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Food and Agriculture
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Продовольственная и
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Organización de las
Naciones Unidas para la
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منظمة
الأغذية والزراعة
للأمم المتحدة

COUNCIL

Hundred and Fifty-fourth Session

Rome, 30 May - 3 June 2016

Report of the Joint Meeting of the 119th Session of the Programme Committee and 161st Session of the Finance Committee (16 May 2016)

Executive Summary

The Joint Meeting of the Programme and Finance Committees brings to the attention of the Council its findings and recommendations on:

- a) Programme Implementation Report 2014-15 (paras. 3-5)
- b) Coverage of FAO decentralized offices (paras. 6-7)
- c) Any other business - Assessment of the technical capacity of the Organization (para. 8)

Suggested action by the Council

The Council is requested to endorse the findings and recommendations of the Joint Meeting.

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**REPORT OF THE JOINT MEETING OF THE
HUNDRED AND NINETEENTH SESSION OF THE
PROGRAMME COMMITTEE AND HUNDRED AND SIXTY-FIRST SESSION OF
THE FINANCE COMMITTEE**

Rome, 16 May 2016

INTRODUCTION

1. The Joint Meeting submitted its Report to the Council.
2. In addition to the Chairperson, Mr Khalid Mehboob (Pakistan), and His Excellency Claudio J. Rozenywaig (Argentina), Vice-Chairperson of the Programme Committee, the following representatives of Members were present:

Mr C.A. Amaral (Angola)	Mr V. Sharan (India)
Mr N.C. Montani Cazabat (Argentina) ¹	Mr O. Kubota (Japan)
Mr M. Worrell (Australia)	Mr F.R. Salamh Al Argan (Jordan)
Mr A.O. Sá Ricarte (Brazil)	Mr M. Hooper (New Zealand)
Mr E. Robinson (Canada)	H.E. I. Nordang (Norway)
Mr Xie Jianmin (China)	Mr L. Jr. Lazaro (Philippines)
Mr M. Mankoussou (Congo)	Mr A. Halasiewicz (Poland)
Mr J.A. Carranza Barona (Ecuador)	Mr V.V. Kuznetsov (Russian Federation)
Mr K. M.S.H. El Taweel (Egypt)	Ms A. Malik Osman Malik (Sudan)
H.E. C. Obama Ondo (Equatorial Guinea)	Ms N.E. Brown (USA)
Mr H. Thofern (Germany)	Mr H.A. Shoja'aadin (Yemen)
Mr M. Nassir Camara (Guinea)	

Programme Implementation Report 2014-15²

3. The Joint Meeting welcomed the Programme Implementation Report (PIR) 2014-15 as evidence that transformational changes undertaken at the FAO since 2012 had led to delivery of positive results by the Organization within the reviewed Strategic Framework and Medium Term Plan 2014-17.
4. The Joint Meeting:
 - a) expressed overall satisfaction at the implementation of the programme of work in 2014-15 and welcomed FAO's results in reaching 88% of the planned Outputs and facilitating Members to progress on 77% of the expected changes in the Outcome indicators;
 - b) underlined the major policy achievements aimed at addressing hunger, food insecurity and malnutrition which keep these issues at the forefront of world attention, as well as FAO's contribution to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Paris Agreement on climate change and the Second International Conference on Nutrition;
 - c) looked forward to FAO's continued engagement in important policy issues, particularly in preparations for the 22nd Conference of Parties of the UNFCCC, and support to

¹ Mr N.C. Montani Cazabat had been designated to replace His Excellency Claudio J. Rozenywaig as representative of Argentina for the Joint Meeting.

