

168th Session of the Council
Written Correspondence Procedure – inputs from Members - original version
Item 12 - Progress Report on Rome-based Agencies Collaboration

Member Name	Comments
<p style="text-align: center;">Australia (Wed 17/11/2021 7:03)</p>	<p>Australia welcomes on-going efforts to improve RBA collaboration, including – and importantly - at a country and regional level. We highlight the importance of on-going work in this regard in order to respond, both strategically and with concrete actions, to rising hunger levels.</p> <p>Australia notes that the UN Food Systems Summit implementation and follow-up is still under discussion but highlights the importance of RBA collaboration, along with other relevant UN agencies, in order to ensure tangible outcomes and avoid duplication. We respectfully request that Members be provided with regular updates and an opportunity to contribute to discussions.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Argentina (Wed 17/11/2021 16:21)</p>	<p>En primer término, la Argentina desea manifestar su agradecimiento por la elaboración del documento que aborda esta temática.</p> <p>Como lo expresó nuestra Delegación durante las reuniones informales de las Agencias con sede en Roma, en septiembre pasado, entendemos que la articulación entre FAO, FIDA y PMA debe tener como objetivo buscar una mayor eficiencia operacional, la reducción de costos, la prevención de duplicaciones y la promoción de enfoques sinérgicos.</p> <p>Es decir, el objetivo común, según nuestro punto de vista, debe centrarse en aumentar la cooperación de las ORSs en el terreno para desplegar sus capacidades y contribuir a superar el flagelo del hambre y la malnutrición en todas sus formas. Entendemos que existen tres elementos esenciales:</p> <p>a.- Cada Agencia posee un mandato concreto, una competencia técnica específica y prioridades asignadas por sus Órganos de gobiernos.</p> <p>b.- La colaboración y la coordinación no puede ser un elemento impuesto a los ORSs. Se requiere previamente alinear sus respectivos marcos estratégicos siguiendo los Objetivos de la Agenda 2030 y sus ODSs.</p> <p>c.- La fortaleza de la cooperación entre los OSRs debe residir en potenciar sus fortalezas y virtudes singulares para enriquecer el conjunto de las acciones de las Agencias sobre el terreno.</p> <p>De esta forma, pensamos que los futuros planes de trabajo de las Agencias, en la medida que sea posible, deben establecerse bajo un prisma de complementariedad y enriquecimiento mutuo a fin de mejorar su efectividad operacional. Para el caso concreto del “<i>seguimiento</i>” de la Cumbre de Sistemas Alimentarios, también entendemos que cualquier mecanismo que se proponga debe, primero, responder la visión consensuada de los miembros y, segundo, tener a FAO, por capacidad de enfoque holístico, en el centro de las acciones de una eventual coordinación.</p> <p>Como último comentario, nos gustaría indicar que es preciso evitar la “<i>competencia</i>” entre las Agencias, por ejemplo, en la captación de recursos voluntarios, ya que eso desvirtuaría el fomento del trabajo mancomunado. Por el contrario, creemos que una forma de mejorar la complementariedad de los Organismos se podría dar a través de trabajos en casos concretos en el terreno, por ejemplo, a través de experiencias piloto en el marco de la iniciativa “Mano de la Mano”.</p>

