Commission two. But luckily we have a quorum now. We have locked the room so you cannot go out otherwise we'll lose the quorum. We will see how far we can get.

I know that there are many bilateral special events, which are counting on your presence, because, of course, we have many important items, but we still have quite some time. My idea would be that we go on until 18 or 18:15 today, and then we continue tomorrow at 9:30, so not to rush you in anything, not to overload you with work. A few people are smiling so I think that will help. Then we will continue tomorrow. I think there are many important items on the Agenda for which we need time for discussion but also that we have all people here to listen to arrive at a consensus decision.

Of course, I trust that I will be able to count on your support but also your flexibility to continue working with the same spirit of cooperation which led to the consensus of the Council last April. Of course I will do my utmost as Chair and certainly I will come back to the support of the co-Chairs, first Chairs, to get a consensus on all the important items. Of course, I have the honour of the support of the two Vice Chairpersons of Commission II: Mr Antonio Otávio Sá Ricarte of Brazil and Ms Marieta Okenková of Slovakia. I am looking where she is sitting? She is not here yet. At least we can count at this moment on one Vice Chair but she will come later. She is also a Minister here so I understand that she has I think conflicting Agendas.

Following the discussion of each Agenda item, I will present, or my Vice Chairs will present, conclusions to facilitate the work of the Drafting Group. I wish to remind delegates that the first meeting of the Drafting Committee for Commission II is for Wednesday afternoon in the Lebanon Room but of course everything depends on how we proceed and how far we can get through our Agenda.

I received the following nominations for the Drafting Committee: Mr. Khaled Al-Taweel of Egypt – and I met him already, so welcome – as the Chairperson and a lot of success on account on your abled leadership to get things done in the Drafting Committee. We have members of Afghanistan, Australia, Brazil, China, Cuba, Egypt, Indonesia, Italy, Netherlands, Russian Federation and United States of America. I think a good group and certainly they will arrive at a consensus.

I trust of course because that has to be formally done that Commission Two can confirm the above nominations. I hope that we can do it with applause.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

Item 21. Programme Implementation Report 2014-15

Point 21. Rapport sur l'exécution du Programme 2014–2014

Tema 21. Informe sobre la ejecución del programa en 2014-15

(C 2017/8; C 2017/LIM/2)

CHAIRPERSON

Then we turn to the first item on our Agenda and that is Item 21 the Programme Implementation Report 2014-2015. It is presented in the Documents C 2017/8 relevant web Annex 3, 4 and 5.

The Council at its 154th Session in June 2016 endorsed the Programme Implementation Report 2014-2015. The extract of the Report of the Council on this document is presented in Document C 2017/LIM/2.

The Council noted that transformational change undertaken at FAO since 2012 had led to the delivery of positive results by the Organization within the reviewed Strategic Framework and Medium-Term

Plan 2014-2017. The Council expressed overall satisfaction at the implementation of the Programme of Work 2014 and 2015.

The Programme Implementation Report 2014-2015 is submitted for approval by the Conference. I would like to give the floor to Boyd Haight who is sitting to the left of me and for you to the right of me, and Director of the Office of Strategy Planning and Resource Management for a brief introduction of the item. Boyd, you have the floor.

Mr Boyd HAIGHT (Director, Office of Strategy, Planning and Resource Management)

Thank you Mr Chairman, and Distinguished Delegates.

The Programme Implementation Report – the PIR – is FAO’s accountability document. It informs the membership about the work carried out by the Organization over the previous biennium, for all sources of funds. It is retrospective in nature, reporting on what the Organization has achieved in terms of programmatic results and financial performance, compared to the targets set out in the Programme of Work and Budget 2014-15.

The achievements and lessons learned are contained in the main PIR document mentioned by the Chair, the three web Annexes, and the region-specific documents presented to the Regional Conferences during 2016. We have also published a short brochure to convey the main results particularly at Outcome level, which is available in all languages at the document’s desk.

The PIR 2014 was reviewed by the Joint Meeting of the Programme and Finance Committees in May 2016, and by the Council in June 2016. The Council expressed overall satisfaction at the implementation of the programme of work in 2014-15 and highlighted a number of major achievements in its Report.

Today I will focus briefly on four innovations in the PIR 2014-15. This is the First PIR under the reviewed Strategic Framework & Medium Term Plan 2014-17. It reports results relating to the five Strategic Objectives in terms of the 48 Outputs – what FAO delivers, with results measured by indicators and targets, contributing to 17 Outcomes – that is the changes and capacities at country level to achieve the Strategic Objectives.

It also reports on the Sixth Objective on technical quality, statistics and cross-cutting themes of gender and governance supporting delivery of the Outputs and Outcomes. And it reports on the four Functional Objectives and three Special Chapters providing the internal enabling environment for FAO’s work, measured by 34 key performance indicators.

Secondly, this is the first PIR using a robust monitoring and reporting methodology for results at Output and Outcome level. The outputs are FAO’s contribution, in terms of products and services, to the Outcomes – that is what FAO is accountable to deliver. Outcomes reflect changes needed in the enabling environment at the country or global level to achieve the Strategic Objectives.

The methodology and measurement of indicators and targets to measure Outputs and Outcomes was developed by the FAO Chief Statistician, with analysis done by Strategic Programme Leaders. As mentioned by the Director-General this morning, FAO delivered 88% of the planned Outputs in the previous biennium, delivering the assistance to Members as committed in the PWB 2014-15. Output delivery helped Members progress in the changes expected in the enabling environment to achieve the Strategic Objectives, with FAO’s contribution to Outcome Indicator progress rated positive by over 70% of the countries surveyed.

This is also the First PIR with integrated reporting on gender as a cross-cutting theme. FAO aims for strengthened country capacity to formulate, implement and monitor policies and programmes providing equal opportunities for women and men. FAO addressed Gender issues contributing to Strategic Objectives through support to policy dialogue, programmes, and capacity development in countries; through gender-related statistics; and through advocacy at global level.

Progress is measured by three sets of Indicators:

- The FAO Gender Policy on Equality – where 11 of 15th standards were achieved on the previous biennium.
- The UN-System Wide Action Plan (SWAP) implementation: where 13 of 15 performance indicators were met or exceeded.
- And the Gender-sensitive Strategic Objective Outcome and Output indicators across the Strategic Objectives.

Finally, this is the first PIR benefiting from improved means of FAO delivery resulting from transformational change.

- 30 Key Performance Indicators of Functional Objectives were achieved, that is 88% of the KPIs.
- There was USD 2.5 billion overall expenditure in full compliance with IPSAS accounting standards, including 99.4% of net appropriation spent, and an increased proportion of expenditure in the field.
- TCP project approvals increased in volume by 11%, and delivery reached USD 125.8 million in the TCP Programme.
- And we found USD 36.6 million in efficiency savings in the non-technical areas.

The experience in 2014-15 has informed our work in the current biennium, in particular four areas:

- First, the partnerships are key to achieving results at country level. And for those of you who has seen the MTR for 2016 will see that we continue to report on increased use of partnerships.
- The regional initiatives help focus FAO's work on country and regional needs.
- We found that country-level involvement in setting Output targets improves the accuracy of reporting and provides better information on the need and targeting of FAO assistance.
- Finally, the outcome reporting requires sufficient time and effort to collect information from stakeholders. And as a result, we have already started the process of collecting reporting information for the 2016-17 biennium this month.

Mr Chairman, this concludes my introduction of the Programme Implementation Report for 2014-15, which is for consideration and endorsement by the Conference.

Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you very much Mr Haight for your report. And I would like now to open the floor for you as Members' for interventions and remarks and hopefully your approval on item 21.

Mr Abdul Razak AYAZI (Afghanistan)

Thank you, Chair. Chair, we commented on the PIR in the Council in detail. I do not feel comfortable to say the same thing again. My suggestion would be we make it very short and just say that the Conference endorses the Report of the Council on the PIR and then quote the Report of the Council. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you very much. I turn the floor to Estonia.

