

## 172nd Session of the FAO Council

### **Item 9: Report of the 135th Session of the Programme Committee (Rome, 13-17 March 2023)**

I am pleased to present the Report of the 135th Session of the Programme Committee.

The 135th Session of the Programme Committee was held from 13 to 17 March, and its Report is submitted to the Council in document CL 172/8.

The Programme Committee had 17 items on its agenda, including nine for information. I would like to highlight the following matters for the attention of the Council.

The Committee reviewed the *Medium Term Plan (Reviewed) 2022-25 and Programme of Work and Budget 2024-25*, which will be directly addressed under item 3.

In relation to the *Mid-Term Review Synthesis Report – 2022*, Members appreciated the progress achieved in implementing the Programme of Work in 2022, welcomed the initiatives, mechanisms and approaches that enable the Organization to leverage its expertise, enhance the relevance, quality and timeliness of its contributions and maximize impact, particularly in the face of multiple global challenges, and also welcomed the Organization's increased visibility and the work on partnerships in maintaining food and agriculture on the global agenda.

The Committee welcomed the Interim Strategy of the Office of Evaluation (OED), commended the strategic approach that will be used to enhance OED's capacity and delivery of services over the coming years, and recommended the Council to endorse it. It also reiterated the importance of the independence of the evaluation function.

Regarding the *Evaluation of FAO's evaluation function – Term of Reference (draft)*, the Committee acknowledged the importance of having a formative evaluation that informs the development of the new FAO evaluation policy and agreed to convene a special session to finalize the terms of reference of the Evaluation and to submit its recommendations as soon as possible to the Council.

Members welcomed the follow-up reports on the evaluations of FAO's support to climate action (SDG 13) and the implementation of the FAO Strategy on Climate Change (2017), and on the role and work on antimicrobial resistance, recognizing the progress in the implementation of the recommendations.

The Committee appreciated the update provided and acknowledged the progress made on FAO's engagement in and collaboration on integrated water resources management, and supported the priorities listed in the document, *Update on water resources management (PC135/7)*. It also encouraged FAO to further address water efficiency and water stress, in line with its mandate.

I would like to invite you to review the Report of the 135th Programme Committee. For your convenience, this Report includes an executive summary and suggested action, prepared by the Secretariat.

I am pleased to provide any further explanations you may need regarding this Report.

*H.E. Yael Rubinstein, Chairperson of the 135th Session of the Programme Committee*