

175th Session of the Council

Written Correspondence Procedure – inputs from Members - Original version

Item 16 – Developments in fora of importance for the mandate of FAO

| Member Name | Comments |
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| New Zealand (Friday, 24 May 2024 – 14.41) | <p>I Biennial UN Global Indigenous Youth Forum</p> <p>We appreciate that the biennial United Nations Global Indigenous Youth Forum (UNGIYF) plays a pivotal role in shaping global policies concerning youth development and the rights of Indigenous Youth, providing a critical platform for dialogue addressing the future of Indigenous Peoples’ food and knowledge systems. We note the two sessions of the UNGIYF in 2021 and 2023 both resulted in publication of declarations. We appreciate the additional commentary provided on the use of these declarations in contributing to the dialogue addressing the future of Indigenous Peoples’ food and knowledge systems. We really appreciate the work of the Indigenous Peoples group within FAO and encourage more support for them in the important work that FAO is involved with regarding Indigenous People’s knowledge and food systems and sustainable agriculture and food security. It is admirable to see the increased visibility of the importance of Indigenous People’s food and knowledge systems across a wider range of FAO work and we fully support this greater focus on Indigenous Peoples as part of the solution going forward.</p> <p>III Global Parliamentary Summit against Hunger and Malnutrition and latest developments on FAO’s engagement with the IAEG-SDG regarding the SDG indicators under FAO custodianship</p> <p>We look forward to the update on FAO’s latest engagement with the Inter-agency and Expert Group on SDG Indicators (IAEA-SDG), and discussions on measurement of SDG indicators for the Southwest Pacific where the data is so limited but the need so great. The discussion on any modification of indicators and use of proxy indicators is of particular interest. We also look forward to the discussion on indicators for dietary diversity and will ask how this will be measured and what global coverage there will be for this indicator?</p> <p>We note that FAO will continue to prioritize investment in statistical capacity development interventions on the SDG indicators with the lowest country coverage as well as the direct support offered to countries on monitoring the SDGs, and that this will be funded both by Regular Programme and extra-budgetary funds. We look forward to further discussions on progress on this important data collection to support SDG monitoring in the Southwest Pacific. As stated many times the paucity of data in the Southwest Pacific (SWP), often being non-existent, is a real barrier to not only monitoring the SDGs, but to support evidence-based decision making about the most basic elements of sustainable</p> |

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| | <p>agriculture, including food security and nutrition. We do hope to see that there will be Regular Programme funds allocated to this critical gap in the data base of FAO.</p> <p>IV Update on the 28th Session of the Conference of Parties (COP28) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and outcomes of the Sixtieth Session of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)</p> <p>We appreciate the update and note the integration of food and agriculture into the focus and work of both COP28 and the 60th Session of the IPCC. We are aware of the key role that FAO plays in this ongoing integration of sustainable agriculture in the negotiations on climate change and encourage progress in the areas where FAO has a leading role including the Food and Agriculture for Sustainable Transformation (FAST) and Initiative on Climate Action and Nutrition (ICAN) initiatives and <i>Achieving SDG2 without breaching the 1.5 degrees threshold: a global roadmap</i>. Communication to members on the progress and development in these areas of coordination is welcomed. We are encouraged to know that FAO is already working with the COP29 Presidency (Azerbaijan), to ensure COP-to-COP legacy of agrifood systems solutions.</p> |
| <p>United States of America (Friday, 24 May 2024 – 15.17)</p> | <p>The United States thanks FAO for the updates on developments in fora of importance for the mandate of FAO. We support coordination among UN agencies on issues related to food security within the UN system. We also support FAO's involvement in initiatives across the UN System consistent with its mandate.</p> |
| <p>Canada (Monday, 27 May 2024 – 17.05)</p> | <p>1) Biennial UN Global Indigenous Youth Forum Canada welcomes UN efforts to ensure greater inclusion of Indigenous peoples and youth, and looks forward to the progress of this Forum. We commend FAO engagement on this front.</p> <p>2) Scaling up digital solutions for the sustainable transformation of agrifood systems, including Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Digital Public Goods (DPG) Canada supports the use of a wide range of tools to achieve sustainable productivity growth in agriculture, including the responsible use of AI. We encourage FAO to continue to pursue the five strategic priorities identified, with appropriate safeguards as indicated.</p> <p>3) Global Parliamentary Summit against Hunger and Malnutrition and latest developments on FAO's engagement with the Inter-agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators (IAEG-SDG) regarding the SDG indicators under FAO custodianship Canada looks forward to receiving information on the efforts of FAO and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) to develop a new indicator for "prevalence of minimum dietary diversity, by population group", particularly in terms of how it is to be measured.</p> |