Mr Ruve SCHANK (Estonia)

Thank you Chair. We also commented during the Council meeting, but as this comment would be on behalf of member states I have to read it.

Mr Chair, I am honored to speak on behalf of the European Union and its 28 Member States. The candidate countries to the EU (Montenegro, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, and Turkey) align themselves with this statement.

FAO reached nearly 90% of planned outputs and 77% of Outcomes during the biennium 2014-15. While we welcome these results achieved by FAO, we would like to underline the need for more stretching milestones and targets, facilitating lesson learning and helping FAO to improve its relevance and effectiveness, at both global and country level.

We look forward to receiving the PIR 2016-17 and we encourage FAO to ensure all indicators for the 2018-19 results framework are SMART – or specific, measurable, with achievable, relevant and time-bound targets and baselines. This will contribute to the shift needed towards demonstrating effectiveness and impact – communicating to the world the difference that FAO is making, beyond processes.

We are also pleased to see that the US\$ 20 -- 33.6 million of efficiency savings requested by the Conference have been achieved during the biennium and we encourage FAO to continue to demonstrate its maximum value both through demonstrating its relevance and effectiveness and through improving efficiency. This will help to make the case for further support.

Looking ahead, we expect FAO to allocate the resources needed to improve results, targeting priority areas in alignment with SDG targets and indicators. As custodian of 25 SDG indicators, FAO will need to support the utilisation of those indicators, and we would welcome further information from Management on how FAO plans to resource this.

Once again, we commend FAO for the progress made in taking forward the results agenda over the past biennium and reiterate our support for continued strengthening of results Management in FAO. We encourage FAO to continue with improvements to its results reporting, learn from experience and set realistic, ambitious and transparent output targets.

Thank you, Chair.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you very much Estonia on behalf of the EU and aligned Member states. Now I would like to give the floor to Congo. Congo you have the floor.

M. Marc MANKOUSSOU (Congo)

Monsieur le Président, merci beaucoup. Je voulais faire comme le doyen de l'Afghanistan parce-que le Congo avait intervenu sur ce rapport au niveau du Conseil, que nous l'avons déjà approuvé. Mais comme j'interviens au nom du group d'Afrique je suis bien obligé de lire la déclaration.

Le Groupe Afrique accueille favorablement le rapport sur l'exécution du programme 2014-2015. Le rapport vient confirmer les changements transformationnels opérés dans l'Organisation depuis 2012.

Le Groupe Afrique note que la mise en œuvre du Programme a permis de réaliser 98 % des produits attendus. Nous saluons les résultats obtenus et apprécions la forte proportion de résultats obtenus aux niveaux des pays. Le Groupe Afrique exhorte pour ce cas la FAO de renforcer les acquis par des actions plus ciblées, notamment par l'intermédiaire des initiatives régionales déterminées lors des conférences régionales.

Le Groupe Afrique apprécie les progrès accomplis par l'Organisation dans la lutte contre l'insécurité alimentaire et la malnutrition. Nous notons que les contributions de la FAO au Programme de développement 2030, à l'accord de Paris sur les changements climatiques et la deuxième conférence internationale sur la nutrition ont été significatives. Nous attendons de voir intégrer ces résultats historiques dans les différents cadres de l'Organisation et leur mise en œuvre.

Le Groupe Afrique Monsieur le Président souligne la nécessité de mettre en œuvre le Programme 2030 et la décennie d'action en faveur de la nutrition. Nous attendons un engagement de la FAO de continuer à se mobiliser en faveur de ces actions de fond et de continuer et de renforcer les capacités institutionnelles des pays membres pour la réalisation des Objectifs de Développement Durables (ODD) et la décennie d'action en faveur de la nutrition.

Monsieur le Président, nous apprécions les progrès accomplis dans la célébration de l'Année Internationale de l'agriculture familiale et de l'année internationale des sols et leur mise en œuvre en

lien avec la sécurité alimentaire. Les deux années internationales ont été célébrées avec succès. Compte tenu de l'importance de ces questions, pour nos régions, nous encourageons la FAO de consolider les résultats escomptés durant ces années par des actions plus ciblées aux niveaux national et régional en vue d'aider les petits producteurs qui sont confrontés à la menace des changements climatiques.

Monsieur le Président, la décentralisation est un outil capital permettant à l'Organisation de travailler de manière continue avec les gouvernements pour relever le défi de la faim zéro. Nous apprécions les résultats obtenus en matière de renforcement de la décentralisation. C'est pour cela, Monsieur le Président, nous sommes impatients d'attendre la suite du processus durant cet exercice biennal, notamment en ce qui concerne le renforcement des capacités des bureaux régionaux et autres bureaux décentralisés afin que ceux-ci puissent répondre efficacement aux besoins des membres.

Nous reconnaissons le rôle capital que jouent les partenariats dans la lutte contre la faim. Nous apprécions que la mise en place et le renforcement de partenariats stratégiques avec les membres, les organisations des Nations Unies et d'autres organisations internationales, le secteur privé, ainsi que l'action constante menée, les Coopérations sud-sud et triangulaire sont des outils fondamentaux pour échanger les bonnes pratiques et les nouvelles technologies entre les membres.

Le Groupe Afrique apprécie les progrès accomplis et les résultats obtenus par l'Organisation sur le thème transversal de la parité hommes-femmes. Nous encourageons la FAO à continuer d'intégrer la parité hommes-femmes dans ses activités, et de prêter l'attention souhaitée entre les thèmes transversaux comme la nutrition et le changement climatique conformément à son mandat pour forger la génération faim zéro.

Le Groupe Afrique note que durant l'exercice 2014-2015, le secrétariat a pu dégager des gains d'efficacité à hauteur de 36,6 millions d'USD. Nous saluons la mise en œuvre des normes comptables internationales pour le secteur privé, ainsi que le caractère novateur et la modernisation de la gestion des ressources humaines. Toutefois, le Groupe Afrique insiste sur la nécessité d'accorder l'attention souhaitée à une représentation géographique équitable du personnel.

Monsieur le Président, avec ces commentaires, le Groupe Afrique approuve le Rapport sur l'exécution du Programme 2014. Je vous remercie.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you very much Congo for your remarks and your approval. Now I would like to turn the floor to China. China you have the floor.

Ms Jiani TIAN (China) (original language Chinese)

China would like to thank the Secretariat for the documents provided. We would also like to congratulate the progress that has been achieved. China agrees to the approval of this Report and we would also like to make the following comments. Over 90 percent of the outputs achieved and the 88 percent of the outcomes is extremely commendable. Furthermore, the emphasis on South-South Cooperation and triangular cooperation is extremely important. Furthermore, the mention of the Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems (GIAHS) is also extremely important.

Furthermore in terms of the language services offered by FAO, even though we have mentioned that there were certain issues related to the translation quality and the timelines of the provision of the documents but as a whole we believe that FAO has maintained an effective, multilingual service.

Lastly, with regard to the priority of work of the FAO, in the document there were 25 mentions of the priority points, China would like to see FAO put the different priority areas in sequence so that we can further our work in a more effective manner.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you very much representative from China for your remarks. Now I would like to turn the floor to the Russian Federation.

Mr Anton MINAEV (Russia) (Original language Russian)

Thank you very much, Chairperson. The Russian Federation would like to thank the Secretariat for the excellent preparation of the Programme Implementation Report for the past biennium.

We welcome the implementation of the concept proposed by the Secretary-General of the FAO as a knowledge organization with its feet on the ground. We highly appreciate the delivery by the Organization of 88 percent of outputs which fall within the remit of the Secretariat.

We agree with the premise of the Report about the need to ensure that Member States feel the practical benefits of the FAO activities. But in order to monitor the situation on the ground, it is important to use reliable information, first and foremost information from the Governments of the relevant countries.

