

164th Session of the Council

Written Correspondence Procedure – inputs from Members – Original language

Item 13, Developments in Fora of Importance for the Mandate of FAO

Member Name	Comments
United States (Wed 01/07/2020 13:23)	Notified that it does not have any written feedback regarding this item.
Russian Federation (Thu 02/07/2020 16:28)	We took note the information contained in the documents CL 164/INF/4; CL 164/INF/4 WAI; CL 164/INF/4 WA2; CL 164/INF/4 WA3.
Australia (SWP representative) (Thu 02/07/2020 17:09)	We note the development in Fora of Importance the mandate of the FAO.
Peru (Fri 03/07/2020 17:23)	No se tiene comentarios sobre el documento CL164/INF/4 Novedades en foros de importancia para el mandato de la FAO.
Indonesia (Fri 03/07/2020 20:58)	<p>Indonesia thanks FAO secretariat for providing information regarding Developments in Fora of Importance for the Mandate of FAO as outlined in document CL 164/INF/4. Indonesia supports the active role played by the FAO in the three fora as mentioned in the document.</p> <p>With regard to the UN Secretary-General’s Data Strategy, we would like to seek further information on the issue of data collection from the ground on real time basis. How this Strategy will cooperate with countries and other stakeholders in gathering real time data from the ground and what role that FAO can play in this?</p> <p>With regard to the issue of the Year 2020 as a super year for nature, we appreciate the active role of FAO management in providing contribution to the five events as mentioned in the document. We encourage the management to keep its inclusive approach and consulting closely with stakeholders, particularly member states in Rome.</p>
United Kingdom (Saturday, July 4, 2020 15:42)	<p>We note from the annex that:</p> <p><i>“In this year’s report, the most recent estimate of the prevalence of undernourishment, the indicator to monitor Target 2.1 of the SDGs, is <u>based on new data</u> on population, food supply, and more importantly, new household survey data that enabled the revision of the inequality of food consumption for 13 countries, including China. The last three editions of this report have presented evidence that the decades-long decline in hunger in the world had unfortunately ended...”</i></p> <p>The United Kingdom looks forward to the launch of the annual SOFI report, coming out at a critical time as decision-makers consider food insecurity in the world and the impacts of COVID-19, compounding other challenges, including desert locusts and the effects of climate change, for example.</p>

We welcome further efforts to ensure the reliability of data. We understand from paragraph 4 of the annex that the figures in the report will be revised to reflect new data, including from China, and note that this is likely to have a significant impact on the headline figure reported in comparison to last year's SOFI report.

We strongly urge FAO, together with the other partner agencies of the SOFI report, to ensure that the communications provided on this, which will catch the news headlines upon the launch, are clear that:

- The SOFI reports a continued negative trend, with increased figures (despite a possible lower overall number).
- 1 in 2 people in the world who are food insecure are in Africa, which is also the continent with the greatest unexploited potential to feed itself and feed the world, as well as to contribute to reducing fragility, conflict and migration in the world.
- COVID-19 is likely to aggravate the negative food security trend much more, and to hit the most vulnerable most. There is an urgent need to reverse this trend.

We note also that para 7 highlights that:

"..this year the report looks closely at the cost and affordability of healthy diets. Diet quality is a critical link between food security and nutrition outcomes that is often overlooked, but needs to be present as part of all efforts to achieve the hunger, food security and nutrition targets of SDG 2."

We encourage FAO also to underscore that:

- Food insecure people suffer poor health. They become more easily infected with a virus such as C19, and suffer more. Mortality rates are higher. Unless the world rapidly brings down food insecurity and malnutrition, it may never be rid of virus pandemics such as COVID-19.
- Healthy nutrition and healthy diets cost money. Today only xy % of people in the world can afford it, underlining the importance of ensuring the nutrition of the poorest, balancing this together with progress towards the world's climate targets.

It will also be important for FAO to clearly explain how acute and chronic food insecurity and related figures fit together; again highlighting, also for those who may not have the time to read the full report, the key messages of the report so that focus is not diverted to an overarching figure.

We look forward to the launch on Monday 13 July and to FAO, together with the other agencies, effectively using this opportunity to raise the profile on the need to step up to do more to address food and nutrition insecurity, particularly in the poorest countries where the situation is also likely to be exacerbated further by COVID-19.