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| | <p>4) Update on the 28th Session of the Conference of Parties (COP28) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and outcomes of the Sixtieth Session of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)</p> <p>Canada welcomes the advances made at UNFCCC COP28, particularly appreciating the increased global attention to agriculture and agri-food systems, including the <i>COP28 UAE Declaration on Sustainable Agriculture, Resilient Food Systems, and Climate Action</i>. We look forward to continued progress and appreciate FAO's engagement in this work.</p> |
| <p>Australia (Tuesday, 28 May 2024 – 22.14)</p> | <p>Australia notes the importance of the Biennial UN Global Indigenous Youth Forum, and we strongly support this effort to provide a critical platform for dialogue on the future of Indigenous Peoples' food and knowledge systems. We encourage FAO to ensure that traditional knowledge systems are incorporated into food policy initiatives, and we recognise that the Food Systems Summit will provide an opportunity to highlight these efforts.</p> <p>Australia notes with interest ongoing efforts to improve technology adoption in FAO's work, including efforts to align with the UN SG's Roadmap for Digital Cooperation. Agricultural innovation, including digitalisation, are essential to our goals to create sustainable and productive food systems that deliver on our shared goal of eliminating hunger. We encourage FAO to consider these developments in relation to the Strategy on Science and Innovation, and request that Members are kept informed of developments on this topic.</p> <p>Australia is strongly supportive of the 2030 SDG Agenda, and notes with interest the convention of the Global Parliamentary Pact against Hunger and Malnutrition. We note the suggestion of a new indicator under SDG Target 2.2, and encourage FAO to ensure that any new indicators are well-defined to ensure that reporting is practical and possible. Australia notes FAO's engagement in the 28th Session of the Conference of Parties (COP28) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, and we strongly support greater action on climate change. We note ongoing work for the upcoming session, and request updates from FAO as they become available.</p> |
| <p>Switzerland (Monday, 10 June 2024 – 14.20)</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • La Suisse remercie la FAO pour cette mise à jour sur ces développements particulièrement pertinents. • Nous souhaiterions attirer l'attention sur un autre débat qui ne figure pas dans le document : la 6^{ème} Assemblée des Nations unies pour l'environnement (UNEA-6) en février dernier et qui se concentra sur la manière dont le multilatéralisme peut contribuer à résoudre la triple crise planétaire du changement climatique, de la perte de la nature et de la biodiversité, et de la pollution et des déchets. Thèmes on ne peut plus pertinents pour la FAO. • Nous apprécions l'engagement de la FAO lors de cette semaine, en particulier lors du segment de haut niveau, et il fut positif de constater le nombre très important de chefs d'Etat et de gouvernement provenant de toutes les régions insister sur les liens avec les systèmes alimentaires et la sécurité alimentaire. • Malheureusement, cet engagement n'a pas été traduit au niveau des diverses résolutions ayant un lien <u>direct</u> avec les systèmes alimentaires et la production agricole durable. Pour ne citer qu'un exemple, la résolution sur les terres dégradées et la gestion durable des terres ne contient aucune référence à l'agriculture ou aux systèmes alimentaires. Seule la résolution sur l'eau¹ y fait adéquatement référence. |

¹ Titre complet de la résolution : Solutions efficaces et inclusives visant à renforcer les politiques de l'eau pour parvenir à un développement durable dans le contexte des changements climatiques, de la perte de biodiversité et de la pollution

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Dans cette situation, nous souhaiterions demander plus d'informations sur l'engagement de la FAO dans le cadre de l'UNEA, et nous encourageons non seulement la FAO, mais également tous les membres ici présents, à redoubler d'efforts pour s'assurer de la cohérence et de la bonne collaboration entre les différentes agences impliquées au niveau international et national. |
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