Given the approval of the new assessment system, we consider the achievement of 77 percent of the outcomes to be a fairly good indicator. In the future, we would suggest attaching special attention to those areas which appear to be lagging behind somewhat. This includes Strategic Objective four on enhancing the efficiency of agriculture and food systems. We support the FAO efforts to make a meaningful contribution to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and to the implementation of the Paris Climate Agreement.

We approve of the attention that is given by the Organization to balance nutrition. The FAO should take concrete steps in the framework of the follow-up action to follow the second International Conference on Nutrition. In connection with this, we welcome the role of the Organization in ensuring the proclamation of the decade for action on nutrition by the General Assembly of the United Nations.

We also highly value the standard setting work of the FAO. We are satisfied that the Council at the end of 2016 adopted the voluntary guidelines for sustainable soil management, which were developed at our initiative. In this context, we would suggest that the Secretariat pay great attention to promoting and assisting the effective implementation of the existing tools.

We are in favour of cooperation between the FAO and non-state actors. Such cooperation should take place in accordance with the principle of intergovernmental decision-making within our Organization. We believe that there is additional potential for developing partnerships between the FAO and relevant academic institutions. A good example of this can be seen in the work done along the lines of the Global Soil Partnership. We would suggest including an item about the importance of cooperation with academia in the final report of our meeting.

We approve the development of ties between the FAO and regional intergovernmental organizations. To complete the information contained in the Secretariat's Report, we would like to highlight our support for strengthening cooperation between the FAO and the Eurasian Economic Commission with which the Organization has adopted and is implementing a Multi-Year Plan of Joint Action.

With regard to the financial side of things, we would like to note that the increase in the amount of voluntary contributions to the FAO over the last two years by 6 percent is a reflection of higher perceived efficiency. Our Delegation welcomes the efficiency savings made to the tune of USD 36.6 million achieved by the Secretariat during this reporting period, without any prejudice to the implementation of the Programme of Work. We hope that the Organization's Management and the framework of its delegate powers will continue to ensure an optimal use of financial resources.

At the same time, we would like to underscore that budgetary savings should not serve as a pretext for reducing the number of languages used during FAO meetings. In this respect, we welcome the fact that during the recent session of the Plenary Assembly of the Global Soil Partnership both translation and interpretation were provided. We are in favour of continuing this practice in the future on a permanent basis.

We are grateful to the Secretariat for the efforts to promote linguistic balance within the Organization including through a more extensive use of the Russian language. We highly value the increase in the number of Russian language publications, electronic documents, and terms on the FAO's Specialized Portal. It is important to preserve and further develop this positive trend and we would like this to be reflected in the final report of this session as well.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you very much Russian Federation for your remarks. Now I would like to turn the floor to Japan. Japan you have the floor.

Mr Takaaki UMEDA (Japan)

First of all, Japan would like to thank the Secretariat for the document. Japan commends the FAO efforts to establish and provide increasing results-based Programme and Budget Management System, and welcomes the achievement of concrete results at both the output and outcome levels, as well as significant efficiency savings in 2014–2015.

In the future, the Programme Implementation Report may be further improved by providing a detailed explanation as to why some of the output and outcome targets have not been achieved so that we can review the indicators and targets as appropriate and necessary.

With these comments, Japan adopts the PIR 2014–2015.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you very much Japan for your comments, and also for your positive remarks and adoption of this report. Before conclusion, because I do not see any other requests for the floor, are there any other requests for the floor? If that is not the case, I would like to give the request to Boyd to give some reaction to clear specific remarks of you.

Mr Boyd HAIGHT (Director, Office of Strategy, Planning and Resource Management)

I would like to thank all of the Delegates for their careful reading of the report, their interest in what the Organization has been able to achieve working with you, and how we can better report on what we do in the future. For those of you who have been associated with the Organization over the years, you will recognize that our progress in planning and in particular reporting results has been incremental and we are now getting to the point where we think we can use these results to really help us plan, particularly at the outcome level. Several of you have noticed the need to identify where there are gaps and how we can better move forward while working with countries in getting results.

In terms of the SDGs, the 2014–2015 Biennium was just at the time that the 2030 Agenda was adopted as well as the negotiations of the Paris climate agreement. We have, of course, moved forward in integrating our work with the SDG targets in the current biennium.

Concerning the request of the Delegate from Estonia on behalf of the EU for more information on how we are building capacity for the SDG targets of which we are custodian, in the Programme of Work and Budget 2016–2017 we created the Office of Chief Statistician with additional responsibility for helping countries with the monitoring of the indicators which FAO is custodian. We have also allocated additional resources in the Programme of Work and Budget 2018–2019 for work on statistics. There has been at least one briefing for the Membership provided by the Chief Statistician on how we are working with countries to build up the capacity to measure the SDG indicators. Of course all countries face issues with the indicators; while some are Tier I, some are Tier II or Tier III where data or methods do not yet exist. We are allocating resources for that and we would hope in the next PIR to be able to give you a little more concrete information.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you very much, Boyd, for your remarks.

Now I would like to turn to the conclusion, if you could give me one moment.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you very much. And now I would like to give you the summary conclusions of this agenda item, Agenda Item 21 about the Programme Implementation Report 2014–2015.

The Conference: a) endorsed the findings of the report of the 154th Session of the Council; b) welcomed the transformational change introduced in FAO since 2012, which led to the delivery of positive results by the Organization within the reviewed Strategic Framework and Medium Term Plan

2014–2017; c) expressed overall satisfaction for the implementation of the Programme of Work in 2014–2015 and welcomed the FAO contribution to major global policy achievements aimed at addressing hunger, food insecurity, and malnutrition; d) welcomed the high proportion of results delivered at country and regional level and encouraged continued efforts focused through the regional initiatives; e) expressed satisfaction at the increased efficiency and value for money, including the identification of USD 36.6 million in savings; f) appreciated the mainstreaming of gender across FAO activities, as well as efforts made in enhancing partnerships, South-South Cooperation, and language balance in FAO products and look forward to continued attention in this regard; g) welcomed the announcement of the new format of the Programme Implementation Report document and look forward to adjustments of indicator targets and to further refinement of reporting on outcomes and outputs in the next Programme Implementation Report. Lastly, it endorsed the Programme Implementation Report 2014–2015.

I hope that you may agree with these summary conclusions.

The Russian Federation.

Mr Anton MINAEV (Russia) (Original language Russian)

I do apologize, Mr Chairperson.

Thank you very much for your comprehensive summary. During my statement, I suggested that we should include a mention of bringing strengthening cooperation between FAO and academia. I would like this to be included in your summary as well, please.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you very much, Russian Federation. I think we can embed that in the conclusion of which I will read out because there I was referring to announcing partnerships. There we could say “including with academia”. Thank you very much, Russian Federation, what you could not see, he put up his thumb, so he was agreeing with it.

Any other remarks? If not, then I think – Estonia.

Mr Ruve SCHANK (Estonia)

Thank you, Chair.

We are happy with most of the conclusions, but we missed a link to more ambitious and realistic indicators. If we would like to repeat point d) in your conclusions, could you please repeat the d)?

CHAIRPERSON

Estonia, do you have a concrete text suggestion?

Mr Ruve SCHANK (Estonia)

Microphone not on.

CHAIRPERSON

Could you repeat your remarks because the microphone was not on?

Mr Ruve SCHANK (Estonia)

Chair, could you repeat point d) in your conclusions?

CHAIRPERSON

The d) was – you made reference to the indicators but it was not point d). It was point f).

Mr Ruve SCHANK (Estonia)

We made two points. One was about the indicators and the other was asking you to repeat d).

CHAIRPERSON

Okay. Then I will repeat d). Point d) was “welcomed the higher proportion of results delivered at country and regional level and encouraged continued efforts focused through the regional initiatives”. Okay? And then we are looking now to see how we can take on board your remarks about the indicators.

