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Food and Agriculture  
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منظمة  
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# COUNCIL

## Hundred and Sixty-fifth Session

30 November-4 December 2020

### Status of Implementation of Decisions taken at the 164th Session of the Council (6-10 July 2020)

#### Executive Summary

The following table lists decisions taken by Council at its 164th Session (6-10 July 2020) and includes a reference to: (i) the relevant paragraph(s) of the Council Report; and (ii) the status of implementation of each decision.

The table also contains issues from prior Sessions for which updates have been requested by the Council.

#### Suggested action by the Council

The Council is invited to take note of the information presented in this document.

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

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**STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION OF DECISIONS TAKEN AT THE 164TH SESSION OF THE COUNCIL  
(6-10 July 2020)**

	Status of Implementation		COMMENTS
	Completed	Ongoing	
<b>Decentralized Offices</b>			
1. The Council (...) <u>requested</u> that decentralized offices continue to receive full support by headquarters following the disbanding of the Office of Support to Decentralized Offices to ensure FAO's impact at the regional, subregional and country level; (para 13. h)	X		<p>The transfer of ex-OSD functions to the new organizational arrangements was completed on 1 August 2020. Decentralized Offices are now receiving increased direct support from the headquarters units that are the new business process owners, as following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• DDG-Thomas is leading decentralization policy formulation, coordination and overall oversight of the Decentralized Offices as reporting line A for Regional Representatives, supported by Senior Leadership Reporting line B;</li> <li>• OSP has a role of oversight and support on overall budget management, consolidating and reporting any financial issues through the Periodic Budget Reports. OSP is working closely with the Regional FAOR Network Officers who play a pivotal role in this function. The policy ownership of Government Complementary Cash Contributions (GCCC) is centralized with OSP and harmonized across regions with Regional Offices playing a leading role in Host Country Agreements (HCA) negotiations and monitoring cash contribution payments in consultation with CSF and LEG. The process will be further reviewed to incorporate any recommendations of the ongoing Audit of Decentralized Offices Governance structure;</li> <li>• CSH undertakes all human resources needs, including the recruitment of FAORs, and through out-posted Human Resources Officers;</li> <li>• For procurement and logistics, CSLI provides technical support to Decentralized Offices on various renovation works, change of</li> </ul>

