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Introduction to Item 14: Progress Report on the Quadrennial Comprehensive Policy Review of Operational Activities for Development of the United Nations System

The following interim report presents an overview of the implementation of the Quadrennial Comprehensive Policy Review (QCPR) by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) during the period from June 2021 to June 2023. This report highlights FAO's progress in aligning its programmes and policies with the QCPR priorities, improving efficiency and effectiveness, and strengthening partnerships with other United Nations (UN) agencies. It encompasses FAO's key accomplishments, achievements and results in leveraging financing for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and establishing multi-stakeholder partnerships.

Throughout the report, particular emphasis is placed on FAO's efforts to unlock the transformative potential of partnerships and achieve record results in resource mobilization. By collaborating with a diverse range of stakeholders and resource partners, FAO has successfully scaled up its support for SDG implementation. Moreover, the report showcases FAO's strategic shift towards integrated and country-driven policy advice, with a focus on climate and biodiversity, gender equality, disability, youth and country-driven innovations.

FAO's engagement and leadership in global and country-level coordination, efficiency and partnership mechanisms are underscored, highlighting the Organization's pivotal role in positioning agrifood systems transformation at the centre of the UN's sustainable development agenda. FAO's contributions extend to key initiatives such as the Secretary-General's "Our Common Agenda" and various UN global coordination mechanisms, ensuring the effective integration of agricultural and food-related considerations into broader sustainable development endeavours.

Additionally, the report sheds light on the emerging trends from the 2020 QCPR, addressing the alarming increase in food insecurity resulting from the lingering effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, protracted conflicts, climate crises and economic downturns. These factors have impeded progress towards several SDGs, most notably SDGs 1, 2 and 10, underscoring the urgent need for comprehensive actions to address these challenges.

Throughout this report, FAO's specific initiatives, achievements and contributions to the UN system-wide processes are emphasized, providing a comprehensive assessment of FAO's role in advancing sustainable development, addressing food insecurity and promoting inclusive and resilient agrifood systems.

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