Thank you very much, Estonia for your remarks. I would like to make the following suggestion and read out the whole point d): welcomed the announcements of the new format of the Programme Implementation Report document and looked forward to the adjustment of indicator targets, including more ambitious targets, comma, and to further refinement of report on outcomes and outputs in the next Programme Implementation Report. Is that agreeable? Okay. Thank you very much.

Any other remarks? I see none. So thank you very much. We can then adopt – at least these will be sent to the Drafting Committee, but there is a clear understanding that we have concerns within this room about the conclusions of this Agenda Item 21 about the Programme Implementation Report 2014–2015.

Item 22. Programme Evaluation Report 2017**Point 22. Rapport d'évaluation du Programme 2017****Tema 22. Informe sobre la evaluación del programa en 2017**

(C 2017/4)

CHAIRPERSON

With that, I would like to turn now to Agenda Item 22, the Programme Evaluation Report C 2017/4. The report provides a summary of the main evaluation activities of the Organization during the period 2015 and 2016. The report also provides an analytical summary of the emerging trends in Evaluation at FAO. It should also be noted that the Office of Evaluation has embarked in a new series of evaluations to review FAO's contribution to its Strategic Objectives which are very valuable tools, of course, for the Organization. The Conference is invited to provide such guidance as it deems appropriate.

Now I would like to give the floor to Mr Masahiro Igarashi, Director of the Office of Evaluation, to present the report. You have the floor, Sir.

Mr Masahiro IGARASHI, (Director, Office of Evaluation)

Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen, I am very pleased to be given the opportunity to present the Programme Evaluation Report 2017 which covers evaluations conducted during 2015 and 2016.

The main part of this year's Programme Evaluation Report comprises the synthesis of findings of evaluations conducted in the last two years. The report thus presents major programme results identified, as well as gaps to be filled and lessons to be learned for the future.

During this period, we have initiated a series of strategic objective evaluations and increased the coverage of country programme evaluations and project evaluations. As you can see in the map on the screen, we have covered 79 countries either through full country programme evaluation or project evaluations. In addition to the evaluation of Strategic Objective 5, increase the resilience of livelihoods to threats and crises, we carried out three thematic evaluations respectively on the FAO contribution to climate change adaptation and mitigation, knowledge on food and agriculture and the conservation of sustainable use of genetic resources.

Let me move on to key findings from the evaluations. Overall, at the country level, it was found that in general FAO programmes were highly relevant to the needs at the country level. The Country Programming Framework has become the primary strategic instruments in alignment to national priorities and FAO's global objectives. Looking more detailed into individual projects or programme components, the linkage to the strategic level objectives were not always clear due to the lack of clear change which also takes into account the local context and conditions.

FAO has shown its comparative advantage in terms of leadership and convening power in policy and plan development and in technical support. However, FAO has struggled with marketing and resource mobilization. Partnership with a central government was generally found strong. The FAO decentralization has further strengthened the coordination with national authorities and other partners. At the same time, there were countries where FAO needs to engage more with public sector partners at the subnational level. Partnership with the private sector also needs to be further developed.

In terms of achievements at the country level, the results of assessment were mixed, but in general more positive than negative; more so in terms of achieving stated objectives and producing tangible benefits to target beneficiaries, less so in capacity development and resource mobilization. Challenges were also seen in small country programmes that, despite a demand for FAO expertise, could not effectively mobilize resources and provide support because of the lack of country office capacity.

Moving on to the results at the global level, evaluations found that FAO has generally responded well to the changing global contexts in the areas of its mandate, for instance in response to the increased global trade of agriculture products or the need to prevent the spread of plant and animal diseases. FAO developed a number of global strategies and standards and supported global governance, for instance in the areas of hunger reduction, food security and nutrition, agriculture and rural statistics, and food safety standards. It has also developed models to be applied at the country level that brought benefits to the countries and communities. The examples are climate-smart agriculture, farmer field schools, school garden, and voluntary guidelines on land tenure.

In some areas, especially where new issues and concepts have emerged, such as on the role of agriculture in climate change or resilience-building, FAO could improve its policy link and advocacy in the evolving global context.

Now let me move on to cross-cutting issues on capacity development. Nearly two-thirds of the evaluations found that there was a good integration of the three dimensions of capacity development, namely both individual and institutional capacity development with an enabling environment. In some other cases, the programmes tended to focus on individual training and changes were not visible on policy environment, institutional arrangements, and knowledge systems for long-term impact. In terms of design, capacity development programmes were found to be more successful when they focused more on local expertise in institutions and when needs assessments and follow-up activities were systematically carried out.

On gender mainstreaming, FAO was found to be improving on mainstreaming gender dimensions of its work, even though more remains to be done mainly in terms of the design of field level projects. Full cadres of gender specialists were deployed throughout the Organization, including field offices. It will still take time, however, for those gender specialists to fully understand how to integrate gender dimensions in different technical programmes and offer effective advice beyond pro forma checking.

On nutrition, mapping the progress against the FAO Nutrition Strategy, we found that in general FAO has played a positive role in coordination and leadership for promoting the inclusion of nutrition aspects into food security and agriculture policies and in support of collecting and disseminating nutrition data. The challenge ahead is in linking these policies to implementation at the subnational and local levels.

In closing, this was a presentation of some salient points in the report. I would like to invite you to check our website for further details if you are interested in a particular evaluation or a topic. I hope you liked this revised format for the Programme Evaluation Report and look forward for your comments and guidance.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you very much Mr Igarashi for your crystal clear presentation with slides. Now I would like now to open the floor for Members' to give their remarks and conclusions. And I first give the floor to Bangladesh. Bangladesh you have the floor.

Mr Mafizur RAHMAN (Bangladesh)

Bangladesh has the honour of delivering this statement on behalf of the Asia Regional Group. The Asia Regional Group welcomes and appreciates this report of the Office of Evaluation for its new initiative to review the FAO contribution towards its Strategic Objectives and producing its cost report on SO 5, increase the resilience of livelihoods to threats and crises. We extend our sincere thanks for a clear Programme Evaluation Report 2017.

The Asia Group commends FAO efforts to support the country development process through the promotion of internationally agreed normative standards, statistics, technical information, and to provide country level support through capacity development and technical assistance. The Office of Evaluation conducted 11 country level evaluations, 39 project evaluations, and four other thematic evaluations to review the FAO's contribution in food and agriculture, including cross-cutting issues like capacity development, gender, and nutrition building 2015 to 2016.

Mr Chairperson, the Evaluation Report found 51 percent of programmes have achieved the stated objectives in full and 36 percent of programs have achieved partial objectives at country level. Higher level satisfaction was found on policy impact and substantial benefits for larger group members with 54 percent in both cases, whereas in the case of capacity development and resource mobilization, the satisfaction level is 31 and 33 percent respectively. We agree that there are so many external factors affecting the full achievement of the FAO's Strategic Objectives. Asia will highlight the key fact that the participatory process should be allowed in programme planning and implementation to better implement the FAO SOs.

The FAO contribution at the global level has been evaluated in terms of strategic relevance and strategic focus. While an authoritative source of information, standard technical frameworks and models including technical expertise in food and agriculture are widely recognized. The global strategy to improve the agricultural and rural statistics, the climate-smart agriculture, farmer field school, and school gardening are some of the important examples of the FAO contribution at the global level.

FAO is playing a vital role in a wide range of food and agriculture activities by interacting at national, regional, and global levels. However, the insufficient contextualization of FAO technical materials with local needs, as well as lack of capacity to equalize the materials at the subnational levels, are identified as constraints for the effective application of FAO knowledge products. We welcome the evaluation conclusions on cross-cutting issues. We very much appreciate that 63 percent of the programme provided integrated capacity development support encompassing individuals and institutions and enabling environment levels.

We appreciate the findings of the better alignment of FAO's work with national priorities addressing gender disparity and National Action Plan on Gender; however, it needs to improve the gender focus in the project document. Concerning the conclusions of the evaluation on all three outcomes of the FAO Nutrition Strategy, the Asia Group noted with thanks that FAO is contributing a lot in integrating nutrition into food and agriculture.

