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COUNCIL

Hundred and Sixty-eighth Session

29 November-3 December 2021

Report of the 131st (Special) Session of the Programme Committee Rome (29 July 2021)

Executive Summary

The Programme Committee examined the following matter relating to programme planning and evaluation, in particular with regard to:

- a) Appointment of the Director of Evaluation.

The Committee brings its findings and recommendations on this matter to the attention of the Council.

Suggested action by the Council

The Council is requested to endorse the findings of the Programme Committee, as well as its recommendations on matters within its mandate.

Queries on the substantive content of this document may be addressed to:

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Introduction

1. The Programme Committee (PC) submitted to the Council the following Report of its Hundred and Thirty-first (Special) Session.
2. In addition to the Chairperson, H.E. (Ms) Yael Rubinstein (Israel), the following representatives of Members were present:

H.E. (Mr) Carlos Bernardo Cherniak (Argentina)	Mr Zaid Al-Ani (Iraq)
H.E. (Mr) Fernando José Marroni de Abreu (Brazil)	Mr Donald G. Syme (New Zealand)
Mr Maarten de Groot (Canada) ¹	H.E. (Mr) Morten von Hanno Aasland (Norway)
Mr NI Hongxing (China)	Ms Saadia Elmubarak Ahmed Daak (Sudan)
Ms Delphine Babin-Pellier (France)	Mr Kayoya Masuhwa (Zambia)
Mr Bommakanti Rajender (India)	
3. Mali was not represented.
4. The Session was convened in a hybrid modality on an exceptional basis due to the COVID-19 pandemic, with some Members attending in person at FAO Headquarters premises, while others attended by virtual means.
5. Having regard to this exceptional modality, the Committee confirmed, pursuant to Rule VII of the Rules of Procedure of the PC, that they agreed to the suspension of Rule II (5) of the PC Rules of Procedure, which requires that sessions shall be held at the seat of the Organization.
6. The Chairperson informed Members that, should technical connection fail, the meeting would be suspended if the quorum was not reached.

I. Election of Vice-Chairperson for the term July 2021 to June 2023

7. The Committee decided unanimously to elect H.E. (Mr) Carlos Bernardo Cherniak (Argentina) as Vice-Chairperson of the Programme Committee for the term July 2021 to June 2023.

II. Adoption of the Provisional Agenda

8. The Committee adopted the Provisional Agenda for the Session.

III. Appointment of the Director of Evaluation²

9. The Committee:
 - a) noted that the mandate of the incumbent Director of the Office of Evaluation ends on 31 January 2022;
 - b) noted that in line with the process for appointment of the Director of Evaluation set out in paragraph 42 of the Charter for the FAO Office of Evaluation, a panel will make a final recommendation regarding candidates appropriate for appointment by the Director-General;
 - c) noted the high-level roadmap included in Appendix 2 of the document, starting with formation of the panel in July 2021 aiming at appointing the new Director of Evaluation by December 2021 and his/her onboarding by 1 February 2022; and
 - d) agreed, in line with the Charter for the FAO Office of Evaluation, to nominate two representatives of the Committee to the panel as follows:
 - i. H.E. (Ms) Yael Rubinstein (Chairperson)
 - ii. H.E. (Mr) Carlos Bernardo Cherniak (Vice-Chairperson)

¹ Ms Julie Émond was designated to replace Mr Maarten de Groot for the Session.

² PC 131/2

- e) highlighted the importance of transparency of the process and looked forward to the update in the future session.