			<p>office buildings and is developing a handbook on how to select best office space. In addition, within the Corporate Environmental Responsibility Strategy, CSLI provides technical support for implementation of renewable energy systems such as solar panel systems as well as support to develop an Environmental Management System (EMS), and CSLP supports procurement processes through out-posted international procurement officers;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• For the Country Office Information Network (COIN), CSI is managing the system aspects and coordinating the Steering Group;</li> <li>• The Legal Counsel is working in close consultation and coordination with Regional Offices on negotiation (or re-negotiation) of HCAs and other country level agreements;</li> <li>• On United Nations Development System (UNDS) repositioning and UN Policies, PSU has established a dedicated team responsible for UN coordination and collaboration, including Rome-based Agency (RBA) collaboration. PSU is coordinating FAO's engagement in the UNDS Reform implementation and participation in the UN Sustainable Development Group (UNSDG) global and regional mechanisms and monitoring its implementation progress in order to identify major opportunities, synergies, bottlenecks at decentralized level, sharing experiences and reinforcing adherence to UN system-wide guidance and policies by FAO's Country Representatives;</li> <li>• CSG provides coordination and support to Regional Conferences at headquarters level, to improve the quality of regional policy dialogue, promote new corporate initiatives and ensure strategic focus and ensure timely reporting to the Council and the Conference. CSG leads the Permanent Representatives field visits which give Members the opportunity to familiarize themselves with the work of FAO in the field, observe the challenges faced by the Decentralized Offices and promote the knowledge of Member Nations' representatives and their involvement in the work of the Decentralized Offices. CSG also</li> </ul>
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			<p>deals with all aspects under its mandate related to the appointment of FAO Representatives such as official submissions to Governments and Credentials letters; and</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The ODG Briefs Unit continues to support Decentralized Office contributions to country briefs and related materials with close involvement of the Regional Assistant Directors-General (ADGs).</li></ul> <p>This transfer of responsibilities was complemented by greater level of delegation of authority to Regional Representatives, and FAO has also embarked in a thorough analysis of the Decentralized Offices' business model, through an initial "Internal Review of the Regional Offices" in 2019, which is being further extended to the Country Offices. This responds to a major demand from Regional Conferences and the Council; with this exercise, it is expected to identify the necessary transformations to boost technical and operational capacities and move towards a greater delegation of authority in order to increase efficiency of programme delivery and better serve the Members. Improvements in the new organizational arrangements and necessary adjustments will continue as the Organization draws lessons from its implementation.</p>
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	Status of Implementation		COMMENTS
	Completed	Ongoing	
<b>Office of the Inspector General</b>			
2. The Council (...) <u>asked</u> for further improvements to strengthen the Office of the Inspector General and its operational independence by ensuring sustainable funding within existing resources for the Office and delegating to the Inspector General appropriate managerial responsibility and control over financial and human resources of the Office; (para 19. i)		X	Additional funding sources will continue to be explored on an as-needed basis with the full commitment of the Director-General (cf. FC 183/8.2, Table 2, row 25).
<b>Programme Implementation Report 2018-19</b>			
3. The Council (...) noted with concern the underperformance in several Key Performance Indicators under Functional Objective 10 and <u>requested</u> Management to take remedial action; (para 15. f)	X		<p>Management continues its momentum in improvements made in the rate of achievement of Key Performance Indicator (KPI) targets under Functional Objective 10 (FO 10). Overall, 63 percent of KPI targets were fully achieved during 2018-19, compared to the 50 percent of the previous biennium. The Organization is continuing along such lines of improvement against all KPI targets under the next reporting period through the PIR 2020-21.</p> <p>This is a key priority for the Organization demonstrated by the increased number of indicators under FO 10 as well as higher standards of delivery. For example, under the 2020-21 Strategy Results Framework, KPI 10.3.E has been included to monitor the percentage of staff that have completed e-learning on prevention of harassment, sexual harassment and abuse of authority, and on protection from sexual exploitation and abuse.</p> <p>There has been improvement in particular against KPI 10.1.A relating to the provision of Governing Body documentation in all languages: up to 82 percent, and with further improvements are underway to achieve consistently the ambitious 100 percent target. At the same time, progress has been made and geared up in respect of multilingualism despite the challenges from the impact of the Covid-19, including the publication of the Reports of the Council</p>

			<p>and the Conference in all languages on the same day of the adoption of the Reports, where as in the past this has taken up to six weeks.</p> <p>With regard to KPI 10.3.D, the Organization continues to reduce the large number of outstanding audit recommendations in line with its achievement in 2019, where 45 outstanding recommendations were reduced to only nine. At the end of 2019, the share of long outstanding recommendations was 12 percent, slightly above the target of 10 percent. To improve this situation, FAO strengthened its corporate monitoring efforts through the use of a dedicated audit recommendation dashboard, proactive follow-up with action owners and systematic use of automatic trigger messages. This led to a reduction in the share of long outstanding recommendations (9 percent in November 2020), therefore meeting the 2018-2019 target. FAO will continue its efforts to further progress in reducing the share of long outstanding recommendations in 2020-21.</p> <p>With regard to KPI 10.2.A on the percentage of audit coverage including high-risk ones, resource constraints and staff vacancies in OIG are being reviewed and addressed, inter alia within the context of the Programme of Work and Budget.</p>
<p>4. The Council (...) <u>requested</u> information from Management on how to further secure the principle of multilingualism in the Organization be presented to Members prior to the next Council Session; (para 15. i)</p>		<p>X</p>	<p>An Agenda Item on Multilingualism is scheduled on the agenda of the informal meeting convened by the Independent Chairperson of the Council (ICC) with the Chairpersons and vice-Chairpersons of the Regional Groups on Friday, 27 November 2020. An Information Note is circulated for this meeting on the topic of multilingualism, including with respect to publications and other outreach activities of the Organization. The Organization is undergoing efforts to enhance the effectiveness of FAO's information dissemination functions by expanding the scope of language coverage in the implementation of its technical support activities. A paper is set in motion for submission to the 166<sup>th</sup> Session of the Council to further streamline capacity and working processes, and to more fully achieve multilingualism, both in its traditional understanding in support of governance processes, as well as beyond, i.e. the effective delivery and dissemination of FAO's normative and technical assistance activities.</p>