Finally, Mr Chairperson, the Asia Group is looking forward to seeing the full implementation of findings and recommendations of the Evaluation Report for better results in the near future.

With this note, the Asia Regional Group endorses the Programme Evaluation Report 2017.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you on behalf of the Asian Group for your remarks and also based on your remarks the endorsement. Thank you so much.

Now I turn the floor to Australia. Australia, you have the floor.

Mr Ryan WILSON (Australia)

Good afternoon, colleagues, and thank you, Chair, for the opportunity to comment on the Programme Evaluation Report. The Report is a very good initiative of course and so I really only want to comment

on one particular matter that was highlighted in the Report and also by the Director of the Office of Evaluation.

As the Deputy Prime Minister highlighted this morning in his response to the McDougall Memorial Lecture, farmers will not produce unless they can get a fair return and a decent wage. This applies to small holders, family farms of all kinds, as well as small, medium and large businesses. So I want to highlight the important role of collaboration with the private sector in achieving our shared goal of ending hunger.

When the farmer or related upstream or downstream business invests their own money, this can help us end hunger. So what is it that makes that investment decision easier or harder? What makes it more likely that they will raise a decent income and what makes it less likely? What might stop that business from making that investment in the first place? What markets are there? What are the best opportunities for farmers in particular countries? What can governments do to make those investment decisions easier? So the answers to these questions are of course very complex and why we are here but what is clear, I think, is the private sector is a critical part of finding those answers and they can contribute through partnerships with governments, international bodies such as FAO of course and civil society.

I would like to briefly highlight two good examples for the information of delegates who might not be familiar with these. The first is the World Economic Forum Grow Asia Initiative, which was modelled on the Grow Africa Initiative; a similar thing that preceded it. Grow Asia is a multistakeholder partnership platform developed by the World Economic Forum and the ASEAN Secretariat and launched in 2015. The focus is on catalysing more sustainable and inclusive agrobusiness ventures across Southeast Asia.

Grow Asia's objective is to drive new inclusive agrobusiness investments reaching ten million small scale farmers and improving farm productivity, profitability and environmental sustainability by 20 percent.

The second example I would like to highlight is Ag Results, a USD 118 million multilateral initiative to encourage high impact agricultural innovations in research and delivery in order to promote global food security, health and nutrition. An important feature of Ag Results is that it uses a market pull mechanism, which harnesses the innovative and financial potential of the private sector to create public goods and ultimately support food security.

So in closing I would like to say that Australia greatly appreciated the words of the Director-General at last year's meeting of the Committee on Agriculture where he highlighted the importance of private sector engagement in ending hunger.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you very much, Australia, for your remarks. Now I turn the floor to Indonesia. Indonesia, you have the floor.

Mr Gerry INDRADI (Indonesia)

Thank you, Mr Chairperson. At the outset my Delegation aligns itself with the statement delivered by the Delegation of Bangladesh on behalf of the Asia Regional Group. We would like to add our observations on national capacity but at the outset I would like to first thank the Office of Evaluation for their hard work in preparing the Programme Evaluation Report for the period 2015-2016.

Now commenting on the document, Mr Chairperson. First, my delegation is of the view that the Programme Evaluation Report 2017 has been markedly improved from the previous one. My delegation noticed that the Office used different methodologies and formats for the two documents. We are of the view that the current Programme Evaluation Report is more reader friendly. Thus we would like to suggest that the Office use the same evaluation methodology and format for the next PER.

Second, my delegation is pleased with the Office's findings on strengthened coordination between the FAO with national partners, especially Government authorities as a result of this decentralization

process. In this regard, my Delegation would like to underscore the importance of strong partnership between FAO and national focal points as the success of implementation of national projects hinges on it.

Third, in paragraph 19, third bullet from above, we take note of the Office's observation which stated that CPF should not be overly specific at the level of activities in order to enable emerging opportunities. However, my delegation is of the view that without clearly defined activities it would be difficult for some Member Countries including my country to measure the output and outcomes of the CPF.

In closing, Mr Chairperson, we would like to again thank the Director and his staff in preparing this document and my delegation endorses the document. Thank you very much.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you very much Indonesia for your remarks and based on that for your endorsement. Now I turn the floor to Estonia, on behalf of the European Union.

Mr Ruve SCHANK (Estonia)

Thank you Chair. We also welcome the document, let me be more specific, on behalf of the European Union and its 28 Member States. The candidate countries of Montenegro, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Turkey align themselves with this statement.

A strong and independent Office of Evaluation is essential to assess FAO's delivery, at the national regional and global level, and to continually improve performance to achieve greater impact. The introduction of Strategic Objective and thematic evaluations is an important contribution to this. We welcome this report, which summarises the main findings from evaluations conducted from 2015-16, demonstrating early results from reforms, including the reviewed Strategic Framework that has led to greater strategic focus in the work of FAO. We support the FAO collaboration with other partners and agencies, including in humanitarian crises, particularly with the World Food Programme (WFP). It is encouraging that evaluations show that country programming frameworks (CPFs) have become the primary strategic instrument for guiding FAO activities at the country level. We look forward to them becoming even more aligned with FAO global goals. Moving forward, we would like to ask FAO management about the scope for CPFs being used to identify strategic opportunities for further strengthening partnerships, including with the other Rome-based agencies. If possible, piloting connecting country strategies - FAO, IFAD and WFP country strategic plans - could be a way of identifying further synergies to deliver results together in line with the aspirations of Agenda 2030 and the SDGs.

We encourage FAO management to continue strengthening the FAO response to evaluations, as a means to constantly improve the Organization. In this regard, we would like to commend FAO for the inclusive process that led to the adoption of the FAO Climate Change Strategy in response to the 2015 Evaluation of FAO's contribution to Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation. We look forward to its implementation and ensuring that the gap between global and country-level performance highlighted in the PER is addressed.

We will continue to pay particular attention to the work of FAO on cross-cutting issues. We welcome the finding that there is increasingly consistent and strong emphasis on gender. We look forward to the Evaluation of the FAO work on gender to be reviewed in 2018-19. We welcome the emphasis on climate change and agriculture within the FAO Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan, particularly to support Member Countries to swiftly and fully implement the Paris Agreement. On nutrition, we commend FAO for having promoted collaboration and coordination of work between relevant actors at the central level, developing and implementing national multi-sectoral nutrition policies and strategies. We encourage FAO to do this at project level, working with other United Nations agencies to create synergies and partnerships, in which FAO can provide technical knowledge for nutrition-sensitive agriculture as proposed in the evaluation report. We also encourage FAO to continue working on the implementation of the work programme of the UN Decade of Action on Nutrition,

which the organisation is called upon to co-lead with the World Health Organization (WHO) in collaboration with the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) WFP and IFAD.

The 2016 evaluation of the FAO evaluation function reported that the FAO Office of Evaluation has made significant progress during the last biennium but that there remains scope for improvement, both in learning and accountability. The evaluation notes that in some cases evaluations were done too early or too late and that there have sometimes been delays in the evaluation process. These issues could limit opportunities for learning and improvement. We urge FAO to improve the timeliness of evaluations and its responses to them.

We will continue to monitor the follow-up and implementation of evaluation recommendations, and welcome the inclusion of a key performance indicator on this in the FAO strategic results framework. We look forward to reviewing progress, also in improving the integration of gender considerations in evaluation, as recommended by the Programme Committee in November 2016.

We would like to conclude by reiterating our full support to the work of the FAO Office of Evaluation, and the importance of identifying emerging and recurrent trends in evaluations to discuss with management the main results, gaps and lessons identified in the work of FAO in order to learn, improve, and deliver better results.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you very much Estonia on behalf of the European Union and aligned member states for your remarks as well as your support. And with that I would like to give the floor to Afghanistan. Afghanistan you have the floor.