² C 2017/8

implementation of the Agenda 2030 for sustainable development and the UN Decade of Action on Nutrition 2016-2025;

- d) welcomed the success of the International Year of Family Farming in 2014 and the International Year of Soils in 2015 and their linkage to food security;
 - e) welcomed the high proportion of results delivered at country and regional level and encouraged continued efforts focused through the Regional Initiatives;
 - f) was satisfied with the achievements in 2014-15 in relation to efforts to consolidate decentralization, and looked forward to further efforts in this regard in the current biennium and the next PWB, including strengthening of the regional and other decentralized offices to respond to their demands and challenges;
 - g) appreciated the establishment and strengthening of strategic partnerships with Member governments, United Nations and other international organizations, the private sector and civil society organizations, and continued efforts in this regard;
 - h) welcomed FAO's work and results under the cross-cutting theme of gender and looked forward to continued attention to mainstreaming gender in FAO's programmes and activities;
 - i) expressed satisfaction at increased efficiency including identification of USD 36.6 million in savings;
 - j) welcomed implementation of the International Public Sector Accounting Standards, and innovation and modernization of human resources' management;
 - k) highlighted the importance of undertaking further efforts in achieving balance in language services;
 - l) stressed the importance of paying due attention to equitable representation and geographical distribution of staff;³ and
 - m) appreciated the improvements shown in the new format of the PIR document, including the reporting on gender as requested by Council, and looked forward to adjustment of indicator targets and to further refinement of reporting on Outcomes and Outputs in the next PIR.
5. The Joint Meeting endorsed the Programme Implementation Report 2014-15 for transmission to the Council.

Coverage of FAO decentralized offices⁴

6. The Joint Meeting:
- a) noted the 2016 Regional Conferences recognized the need to update the coverage of FAO's decentralized offices, and also broadly supported the principles and criteria identified by the Independent Review of the Decentralized Offices Network which were previously supported by the Joint Meeting and the Council;
 - b) invited the Council to endorse the region-specific recommendations arising from the 2016 Regional Conferences, including strengthening of the capacities of the regional offices to respond to their demands and challenges, as well as the creation of new offices and support for upgrades, all on a cost neutral basis;
 - c) recommended the Council support the use of partnership and liaison offices, as well as multiple accreditation offices with an FAO representative located in another office; and
 - d) encouraged the Director-General to continue efforts to consolidate decentralization, with the aim for an harmonious and effective decentralized offices network, while emphasizing the importance of due technical capacity at headquarters and in decentralized locations.

³ Conference Resolution 15/2003 "Methodology for Equitable Geographic Distribution"

⁴ CL 154/6

7. In addition, with regard to the Africa Region, the Joint Meeting noted the following views expressed by the African Regional Conference:

- a) broadly support the proposed principles and general criteria of the independent review of the decentralized offices network for refining the coverage of FAO's offices, while noting that the criterion of transport linkages not be used to guide the review process in Africa;
- b) encourage FAO to maintain all country and subregional offices, and the regional office already in place in African countries and strengthen the capacity of the network;
- c) as a general principle, the creation of new offices or the support for upgrades would have to be funded by resources realized through innovative mechanisms, which could include a cost-sharing agreement with the host governments concerned;
- d) while partnership and liaison offices and multiple accreditation offices with a FAO Representative located in another country are valid options to optimize the cooperation with FAO, multiple accreditation may jeopardise FAO service delivery in Africa, where more efforts are still required to address the challenges posed by hunger, food insecurity and malnutrition; and
- e) reaffirm the need to readjust the coverage of the decentralized offices in a flexible manner to ensure the Organization is serving all member countries and regions and effectively contributing to a common result of eradicating hunger.

Any other business - Assessment of the technical capacity of the Organization

8. The Joint Meeting:

- a) recalled the decision of the 153rd session of the Council urging the FAO Secretariat to undertake an independent assessment of technical capacity of the Organization, both at headquarters and in the decentralized offices;
- b) welcomed the Director-General's update in his address, and expressed satisfaction at his assurance for an informal briefing to Members prior to finalization of the report of the assessment, and expressed its wish for such a briefing to take place as soon as possible;
- c) noted the complexity in assessing the technical capacity of FAO, including in terms of definition, location and the context of the Organization's mandate and objectives; and
- d) looked forward to reviewing the outcome of the assessment in March 2017, prior to consideration by the Council and presentation to the 40th session of the Conference.