	Status of Implementation		COMMENTS
	Completed	Ongoing	
<b>New Strategic Framework</b>			
5. The Council (...) <u>called</u> for action from FAO to anchor its new Strategic Framework to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and to provide guidance to Members; (para 15. 1)	X		The new Strategic Framework will be fully anchored in the Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) (cf. CL 165/3).
<b>Unspent Balances</b>			
6. The Council (...) <u>looked forward</u> to receiving detailed expenditure information relating to the unspent balance from 2018-19 towards FAO's response to the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic; (para 17. b)		X	Implementation of the proposed one-time uses will be reported to the Finance Committee as part of regular reporting on budgetary performance, and will also be reported to the Governing Bodies as part of the Programme Implementation Report 2020-21 to be presented in 2022.
7. The Council (...) noted that the systematic discussion on the use of unspent balances was ongoing and <u>looked forward</u> to reviewing this matter at its 165th Session following review by the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters (CCLM) and the autumn session of the Joint Meeting of the Programme and Finance Committees; (para 17. c)			Document <i>Use of unspent balances of biennial appropriations [cf. CCLM 110/3]</i> was submitted to the Joint Meeting of the 129 <sup>th</sup> Session of the Programme Committee and 183 <sup>rd</sup> Session of the Finance Committee on 9 November 2020 (cf. JM 2020.2/3). The discussion is ongoing.
<b>Organization's Corporate Zero Tolerance Policy, Processes and Measures on the Prevention of Harassment, Sexual Harassment and Authority Abuse</b>			
8. The Council (...) <u>requested</u> FAO update its action plan to prevent and respond to Harassment, Sexual Harassment and Authority Abuse, in response to the findings of the 2019-2020 Employee Satisfaction Survey, and <u>looked forward</u> to reviewing progress of this at its 165th Session; (para 17. d)	X		Document CL 165/INF/6 Rev.1 "Annual Report on Corporate Policy, Processes and Measures on the Prevention of Harassment, Sexual Harassment and Authority Abuse, including results of the staff satisfaction survey" has been reviewed by the Finance Committee at its 183rd Session, the Joint Meeting of the 129 <sup>th</sup> Session of the Programme Committee and the 183 <sup>rd</sup> Session of the Finance Committee and is submitted to the 165 <sup>th</sup> Session of the Council for its review under Item 9 of the Provisional Agenda.



	Status of Implementation		COMMENTS
	Completed	Ongoing	
<b>Working Methods of the Council</b>			
9. The Council (...) noted the large number of substantial issues included in the Report of the 128th Session of the Programme Committee and the time required by the Council to consider the report in a comprehensive manner, and <u>requested</u> the matter be considered by the established mechanism of informal meetings of the Independent Chairperson of the Council with Chairpersons and Vice-Chairpersons of the FAO Regional Groups (with silent observers), with a view to improving the working methods of the Council; (para 18. d)	X		<p>The Independent Chairperson of the Council convened an informal meeting with the Chairpersons and Vice-Chairpersons of the Regional Groups on 24 September 2020 at which the issue of the length of the Council's discussion of the Report of the 128<sup>th</sup> Session of the Programme Committee was discussed. Members at this meeting encouraged streamlining future Agendas of the Programme Committee, noting the importance of efficiency.</p> <p>The Director-General, in consultation with the Chairperson of the Programme Committee, subsequently submitted an Agenda of the 129<sup>th</sup> Session of the Programme Committee which contained 16 Agenda Items, in comparison to the 20 Items on the Agenda of the 128<sup>th</sup> Session. In addition, the Agenda of the 129<sup>th</sup> Session of the Programme Committee entailed a clear demarcation between items submitted for decision and items submitted for information which ensured maximum efficiency of the Session.</p>