Mr Abdul Razak AYAZI (Afghanistan)

I have the honour to intervene on behalf of the Near East Group on Programme Evaluation Report 2017. The Near East Group welcomes the format of the Programme Evaluation Report 2017, which is basically a synthesis of 11 country portfolio evaluations, four thematic evaluations and 39 individual project evaluations all carried out during 2015-2016. It is a good synthesis of the major findings of these evaluations and will focus on some key aspects of the operation.

The Near East Group also welcomes the policy shift of the Office of Evaluation (OED) to give priority to the evaluation of FAO's five Strategic Objectives. Two Strategic Objectives have already been evaluated; namely Strategic Objective five and Strategic Objective three. The evaluation of Strategic Objective four is planned for this year and Strategic Objective one and Strategic Objective two for 2018.

The Near East Group is hoping that the synthesis of the five Strategic Evaluations will be submitted to the 41st FAO Conference in 2019. At country level, the findings of the Evaluation Report give a fairly high mark to the relevance of FAO field projects with nationalities and polarity and in this respect underscores the vital contribution of the Country Programme Framework.

On partnership, the Evaluation Report gives a positive impression of the FAO sustained effort to improve and expand partnership with all stakeholders including national institutions and makes the point that decentralization has contributed to the effectiveness of partnership. The Near East Group agrees with this general conclusion.

On capacity development, which is an essential ingredient of the FAO engagement in the developing countries especially the LDCs such as satisfactory progress has been made but more needs to be done. In particular, by linking training with institutional development, improving targeting and in mobilizing more resources for capacity development.

Likewise gender mainstreaming has made progress especially the role played by dedicated gender specialists across FAO. With respect to nutrition, the FAO contribution is considered as praiseworthy especially at the policy level and in interagency coordination on nutrition. However, more work is required to make nutrition the centrepiece of sustainable national food policies.

On section four, the Near East Group wishes to make the following two observations. Observation one: the evaluation shows that during the period of the review only two evaluations took place in the Near East and North Africa compared with eight evaluations in Asia and the Pacific and seven in Latin America and the Caribbean region. Is there any reason for the very small number of evaluations in the Near East and the Africa region?

Observation two: it is a bit odd that the number of country project evaluations is less than that of the global inter-regional and regional projects. This is because in terms of numbers, the country projects account for no less than 90 percent of the total number of field projects at a given time. Is it that global, inter-regional and regional projects are problem-prone and therefore subject to evaluation?

With these observations, the Near East Group endorses the Programme Evaluation Report 2017.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you very much, Afghanistan on behalf of the Near East Group, for your remarks and your endorsement. Now I would like to give the floor to the Republic of the Congo.

M. Marc MANKOUSSOU (Republic of the Congo)

Monsieur le Président, merci. Je voulais d'abord commencer à féliciter le Directeur de l'évaluation, que j'ai souvent vu au Comité du Programme pour cet excellent travail qu'il a abattu avec son équipe, de faire une compilation des évaluations de 2015 et 2016.

Monsieur le Président, je prends la parole au nom du groupe Afrique. Le groupe Afrique accueille favorablement ce rapport. Le rapport met en lumière les progrès accomplis pour faire de la FAO une organisation davantage axée sur les résultats au niveau mondial et au niveau des pays. Au titre des contributions de la FAO au niveau des Pays, le groupe Afrique salue la pertinence et l'alignement stratégique des programmes de la FAO par rapport aux objectifs nationaux et aux priorités régionales et mondiales, dont 97% des évaluations ont estimé que les programmes étaient satisfaisants et très satisfaisants également.

Toutefois, le groupe Afrique souligne que ce programme devrait apporter aux Pays, pour conduire à une participation plus intense, des partenaires et aux parties prenantes aux processus décisionnel. Le groupe Afrique apprécie les partenariats et la coordination entre les pouvoirs publics et la FAO. Nous estimons que la collaboration pourrait renforcer l'appropriation des projets par les gouvernements et ainsi contribuer à la viabilité des résultats des projets. Nous soulignons la nécessité de promouvoir une collaboration solide entre la FAO et le pouvoir public au niveau national pour éviter les doutes quant à l'efficacité et à la viabilité des interventions.

Le groupe Afrique apprécie également les partenariats fournisseurs des ressources à travers des mécanismes efficaces mis en place par la FAO pour établir des contacts avec des donateurs. Nous saluons également la collaboration de la FAO avec les organismes chargés des crises humanitaires dont nous avons cité tout à l'heure le PAM. Nous encourageons la FAO de s'engager dans des programmes communs, notamment dans la vision de Nations Unies qu'on appelle unies dans l'action qui peut être une source de collaboration sûre et de partenariat sur le terrain.

Le groupe Afrique souligne l'importance de la FAO, que la FAO doit développer des liens forts avec le secteur privé afin de mettre en place des chaînes de valeur performantes. C'est ainsi que nous estimons que les projets à venir devraient accorder une place, une grande place, une grande attention aux opportunités et aux forces du marché et pourraient à notre avis être conçus pour renforcer les partenariats avec le secteur privé et les organisations paysannes qui sont les acteurs sur le terrain.

Le groupe Afrique salue les progrès accomplis sur le renforcement des capacités, qui confirme que les capacités des divers groupes ont été renforcées. Nous sommes préoccupés par le fait qu'il a été plus difficile de déterminer conséquences à long terme et à un niveau plus élevé. Nous notons sur l'environnement politique, les engagements institutionnels, les systèmes de croissance. Il serait donc judicieux de déterminer ces conséquences.

Le groupe Afrique salue les progrès réalisés en matière d'intégration des questions de parité homme-femme dans les activités de la FAO, ainsi que les facteurs qui y ont contribué. Nous apprécions le bon

alignement des activités de la FAO avec les priorités nationales en matière de lutte contre les disparités entre les sexes et les plans d'action nationaux en faveur de la parité.

Pour des projets à venir, le groupe Afrique pense qu'il serait judicieux de mettre l'accent sur la parité, notamment nous exhortons la FAO de consentir des efforts lors de la mise en œuvre pour y remédier et d'appliquer des principes d'égalité entre les sexes.

Le groupe Afrique apprécie que la FAO ait contribué à l'amélioration de la qualité de la disponibilité et à l'accès aux données de la sécurité alimentaire. Toutefois, nous soulignons l'importance de la mise en œuvre de la décennie d'action en faveur de la nutrition. C'est pour cela que nous saluons également le rôle de la FAO en tant que chef de file dans le processus de coordination technique sur la nutrition à l'échelle des pays a été déterminant. Nous exhortons la FAO d'assister les Pays Membres à résoudre les problèmes concernant la gouvernance multisectorielle, multipartite et les capacités de mise en œuvre des politiques au niveau infranational.

Monsieur le Président, c'est avec ces commentaires que le groupe Afrique appuie l'adoption de ce rapport. Je vous remercie.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you very much, Congo on behalf of the African Group, for your remarks and support. Now I turn the floor to China. China, you have the floor.

Ms Jiani TIAN (China) (Original language Chinese)

China agrees with the work of the Office of Evaluation.

First of all, China recognizes the relatively high quality of the Report, which not only highlights the delivery at the national, global and regional levels but also includes a stand-alone evaluation of cross-cutting contributions. However, China noted at the country partnership level the mentioning of South-South cooperation was missing. China hopes that the Office of Evaluation will provide an explanation for this deletion.

Furthermore on the country level, Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems (GIAHS) related work was also not mentioned when in fact, much new progress has been achieved. This is extremely important in relation to climate change, youth farmers, reemployment of youth farmers, gender equality etc. In fact, much progress has been achieved in these areas so China wishes to know the reason for the lack of evaluation of GIAHS-related work on this point.

While we commend FAO contributions in cross-cutting evaluation, we believe FAO should focus on the core functions and comparative advantage instead of spending so much energy on cross-cutting. FAO should enlarge the work on food security in order to reduce a number of people who go hungry in the world. The reason for China's considerations is that we consider cross-cutting work being handled by specific organizations in the United Nations system. We hope the Office of Evaluation will recognize China's concerns.

