

171st Session of the Council

Item 23: Tentative Agenda for the 172nd Session of the Council

The Secretariat appreciates the support received by Members regarding the Agenda of the 172nd Session of the Council. In particular, the Secretariat appreciates the comment provided by Chile, and if the Black Sea Grain Initiative is renewed, it would be considered to be added to the agenda, as advised.

Regarding the comments made on Item 5, *Update on FAO's Response to COVID-19*, this project is managed and coordinated through a specific programme including seven priority areas of work and supporting teams. Considering the limit for the length of the document and in order to provide detailed and comprehensive information to the Members on this item as well as the global food security crisis (which also includes the impact of the pandemic), it is suggested to have two separate documents to ensure the deserved attention is given to both.

The Secretariat would like to thank Australia for their suggestion on the Hand-in-Hand Initiative. However, we do believe that each flagship initiative would need enough attention, space and opportunity for reporting and providing detailed information to Members. The items which are interlinked could easily be reported jointly, as suggested, whereas others with a different focus could be reported through different documents so as to ensure the level of detail is not lost.

As regards the comments made by Japan, the regional action plans for the FAO Science and Innovation Strategy are developed taking into account ongoing guidance from Members. A document on the Development of Regional Action Plans for the FAO Science and Innovation Strategy (2022-25) was considered by the 28th Session of the Committee on Agriculture (COAG), the 35th Session of the Committee on Fisheries (COFI) and the 26th Session of the Committee on Forestry (COFO). The Technical Committees reviewed and welcomed the high-level framework for the development of regional action plans. The Regional Offices were then invited to prepare regional action plans based on the high-level framework. A summary of the draft regional action plans was presented to the 134th Session of the Programme Committee. The Regional Offices are currently finalizing their regional action plans and FAO headquarters is integrating the global and inter-regional perspectives, as requested by the Programme Committee. A further update will be shared at the 135th Session of the Programme Committee.