	Status of Implementation		COMMENTS
	Completed	Ongoing	
<b>Evaluation of FAO's Statistical Work</b>			
10. The Council (...) <u>looked forward</u> to the updated strategy for FAO's statistical work; (para 18. g)		X	<p>FAO is working on a proposal for strengthening the governance of FAO statistical activities to be considered at the 130th Session of the Programme Committee, as originally planned. The proposal will consider the different issues raised by the Evaluation.</p> <p>Regarding the FAO Strategy for the Modernization of Statistics, the Secretariat of the Interdepartmental Working Group (IDWG) on Statistics is in the process of updating the document based on the recommendations of the Evaluation, as well as preparing an Implementation Plan to translate the Strategy into action. This companion document will also draw on recent system-wide documents, particularly the CEB Roadmap for modernization of the UN Statistical System, and the Secretary-General's Data Strategy. Both the revised Strategy and Implementation Plan will be shared with Members of the Programme Committee to gather their feedback, before its submission to the 130<sup>th</sup> Session of the Programme Committee, for its review and endorsement.</p>

	Status of Implementation		COMMENTS
	Completed	Ongoing	
<b>Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR)</b>			
11. The Council (...) <u>requested</u> that guidance from corresponding Technical Committees be provided to further improve, or change if needed, the proposed indicators on AMR in consultation with Members (...) and <u>looked forward</u> to the progress report on the creation of the new Joint FAO/WHO Centre to strengthen FAO's work on AMR and on zoonosis, in coordination with the OIE; (para 18. i)		X	The Secretariat is examining a set of possible AMR indicators for the current Strategic Results Framework, which will undergo consultation with Members, taking into account the guidance received from the 27 <sup>th</sup> Session of the Committee on Agriculture on the proposed Monitoring & Evaluation framework of the new FAO Action Plan on AMR 2021-2025. The Concept Note of the Joint FAO/WHO Centre (Zoonotic Diseases and AMR) (CJWZ) has been developed and consultations are ongoing with the World Health Organization (WHO) and the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) on the definition of coordination and implementation mechanisms. Furthermore, the Joint FAO/WHO Centre is taking the leading role of the FAO inter-departmental coordination on zoonotic diseases, AMR and One Health. The Terms of Reference of the interdepartmental Working Group on AMR (AMR-WG) are being revised and the establishment of a new One Health Working Group is underway in consultation with relevant divisions and offices.

	Status of Implementation		COMMENTS
	Completed	Ongoing	
<b>Sub-Committee on Livestock</b>			
12. The Council (...) <u>acknowledged</u> the importance of the livestock sector and its role in supporting Members in achieving the SDGs, and FAO's work in this respect, as well as the related matter before the Committee on Agriculture (COAG) pertaining to the creation of the subcommittee on livestock, and <u>requested</u> the discussion to move forward within COAG; (para 18. k)	X		The 27th Session of the Committee on Agriculture (COAG) established, in accordance with Rule VII.1 of its Rules of Procedure, the Sub-Committee on Livestock and invited the Council and the Conference to endorse the Sub-Committee as an intergovernmental forum with a mandate to discuss and build consensus on issues and priorities related to the livestock sector. In accordance with Rule VII.3 of its Rules of Procedure, COAG revised and adopted the Terms of Reference and Rules of Procedure of the Sub-Committee. It further recommended that the first session of the Sub-Committee be held, subject to the availability of extrabudgetary funds, during the first quarter of 2022 and followed by the 28th Session of COAG. The Joint Meeting of the 129th Session of the Programme Committee and the 183rd Session of the Finance Committee welcomed the establishment of the Sub-Committee and recommended that the Council and the Conference endorse it at their forthcoming sessions. The Joint Meeting also took note of the recommended date for the first session of the Sub-Committee, and called for adequate extrabudgetary support for sessions of the Sub-Committee.
<b>Action Plan on Mainstreaming Biodiversity across Agricultural Sectors</b>			
13. The Council (...) <u>recommended</u> that the implementation period of the Action Plan be extended to three years; (para 18. l)	X		The extension of the implementation period is reflected in the revised <i>Draft 2021-23 Action Plan for the Implementation of the FAO Strategy on Mainstreaming Biodiversity across Agricultural Sectors</i> presented at the 27th Session of COAG and the 25th Session of COFO (c.f. COAG/2020/16; COFO/2020/5/Rev.2), and will be presented to the 34th Session of COFI in February 2021.

