

171st Session of the Council

Item 12: Progress Report on Rome-based Agencies collaboration

In line with the Rome-based Agencies' (RBAs) commitment to provide an annual update on their collaborative activities to the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) Council and to the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and World Food Programme (WFP) Executive Boards, the three Agencies jointly present this progress report. The report showcases how the three Agencies have been working together during the reporting period 2021-2022, building upon the results of the independent *Joint evaluation of collaboration among the United Nations Rome-based Agencies*. The evaluation reiterated the importance of this partnership for the advancement of the three Agencies' common objectives in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), while also recognizing the collaboration taking place under the auspices of the UN development system (UNDS) repositioning.

The RBAs continue to pursue critical work in terms of joint global advocacy and policy development as well as knowledge and information sharing. In 2022, FAO, IFAD and WFP succeeded in putting food security high on the global political agenda, calling for urgent action to address the global food security crisis in high-level fora, including the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA), the Global Crisis Response Group (GCRG), the Group of Seven (G7) and the Group of Twenty (G20). In the context of the current global food crisis, the three Agencies successfully coordinated their responses on the ground whilst jointly addressing the global implications of the conflict in Ukraine. The three Agencies' active engagement in the Food Security Cluster, as well as their leadership role within the Global Network against Food Crises, and the production of the *State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World (SOFI)* constitute solid examples of such collaboration. The RBA collaboration proved to be particularly effective in the process towards the UN Food Systems Summit as well as in its follow-up.

At regional and country levels, the RBAs reinforced coordination within the new generation of United Nations country teams to promote joint strategic advocacy related to SDG 2 under the leadership of Resident Coordinators. By bringing together their distinct and complementary capacities and expertise, the RBAs are effectively contributing to joint planning through Common Country Analyses and United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Frameworks (UNSDCFs).

Mindful of the critical need to secure political commitment and joint funding for their activities on the ground, the RBAs continue to engage in UN joint programmes such as the Joint Programme for the Sahel in Response to the Challenges of COVID-19, Conflict and Climate Change (SD3C), which represents a flagship example of regional level coordination. The RBAs also deepened their joint work in several thematic areas such as gender equality and women's empowerment, recognizing and supporting the catalytic role played by women in food systems. Through the framework provided by South-South and Triangular Cooperation, the RBA collaboration also played a key role in facilitating innovative partnerships and coalitions to ensure food security and resilient livelihoods, promote innovations, and catalyse investment for more efficient, inclusive, resilient and sustainable agrifood systems. Lastly, the RBAs supported each other with the design and implementation of specific country-level investment projects, as in the case of the longstanding partnership between IFAD and FAO through the FAO Investment Centre.

Over the reporting period, the three Agencies have successfully redirected their humanitarian and development efforts to effectively respond to the global food crisis, demonstrating flexibility and adaptation to emerging priorities. Leveraging the instruments provided by the ongoing UNDS repositioning to make their collaboration more effective, cost-efficient and impactful, the RBAs will ensure both a stronger contribution to the attainment of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs, as well as substantial efficiency gains.

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