



# CONFERENCE

## Forty-third Session

Rome, 1-7 July 2023

### Guidance from Council on the Medium Term Plan (Reviewed) 2022-25 and Programme of Work and Budget 2024-25

This document provides:

- I) an extract from the Report of the 172nd Session of the Council<sup>1</sup> on the Medium Term Plan (Reviewed) 2022-25 and Programme of Work and Budget 2024-25;<sup>2</sup> and
- II) guidance in the reading of specific paragraphs of the document.

#### I. Extract from the Report of the 172nd Session of the Council (24-28 April 2023) Medium Term Plan (Reviewed) 2022-25 and Programme of Work and Budget 2024-25

9. The Council welcomed the presentation of the *Medium Term Plan (Reviewed) 2022-25 and Programme of Work and Budget 2024-25*, and:
  - a) commended the *Medium Term Plan (Reviewed) 2022-25 and Programme of Work and Budget 2024-25* were rooted in the Strategic Framework 2022-31 and were guided by the discussions that took place in the Regional Conferences in 2022, the discussions at the 171st Session of the Council and the inclusive informal consultations of Members under the guidance of the Independent Chairperson of the Council (ICC);
  - b) reaffirmed the Organization's unique position and role in transforming agrifood systems in a coherent manner, as appropriate, in accordance with, and dependent on national contexts and capacities to achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (2030 Agenda) and its Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), leaving no one behind;
  - c) reiterated the important role of the science- and evidence-based normative and standard-setting work of FAO;
  - d) stressed the importance of protecting and funding the normative and technical work of FAO, including the Technical Cooperation Programme (TCP), as well as the conventions, treaty bodies, including depositary functions, and intergovernmental arrangements;
  - e) recognized the need to support FAO's core functions and mandate through resources from its regular budget and stressed that voluntary contributions should be aligned with the implementation of the Strategic Framework 2022-31;
  - f) recognized the important and instrumental role of South-South and Triangular Cooperation in realizing the 2030 Agenda, and encouraged FAO to invigorate and further enhance South-South and Triangular Cooperation;

<sup>1</sup> CL 172/REP

<sup>2</sup> C 2023/3

- g) underlined the importance of adequately resourcing Decentralized Offices, including with adequate technical and other resources, to improve the implementation capacity of the Organization;
- h) emphasized the importance of oversight, internal control and support functions;
- i) recommended that consideration of the proposal for replenishment of the Working Capital Fund and incremental funding of the After-Service Medical Coverage past service liability be deferred to future biennia, and requested Management to continue to explore alternative strategies to address these requirements;
- j) stressed the need for the Organization's governance documents to reflect multilaterally agreed concepts, approaches and language, and give preference to those adopted by FAO Governing Bodies;
- k) highlighted the importance of Blue Transformation as a Programme Priority Area (PPA) and Roadmap reflecting FAO's vision on its work for achieving sustainable aquatic systems;
- l) agreed on the need to explore a budget level between the currently proposed budget level in document C 2023/3 and the 2022-23 nominal level, and encouraged continued efforts towards reaching a consensus on the level of the budget, to be considered at informal consultations between Members, in the period leading up to the 43rd Session of the Conference;
- m) agreed to consider a budget level that would ensure that FAO can conduct its core activities as a specialized agency to support the achievement of the SDGs, within its mandate, using its comparative advantages in the UN system; and
- n) in this regard, the Council requested the ICC to convene informal consultations with Members in the run-up to the 43rd Session of the Conference to seek consensus on the budget level.

## II. Reflecting Council guidance in reading paragraphs of document C 2023/3 – Medium Term Plan 2022-25 (reviewed) and Programme of Work and Budget 2024-25

In line with Council guidance (CL 172/REP, paragraph 9.j), the following paragraphs of the Programme of Work and Budget 2024-25 should be read as shown below:

**82.** [...] The areas of agriculture and rangeland management will be re-oriented with emphasis towards climate-resilient<sup>3</sup> agriculture, dryland agriculture and agricultural machinery data. Emphasis will be given to agroecology and other innovative approaches, while organic agriculture will be shifted towards sustainable and low-input production [...].

**83.** [...] The PPA on Blue transformation will be achieved by enhanced action in major areas including: (i) supporting the sustainable development of aquaculture in countries by upscaling relevant activities, policies and plans, alongside the implementation of the Guidelines for Sustainable Aquaculture to be finalized in 2023; (ii) upgrading and developing FAO fisheries sustainability index used to compute and report on the state of world fish stocks; (iii) increasing value-creation, efficiency, gender inclusiveness and resilience in aquatic food value chains; ~~and~~ (iv) continuing support to Members in combating illegal, unreported and unregulated (IU) fishing; and (v) providing technical assistance and capacity-

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<sup>3</sup> Climate resilience refers to the ability of an agricultural system to anticipate and prepare for, as well as adapt to, absorb and recover from the impacts of changes in climate and extreme weather.

building to developing countries in implementing the World Trade Organization Agreement on Fisheries Subsidies, including on reporting, fisheries assessment and management. [...]

**84.** [...] While continuing to implement the FAO Action Plan on antimicrobial resistance 2021-2025, FAO will emphasize the work on reducing the need for antimicrobials in the productive sectors, as requested by the Committee on Agriculture through a specific global initiative.<sup>4</sup> [...]

In reporting on the outcomes of the Regional Conferences, these paragraphs should be read as follows:

**109. Latin America and the Caribbean** – The 37th Session of the Regional Conference for Latin America and the Caribbean (LARC) endorsed three Regional Initiatives, updated from the previous Regional Initiatives and taking into account the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic in the region. ~~By implementing the Programme Priority Areas through the Initiatives, also relate to~~ FAO's will support to Members ~~in the implementation of the FAO Strategic Framework 2022-31 by adapting to the local contexts and in accordance with national context and capacities~~, in their national pathways for agrifood systems transformation ~~also relate to under UN Food Systems Summit action areas, including as well as~~ nourish all people, advance equitable livelihoods, decent work, and empowered communities, ~~boost nature-based solutions for production~~ and build resilience to vulnerabilities, shocks, and stresses. Furthermore, LARC recommended FAO enhance support in integrated normative, technical, policy, operational and investment mobilization, through a programmatic approach.

**111. North America** – The 7th Informal North America Regional Conference (INARC) held on 12-14 April 2022, discussed several thematic areas, inter alia the 2021 UN Food Systems Summit Coalitions and United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change COP 27, innovative protein developments and sustainability benefits to food systems, standard setting bodies (Codex Alimentarius and the International Plant Protection Convention), and food loss and waste. Among priorities identified by the INARC for FAO's work in 2022-23 were the impact on global food security of ~~Russia's war against Ukraine~~ conflicts, FAO governance, climate change and resilience, science and innovation, and agricultural trade.

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<sup>4</sup> C 2023/22, paragraph 14.g)