	Status of Implementation		COMMENTS
	Completed	Ongoing	
<b>UN Food Systems Summit 2021</b>			
14. The Council (...) <u>requested</u> FAO and invited other Rome-based Agencies to provide all necessary support to the Special Envoy and her team; (para 18. n)		X	<p>FAO continues to provide its full support to the Special Envoy in the preparatory process towards the Food Systems Summit. The Organization is fully represented in the governance structures, with the Director-General a member of the Advisory Committee, the Chief Economist a member of the Scientific Group, and the Director of Food Systems and Food Safety Division representing the Organization on the UN Taskforce.</p> <p>FAO hosts the Rome-based part of the Food Systems Summit Secretariat. FAO's technical contribution to the Summit is coordinated by the Chief Economist, with the Director of the Food Systems and Food Safety Division as a member of the Food Systems Summit Secretariat.</p> <p>The Organization directly supports Action Track 1 on "Ensuring access to safe and nutritious food" as the core UN Agency. FAO will also support the remaining Action Tracks under the coordination of the respective UN Anchor Organization. The Scientific Group, with FAO support, is developing a series of papers on, <i>inter alia</i>, definitions and concepts and the modelling of trade-offs intrinsic to food systems. Through its extensive Country Office coverage, FAO is also available to support the coordination and conduct of the national level Food Systems Summit Dialogues.</p>
<b>Hand-in-Hand Initiative</b>			
15. The Council (...) <u>looked forward</u> to regular reporting on progress made; (para 18. o)	X		Update has been prepared for Council review and deliberation under agenda item 6 (cf. CL 165/6).

	Status of Implementation		COMMENTS
	Completed	Ongoing	
<b>Desert Locust Upsurge</b>			
16. The Council (...) <u>requested</u> FAO to consider long-term strategies, including institutional capacity and benchmark research studies to avert its reappearance, and <u>called on</u> FAO to continue its work on monitoring, early warning, control and coordination, and resource mobilization; (para 18. p)		X	<p>To support country capacities that risk being overwhelmed by the scale of the crisis, FAO is providing technical and operational assistance for emergency control operations and livelihoods support for the most vulnerable with recent examples in the Horn of Africa. Ongoing emergency actions include aerial and ground surveillance and control operations managed by relevant governments, with FAO providing support in the form of pesticides and biopesticides, equipment, training, technical expertise, aircraft, flying hours, etc., thanks to in-kind and financial contributions from a range of partners.</p> <p>By September 2020, successful control had been achieved in a number of countries, most notably in Kenya where infestations remained in only two counties, down from twenty-nine counties affected, and in India and Pakistan where the situation has returned to calm thanks to strong capacities coupled with financial contributions to support a coordinated effort. However, East Africa remains at significant risk. National governments continue to lead control and surveillance operations supported by FAO through the provision of pesticides, biopesticides, equipment, aircrafts and training. It is important to note that scaled-up and sustained action in East Africa has so far contributed to prevent a major humanitarian crisis and averted massive infestation in West Africa.</p> <p>To date, USD 203 million have been raised against the Appeal. The FAO Desert Locust response will continue through December 2020, and most likely beyond, with continued emphasis on support to national surveillance and control, including Ethiopia, Somalia and both sides of the Red Sea, as well as to address the issue of access to breeding areas in Yemen.</p>