We worry that when too much attention is paid to cross-cutting topics, this will dilute the FAO strength in agriculture, forestry, fisheries, livestock etc. Instead, systematic evaluation should be conducted in these areas.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you very much, China, for your remarks. Now I turn the floor to Japan. Japan, you have the floor.

Ms Yuri KUMAGAI (Japan)

Japan aligns itself with the Asia Group statement delivered by Bangladesh and welcomes the Programme Evaluation Report 2017.

The evaluation work conducted by the Office of Evaluation is essential for ensuring accountability of FAO and we highly appreciate the quality and read of the presentation of this Report and of many others.

Japan would like to highlight some of the Report's findings for example, that FAO needs to collaborate further with the private sector and that technical materials proceeds by FAO should be contextualized to meet local needs, while providing greater support for capacity building at subnational levels to utilize these materials. Such findings we think are particularly important when considering how to disseminate FAO contributions more widely. We hope that FAO continuously improves its work based on these evaluation results. Thank you very much.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you very much, Japan. With that I would like to give the floor to Trinidad and Tobago.

Mr Winston RUDDER (Trinidad and Tobago)

Trinidad and Tobago commends the PER for its clarity and insight. From our perspective, the PER represents an opportunity to reflect, take stock and provide guidance for moving forward with purpose and confidence.

Trinidad and Tobago and the small island developing states of the Caribbean very much depend on and benefit from the technical excellence that FAO has exhibited over the years of our cooperation in the areas of food security and nutrition, agriculture, plant and animal health, forestry and fisheries. In fact, this support is very critical in our context as small island states with limited human resource capacity. Therefore, we agree and remain concerned about the observation made about the limitations of the Country Office capacity that exists in the FAO representations.

In this regard, we argue that this renders even more urgent the importance of strengthening the composition and the capacity of the subregional offices and in particular the subregional office in the Caribbean so that it may more adequately backstop the development of agriculture, forestry and fisheries in the Caribbean subregion of Latin America and the Caribbean.

In that regard, it is critical that as we move into the new areas of relevant concern we do not lose sight of the fact and detract from the intrinsic basic technical capacity that we depend on at FAO in the areas of entomology, plant protection, plant pathology and so on in support of all agriculture, forestry and fisheries.

As intimated by Mr Steiner in his lecture this morning, all needs in this regard will become even more relevant and intense in the context of meeting the challenges confronting the agricultural economy of tomorrow, of course realizing what we are seeking to realize with the Strategic Objective 4.

With these observations, Chair, Trinidad and Tobago unhesitatingly endorses the PER 2017.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you very much for your remarks and also your clear support.

Now I would like to turn the floor to Lebanon. Lebanon, you have the floor.

M. Louis LAHOUD (Liban) (langue originale Arabe)

Au nom du groupe Proche Orient, je voudrais souligner que l'évaluation est très importante et ce programme qui a été mis en œuvre en 2015-2016 était important également parce que nous avons pu avoir des évaluations périodiques et c'est important en particulier pour les pays de notre région. Je voudrais faire quelques propositions et j'espère qu'elles seront prises en compte dans le prochain programme, la prochaine évaluation.

Nous espérons que l'évaluation tiendra compte à l'avenir des questions sur l'égalité hommes-femmes spécifiques. Deuxièmement, nous espérons que l'évaluation se concentrera sur les petits agriculteurs, en particulier sur les pays de nos régions parce que les petits agriculteurs représentent un très grand pourcentage. C'est vrai aussi pour les femmes dans les zones rurales. Elles jouent un rôle important dans les projets de développement. En ce qui concerne la nutrition, un certain nombre de pays ont beaucoup avancé sur cette question et nous espérons qu'à l'avenir, lors des réunions, la FAO jouera un rôle plus important sur cette question de la nutrition en tenant compte du fait que les membres de notre région ont besoin de ce type de projet.

Ce rapport est excellent et il nous amènera évidemment à des conclusions qui seront bénéfiques pour tous les Etats Membres. Merci.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you very much, Lebanon, for your remarks and also support.

Now I would like to turn the floor to Canada who is the last speaker. Canada, Ms Nguyen, you have the floor.

Ms Mi NGUYEN (Canada)

I would like to echo all the appreciation that has been expressed so far on this Programme Evaluation Report. I will focus my comments on one particular issue, which is gender.

We very much appreciate the progress in FAO's efforts and results in mainstreaming gender and measures that are taken to do that even more systematically. We look forward to working more closely with the Organization to find solutions that would deliver even more transformational impact. Our Minister of International Development and La Francophonie, Minister Bibeau, has launched two weeks ago our new Feminist International Assistance Policy that really put at the heart gender equality and the empowerment of women while also constituting a core action in itself.

We will devote at least 95 percent of Canada's bilateral international assistance in targeting or integrating gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls, and we will in part help promote reforms to eliminate discrimination against women and girls, including in areas such as land tenure. So we really think that, as was highlighted at one of the Zero Hunger events today, that this is an area where we really need to step up and scale up like it was highlighted there as well as in the evaluation on the Strategic Objective 3 objective how we can scale up approaches that work to reach a greater impact. We really welcome as well that new approach of evaluations having specific gender analysis.

Finally, also to say that it would be helpful in the future to see how evaluations could look at synergies among the three cross-cutting issues, nutrition, climate change and gender, and how they mutually reinforce each other.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you very much, Canada, for your remarks, especially highlighting the crucial role of women and gender in the work of FAO.

I do not see any other requests for the floor. I would like to give the floor first to Mr Igarashi to react to some of the remarks.

Mr Masahiro IGARASHI, (Director, Office of Evaluation)

Thank you, Delegates, for a number of comments, especially also for understanding our intent of moving into this format and presenting you the new Programme Evaluation Report.

Let me just reply to some of the issues that may be relevant to us. First, just responding to what was said by Indonesia about the Country Programming Frameworks (CPF) and activity level information to be included in the CPF. What we realized is that the CPF is used more as a strategic level document to agree on the direction and the high level objectives of the collaboration between FAO and the country. Yes, there needs to be more elaborate agreement on the activities to be conducted, but those are two different objectives that may need to be really thought about in terms of what goes into this document and what kinds of things should go to another document. This is a format question that we are looking at in the Synthesis Report that will be provided next year in the Programme Committee. We are also looking into other organizations' experiences in different planning documents and how this can help FAO look into a sharper CPF and also activity planning documents.

A number of delegations raised the issue of the private sector. I am glad to inform you that we are going to present the Strategic Objective for evaluation in the next session of the Programme Committee which looks into food systems and value chains and these kinds of topics. There are a number of interesting findings that we feel may further help you discuss how to deepen private sector

engagement. In addition, we advised the Programme Committee that we are particularly looking at the policy on the private sector partnerships that will be coming in 2021 in our evaluation plan.

Now in terms of capacity development, a number of delegations picked up on this point that was made in the Programme Evaluation Report that there should be more long term involvement in terms of policy environment, institutional development, knowledge systems, and so on. That is a more challenging area of development. Our observation – now this is a synthesis, so if I may get a little bit more into this – is that this also relates to the project design because if you want to go to the local level, if you want to contextualize our approach to agricultural development in the countries, you cannot just design it at Headquarters to make a model that fits everybody. The Headquarters level develops a technical approach and the models that need to be further designed, contextualized and brought to the level of local governments and partners. This needs a project design that is suited to this, but often the traditional projects just do the one-time capacity development activities at the national level and stop. That is why we are suggesting that not only FAO local office but also donors of those projects have to think about having a design that is conducive to contextualization and local capacity development.

Let me respond to the question of Afghanistan on why we had only two evaluations during this period in the Near East Region. Actually, we were planning a little bit more, but in the case of one country one evaluation was declined by the country because the government wanted to do it themselves and the other was actually conducted, but this was a programme evaluation in West Bank and Gaza, so we did not include those in the number of country programme evaluations.