			<p>Longer-term strategies are addressed by FAO's well-established regional locust commissions (the Commission for Controlling the Desert Locust in the Western Region of Africa (CLCPRO), the Commission for Controlling the Desert Locust in the Central Region of the Near East and Horn of Africa (CRC), and the Commission for Controlling the Desert Locust in South-West Asia (SWAC)) that provide support to strengthen national capacities in all countries to manage the Desert Locust. The strategy focuses on establishing and maintaining national locust centres that are well-equipped and well-trained to coordinate and carry out regular monitoring and preventive control operations. In the case of East Africa, a new regional commission is proposed. Affected countries and FAO collaborate with a wide variety of research partners to further enhance early warning and preventive control.</p>
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	Status of Implementation		COMMENTS
	Completed	Ongoing	
<b>Protection, restoration and sustainable management of forests</b>			
17. The Council (...) <u>requested</u> FAO to prepare technical notes on the financial, and technical implications of elaborating an assessment of global forest resources comparing the positive and negative aspects of a two year and five year cycle, for the forthcoming session of the COFO; (para 18. q)	X		The technical note was prepared and submitted to the 25 <sup>th</sup> Session of the Committee on Forestry (COFO) under agenda item 4.2 (c.f. COFO/2020/Inf.6). The information note was also presented in a COFO-related World Forest Week webinar on 20 October 2020. The Committee requested FAO to continue to produce a Global Forest Resources Assessment (FRA) report every five years.
<b>Human Resources Management</b>			
18. The Council (...) <u>appreciated</u> the sharing of the highlights of the 2019-2020 Employee Satisfaction Survey in a transparent manner, and <u>looked forward</u> to the presentation of the full set of survey results and an action plan to address the issues identified at the November 2020 session of the Finance Committee; (para 19. g)	X		Document FC 183/5 Rev.1 “Update on the post-Employee Satisfaction Survey Action Planning Process” was submitted to the 183rd Session of Finance Committee in November 2020.
<b>Delegation of Authority</b>			
19. The Council (...) <u>reiterated</u> the request of both the Finance Committee and the Council for further delegation of authority in line with GRO XXXVIII (5); (para 19. f)		X	The comprehensive review of delegation of authority is at an advanced stage and consultations with stakeholders have started.



	Status of Implementation		COMMENTS
	Completed	Ongoing	
<b>Technical Cooperation Programme (TCP)</b>			
20. The Council (...) <u>recalled</u> its guidance regarding the importance of maintaining TCP expenditure at the level to ensure full implementation of the TCP approved by the Conference; and <u>looked forward</u> to updated information on the TCP including its criteria for resource allocation on the ground, being submitted for review by the Joint Meeting of the Programme and Finance Committees in November 2020; (para 19. n)	X		As reflected in the document prepared for the Joint Meeting (JM 2020.2/2 – Update on the Technical Cooperation Programme), TCP expenditure levels are on track to ensure full programme implementation. Further updates on the TCP are provided in this document, including the analysis on the criteria for resource allocation on the ground provided by the TCP Evaluation conducted by the Office of Evaluation (OED).
<b>Draft Code of Conduct on Voting Procedures</b>			
21. The Council (...) <u>endorsed</u> the CCLM’s request to Management for the development of a draft code of conduct to facilitate further consultations by the Independent Chairperson of the Council and for consideration by the CCLM, with a view to having a draft code finalised prior to the 42nd Session of the Conference; (para 20. a)		X	Informal consultations led by the Independent Chairperson of the Council (ICC) are ongoing on the basis of a draft Code of Conduct prepared by the Legal Office. The matter will be considered at the Spring Session of the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters on the basis of further inputs received in the context of such consultations.
<b>International Platform for Digital Food and Agriculture</b>			
22. The Council (...) <u>looked forward</u> to periodic information on modality and structure of the Platform, including membership, governance and timeline for the establishment of the Platform; (para 21. h)		X	The draft Terms of Reference for the International Platform for Digital Food and Agriculture were submitted and considered by the 27th Session of COAG (28 September-2 October 2020) and the 25th Session of COFO (5-9 October 2020). Preliminary informal discussions regarding the Terms of Reference have also been held among the Bureau Members of COFI in preparation for consideration of the matter at the forthcoming 34th Session of COFI (1-5 February 2021). The Secretariat has revised the Terms of Reference in order to take into account the feedback provided by the Technical Committees.
23. The Council (...) <u>requested</u> the term “FAO Members” be used to refer to “government(s)”, and the deletion of the reference to the “Technical Centre for Agricultural and Rural Cooperation (CTA)” from the proposal contained in CL 164/9; (para 21. i)			
24. The Council (...) <u>requested</u> review of the terms of reference for the Platform by the COAG, COFI, COFO, the Programme Committee and the FAO Council; (para 21. k)			

	Status of Implementation		COMMENTS
	Completed	Ongoing	
<b>Impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on food security and food systems</b>			
25. The Council (...) <u>requested</u> FAO to use its expertise in developing technical and economic cooperation in response to the Covid-19 crisis including for low- and middle- income countries, and Small Island Developing States (SIDS), with a view to improving living standards of people through sustainable and inclusive growth processes; (para 22. e)		X	FAO has developed its COVID-19 Response and Recovery Programme through a bottom-up approach that prioritizes low- and middle-income countries and Small Island Developing States (SIDS) that have been especially challenged to meet the multidimensional impacts of COVID-19 and its social and economic impacts. Through its leadership in preparation of the UN Secretary-General's Policy Brief on the Impact of COVID-19 on Food Security and Nutrition, FAO has called for a three-pronged approach: (1) focusing on keeping food systems functioning as the most efficient way to protect lives and livelihoods of the 4.5 billion people across the world involved in food production and distribution; (2) making expanded social protection work for food security and nutrition during the immediate response; and (3) focusing on repurposed and accelerated investment in order to 'build to transform' food systems as a key driver of recovery and the 2030 Agenda. The FAO response has paid particular attention to the need of all SIDS, as well as populations in all low- and middle-income countries that have been vulnerable to disruptions in food supply or in incomes. Wherever possible, the Hand-in-Hand approach to evidence-based decision-making and multi-stakeholder matchmaking partnerships is being adopted to support the FAO COVID-19 Response and Recovery Programme and to help drive improvements to living standards through sustainable and inclusive growth processes.

**STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION OF DECISIONS TAKEN AT THE 163RD SESSION OF THE COUNCIL  
(2-6 December 2019)**

	Status of Implementation		COMMENTS
	Completed	Ongoing	
<b>Rome-based Agencies (RBAs) Collaboration</b>			
26. The Council (...) <u>looked forward</u> to further discussion on RBA collaboration within the repositioning of the UN development system, and progress on strengthened partnerships and collaboration, including in strategic, administrative and financial areas; and <u>requested</u> FAO together with WFP and IFAD to provide a first assessment regarding the feasibility of integrating administrative functions, and greater collaboration in some oversight functions, to be submitted to the 2020 end of year sessions of the FAO Council and the Executive Boards of IFAD and WFP for consideration; (para 9. c)		X	<p>The RBAs are fully committed to strengthen their collaborative efforts within the United Nations Development System UNDS repositioning, particularly in terms of country planning and programming, through Common Country Analysis (CCA) and joint contribution to United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Frameworks (UNSDCFs). In the area of corporate services, it was found that a large part of joint corporate services at country level can be potentially implemented through the Business Operations Strategy, under the leadership of UN Country Teams.</p> <p>With regards to Members' request to provide a first assessment of the feasibility of integrating administrative functions, a mapping of all potential and ongoing areas of collaboration of administrative, finance, Human Resources and oversight functions was conducted at headquarters and country levels. A detailed feasibility study on two pilot areas has started and will be concluded by year end.</p> <p>On oversight functions, particularly, investigative functions for Sexual Harassment and Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (SEA) policies, the bundling of expertise in Rome in these specific fields would not be an effective use of resources and could increase inefficiencies as well as drive up costs by duplicating expertise that is already present and operating. A more effective solution may be a UN-wide pooling of SEA investigators on cases that involve multiple UN Agencies rather than focusing on shared staffing amongst the Rome-based Agencies alone.</p>