Now why were there more interregional and regional or global project evaluations than country level evaluations? This is partly because, yes, there are more country projects, but the budget size is smaller and it is also designed between the country office and the resource partner in the country. Often we have found that the evaluation provision is not properly included in the project agreement for the smaller country projects because they wanted to spend more resources on the activities. The bigger projects, for example, the irrigation project in Afghanistan, have a proper budget for evaluation and that is why we were able to conduct those evaluations. This is in contrast to the regional global projects which are more controlled by the Headquarters and therefore we have more of a chance to conduct evaluations. Another factor is that the resource partners are identified through the Headquarters and we therefore have more opportunity to comment on proper budgeting for evaluations in these projects.

Responding to China, yes, we were looking into South-South Cooperation. Probably we should propose something for the next cycle of evaluation and planning. Please understand that this is a synthesis of existing evaluations. When we look into projects and so on if there is a specific South-South component, we then comment. But what we found was there was not enough material for us to comment on this round of evaluations during the two years. However, I understand the number of initiatives based on the South-South Cooperation model has been increasing and I am sure that in the next round of synthesis we will have enough materials to pick from these evaluations and make comments.

Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems (GIAHS), yes, this is also one trust fund project evaluation. We wish to see whether it has certain evaluation provisions in the programme and we can actually engage with those. However, I remember that it was conducted before 2014 and probably therefore the programme cycle is just skipping over this particular biennium.

On the cross-cutting topics, yes, most of the evaluations actually evaluate the programme itself, the main FAO programs. The synthesis was done mainly because of the interest of Member States at this level on picking up the lessons learned on the same things related to gender or capacity development and that is why the report took this shape. However, of course, most of the FAO programme is embedded in FAO main objectives, the Strategic Objectives, and therefore we only focus the evaluation there.

CHAIRPERSON

I would now like to give the floor to the Deputy Director-General, Dan Gustafson, to respond to the request from the EU for Management to provide more information on CPF and the RBA collaboration. Dan, you have the floor.

Mr Daniel J. GUSTAFSON (Deputy Director-General, Programmes)

Yes, it is a very interesting topic and I think it will come up again in the discussion tomorrow on the Quadrennial Comprehensive Policy Review (QCPR). The short answer I think would be definitely we would be very interested, we are very interested in looking at how we can utilize or move towards a common Programming Framework with IFAD and WFP. We have something along these lines in the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with WFP already. We are modifying that to add IFAD in as a third member of that MoU. The matter is touched on in the strategic collaboration paper that you have seen. With regard to using the three instruments that the Rome Based Agencies (RBAs) each have in a more comprehensive way, clearly we are interested in that and are hoping to move in that direction.

The difficulty arises when you get to the country level and see all three of the instruments within the context of a UN country team collaboration. In that case, always all three of the documents should be fully aligned with the country's own development strategy. Sometimes the timing of the strategy that each of us develops is not synchronized, which is a bit of a problem. But where we run into the most interesting issues as we go forward is at the interaction of the three Rome Based Agencies within the larger UN Country Team Framework and the UN Development Assistance Framework, the UNDAF.

The Secretary-General released on the 30th of June his initial response to the QCPR that outlines what he sees as the main elements of UN reform or some of the elements that he sees as a priority for this. One of those – actually, a number of those relate to having the UN Development Assistance Framework become the single document, not just something that we all contribute and each have our own versions of, but that it would move to become the single document. We will see how it develops as this is somewhat complicated for all of us. What may happen in that regard is that the funds in programs that come under the Secretary-General, UNICEF, WFP, UNHCR, and so on, already have stricter arrangements in how their country strategy must fit in to the larger UN Development Assistance Framework.

Ideally, we would all work together on that. But the extent to which we have a common document will likely go faster with the funds in programs that report directly to New York in a more direct way than we do. So I could imagine that there could be some complications that would work in the same direction as the three of us trying to work together and have a common framework within the context of having all agencies come together around a common framework. That has for us, when you aggregate the issues at that level, some advantages but it also has some disadvantages. So I think definitely we are very interested. We have it in the work plan to see how we might do this, but I think we need to watch very carefully how UN reform at the country level evolves in a way that either facilitates this or that does in fact make it somewhat more difficult for us as three agencies on our own to do that.

CHAIRPERSON

With that, I would like now to turn to the summary conclusions on Agenda Item 22, the Programme Evaluation Report.

The Conference, a) welcomed the Programme Evaluation Report, including the main findings emerging from the thematic strategic country and project evaluations completed during the period 2015–2016; b), noted FAO's comparative advantages and role in several important areas in food security and agricultural related areas and activities, inter alia, in policy assistance and capacity building; c) appreciated FAO's progress in the decentralization process which has enabled strengthened coordination with national partners, South-South Cooperation, and the development of strategic partnerships with other stakeholders, especially the private sector, and key development actors; d) welcomed collaboration with other UN agencies, especially with WFP and IFAD and look forward to continued attention in this regard; e) noted the better alignment of evaluation with FAO's Reviewed Strategic Framework through the ongoing evaluations of FAO's contribution to its Strategic

Objectives; f) welcomed the findings of mainstreaming and increased attention to cross-cutting issues, including climate change, nutrition, and gender, and look forward to the evaluation of FAO's work on gender to be submitted to the 2019 Conference; and g) supported continuation of improvements introduced by the Office of Evaluation, including with regard to timeliness of evaluations and their responses.

These are the summary conclusions. Could you support them?

Mr Ryan WILSON (Australia)

I would just like to comment on the reference to the private sector. I cannot remember your precise wording but I think you talked about appreciating the progress in - something about the private sector. Whereas I think the comments from around the floor and in the report were about the importance of building and working on those partnerships, whatever the right language is for that. Maybe it is about continuing to strengthen partnerships with the private sector or something along those lines.

CHAIRPERSON

What I then propose, and it was referred to in point c), which was read and I could now re-read: appreciated FAO's progress in the decentralization process as enabled strengthened coordination with national partners, South-South Cooperation, and the development of strategic partnerships with other stakeholders, especially private sector and key development actors, and look forward to strengthening these partnerships, especially with private sector.

Mr Antonio Otávio SÁ RICARTE (Brazil)

I would just like to suggest two minor amendments to d). First, to change the verb 'welcomed' to 'encouraged'. And second, to change the word 'attention' to 'progress'.

CHAIRPERSON

Are these proposals acceptable? Because it would read then, 'encouraged collaboration with other UN agencies, especially with WFP and IFAD, and look forward to continued progress in this regard.'

I see nothing.

Mr Ruve SCHANK (Estonia)

We would simply like to ask you to repeat G once again.

CHAIRPERSON

I will read it out again: "Supported continuation of improvements introduced by the Office of Evaluation, including with regard to timeliness of evaluations and their responses".

Mr Ruve SCHANK (Estonia)

Could we start the sentence with 'we look forward'?

CHAIRPERSON

I think that sentence would read a little bit clearer, 'look forward to the continuation of improvements introduced by the Office of Evaluation, including with regard to timeliness of evaluations and their responses.' Can we agree with that?

Then we will, of course, send these approved – at least in this room approved summary conclusions of Item 22, the Programme Evaluation Report 2017, to the Drafting Committee and I hope that I can finalize it.

Dear colleagues, Distinguished Delegates, I already saw some people looking to me and also looking to the clock. As I promised you to stop at 6:00 or 6:15, but with the next item we cannot do in 15 minutes. So giving you some time to prepare your interventions again, I would like to adjourn this meeting until tomorrow 9:30 and I will take up the other points. So the meeting is adjourned. Thank you so much for your positive attitude and cooperation. See you tomorrow morning 9:00 – 9:30, 9:30 sharp.

The meeting rose at 17.58 hours

La séance est levée à 17 h 58

Se levanta la sesión a las 17.58