	Status of Implementation		COMMENTS
	Completed	Ongoing	
<b>New Strategic Framework</b>			
27. The Council (...) <u>concurred</u> with the recommendations of the Evaluation of FAO's strategic results framework, noting in particular the need for: (...) an inclusive process for the development of the new Strategic Framework (including results indicators) that includes consultations with Members in FAO Governing Bodies, and in stand-alone consultations and extensive internal consultations at all levels; (para 10. a iii)		X	The new Strategic Framework is being developed through an inclusive process both internally and with Members. In addition to the formal Governing Body meetings, informal meetings have been held separately with each Regional Group and with the entire FAO Membership. Document <i>Outline of the Strategic Framework and Outline of the Medium Term Plan 2022-25 (CL 165/3)</i> was submitted to the Joint Meeting of the 129 <sup>th</sup> Session of the Programme Committee and the 183 <sup>rd</sup> Session of the Finance Committee on 9 November 2020 and the 129 <sup>th</sup> Session of the Programme Committee. Further development of the new Strategic Framework 2022-31 is ongoing.
<b>FAO Gender Action Plan</b>			
28. The Council (...) <u>welcomed</u> the progress on the updated Gender Strategy for the Organization, <u>recognized</u> the importance of alignment with international frameworks, and <u>looked forward</u> to the FAO Gender Action Plan to be prepared in 2020; (para 10. c)	X		The updated Gender Equality Policy was published in November 2020. The preparation of the new Strategic Framework 2022-31 and the Medium Term Plan 2022-25 is currently under way, and the Gender Action Plan is being developed in alignment with this corporate process, ensuring linkages to the objectives of the updated Gender Equality Policy. To prepare for this process, FAO compiled an overview of key gender-related areas of work and results prioritized for the current biennium (PWB 2020-21), in order to illustrate the linkages between the updated Gender Equality Policy and the Strategic Framework. These results were presented at the Programme Committee (c.f. PC 129/INF/5, <i>Update on FAO's Gender Action Plan</i> ) in November 2020.

	Status of Implementation		COMMENTS
	Completed	Ongoing	
<b>Private Sector Partnerships</b>			
29. The Council (...) <u>encouraged</u> FAO to develop a new vision for private sector partnerships, and further integrate such partnerships in its work, underlining the need for due diligence processes, including related to conflicts of interests, balanced with transparent partnerships and cooperation in this regard; (para 10. b)	X		<p>A segregation of the reporting line for due diligence processes outside the partnerships function was established by transferring the due diligence team in the Project Support Division (PSS). The streamlined due diligence procedure, based on the United Nations Sustainable Development Group Common Approach, is being finalized as the basis for a new, agile process.</p> <p>As a follow-up to the 163rd Session of the Council's recommendation, efforts were made throughout the year 2020 by organizing inclusive consultations with Members, FAO personnel as well as those with private sector and other stakeholders to develop a new vision and strategy for engagement with the private sector. Extensive consultations include six informal consultations with the Regional Groups as well as two all membership consultations to develop the new strategy.</p> <p>The proposed Strategy for Private Sector Engagement 2021-2025 addressed the recommendations made by the Evaluation of the 2013 Strategy for Partnership with the Private Sector which was supported by the Council decision. The updated Strategy, with its new vision for engagement with the private sector, was presented at the Joint Meeting of the 129th Session of the Programme Committee and 183rd Session of the Finance Committee in November 2020 and is presented to the 165th Session of the Council for its endorsement.</p>

**STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION OF DECISIONS TAKEN AT THE 160TH SESSION OF THE COUNCIL  
(3-7 December 2018)**

	Status of Implementation		COMMENTS
	Completed	Ongoing	
<b>Article XIV Bodies</b>			
30. The Council (...) <u>requested</u> the ICC to continue his consultations with the concerned Article XIV Bodies and the FAO Secretariat towards agreement on a proposal on procedures for the appointment of Secretaries to these Bodies by December 2019; (para 13. b)		X	<p>In June 2020, the Independent Chairperson of the Council (ICC) wrote to the Chairpersons of the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC), the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (the Treaty) and the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM) outlining a compromise proposal for the long-term procedures for the selection and appointment of Secretaries of Article XIV Bodies. This proposal allows for the involvement of Article XIV Body in the preparation of the Vacancy Announcement; participation of representatives of the Article XIV Body in the selection of candidates for interview, the interview process, and the final approval of the Director-General's selected candidate</p> <p>The ICC also held videoconference meetings with the Chairpersons of the IOTC, the Treaty and the GFCM between August and October 2020, with the presence of the Legal Counsel, and accepted the invitation of the Chairperson of the IOTC to its 24th Session in November 2020. The CCLM at its 111th Session considered the issue (c.f. CCLM 111/3) and the revised proposal procedure (c.f. Annex 1, CL 165/12). The Council, at its 165<sup>th</sup> Session, shall address this issue under item 12, Report of the 111<sup>th</sup> Session of the CCLM and will receive an oral report by the ICC on consultations and proposals made by the Article XIV Bodies and the FAO Management.</p>