<p>Russian Federation (Wed 17/11/2021 16:55)</p>	<p>Welcomed the Progress report and commended the efforts of FAO to provide a complex overview of RBA collaboration therein; encouraged FAO to further develop strategic collaboration following the recommendations of the evaluation report “Joint Evaluation of collaboration among the UN Rome-based Agencies” (dated October 2021), and continued to explore the areas of potential synergies and complementarities, economies of scale with the aim to the raise efficiencies of RBA collaboration; and strongly encouraged FAO to carry out a first assessment regarding the feasibility of integrating administrative functions and greater collaboration in some oversight functions in line with the request of the Joint Meeting of the 127th Session of the Programme Committee and 178th Session of the Finance Committee that remains long overdue.</p>
<p>United States of America (Wed 17/11/2021 17:20)</p>	<p>The United States welcomes this progress report on the UN Rome-based Agencies’ (RBAs) collaborative efforts, particularly noting achievements and progress made over the past year at the global, regional, and country levels. We appreciate the achievements highlighted in the “Update on Collaboration among the Rome-based Agencies” report on the five priority areas. The United States commends the RBAs’ response to the COVID-19 pandemic in ensuring continued attention and support to the most vulnerable. Despite the challenges posed by COVID-19, the RBAs were able to conduct context specific assessments of its impacts on national food security and nutrition. We appreciate the RBAs’ joint support of the school feeding program in Guatemala in ensuring school children have healthy meals throughout the pandemic and your collaborative work in supporting the Government of Sierra Leone with its emergency Food Security Monitoring System to understand the impact of COVID-19 on food security. We appreciate the global work in nutrition, gender, and resilience undertaken by the RBAs, particularly through the exchange of technical knowledge, lessons learned and good practice. The report positively highlights that these initiatives have had direct humanitarian impact. Of particular interest, the United States welcomes the central role the RBAs played in the launch of UN Nutrition earlier this year. We welcome future updates from FAO on progress related to integrating and streamlining efforts in nutrition. While the United States recognizes the extensive global collaborative efforts by the RBAs in the preparations and implementation of the activities and processes for the UN Food Systems Summit (FSS) and Pre-Summit, we note FAO itself conducted limited outreach to its Members on FAO objectives for the FSS. It is imperative that FAO secure Member State consensus on its role – in coordination with WFP and IFAD in particular – to ensure meaningful FSS follow-up on the ground. Looking ahead, we encourage continuous assessment of the enablers and challenges and the sharing of lessons learned from RBA collaboration to avoid competition and duplication of efforts. The United States welcomes updates on the RBAs collaborative efforts, particularly as they relate to UN FSS follow-up and implementation of the recommendations from the independent Joint Evaluation of RBA collaboration released in October 2021, which we understand Council will have an opportunity to consider in its Spring session.</p>
<p>Japan</p>	<p>Japan appreciates FAO's leading activities, such as hosting the Pre-Summit of the UN Food Systems Summit in</p>

<p>(Fri 19/11/2021 13:20)</p>	<p>collaboration with IFAD and WFP successfully with attendance of many stakeholders worldwide. Japan considers as necessary that FAO keeps following up on further development of the outcome. Japan requests clarification of conceptual framework and also assumed RBA collaboration model specifically, including FAO's agreement to host "Food Systems Coordination Hub" described in paragraph 12. "RBA Collaboration in the Context of the UN Food Systems Summit", in terms of the role of each organization involved, RBA's objective, and target outcomes.</p>
<p>Spain (Fri 19/11/2021 19:05)</p>	<p>En lo relativo a los progresos sobre la colaboración entre las Agencias de Naciones Unidas con sede en Roma (OSR), quisiéramos destacar lo siguiente:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Manifiestar nuestro total apoyo a la intervención de la UE y sus EEMM. - Acogemos con satisfacción el Informe de Progreso, que ofrece una buena descripción general de las actividades implementadas a nivel mundial, regional y nacional. Apreciamos la estructura mejorada del Informe, incluidos los resultados y ejemplos concretos de las actividades implementadas y los avances logrados. Instamos a la FAO a que siga mejorando la colaboración con el PMA y el FIDA, centrándose también en resultados concretos a nivel regional y nacional. - Recordamos la solicitud de un estudio de viabilidad conjunto de las OSR sobre la integración de las funciones administrativas, que está pendiente desde la sesión del Consejo de diciembre de 2020. Invitamos a las OSR a proporcionar este estudio con carácter prioritario, recordando que el estudio debería centrarse principalmente en la colaboración administrativa entre las sedes. - Apreciamos el énfasis puesto en alinear la colaboración de las OSR con la reforma del UNDS y el hecho de que las OSR hayan podido identificar y promover prioridades conjuntas en los Equipos de País de las Naciones Unidas (UNCT) y en la formulación de los Marcos de Cooperación para el Desarrollo Sostenible de las Naciones Unidas (UNSDCF). La colaboración de las OSR debe ubicarse en el contexto de una colaboración más amplia de las Naciones Unidas destinada a generar resultados hacia los ODS. - Felicitamos a las OSR por sus esfuerzos coordinados y su colaboración en la respuesta a la crisis de la COVID-19, con énfasis en los grupos más vulnerables. Apreciamos el papel central que han desempeñado en el apoyo a los países, las ONG locales y otras agencias de la ONU, en particular a través de políticas y apoyo analítico para desarrollar medidas efectivas para mitigar las consecuencias de la crisis. - También felicitamos a las OSR por su colaboración y participación en la preparación de la Cumbre de los Sistemas Alimentarios de las Naciones Unidas y la cumbre previa. Los OSR tienen un papel crucial que desempeñar para mantener la transformación de los sistemas alimentarios en un lugar destacado de la Agenda 2030 y contribuir, junto con el CSA y otros órganos pertinentes de las Naciones Unidas, al proceso de seguimiento de la cumbre.
<p>France</p>	<p>La France s'aligne sur la déclaration de l'Union européenne et de ses 27 Etats membres.</p>

(Fri 19/11/2021
20:56)

Nous saluons l'organisation des réunions réunissant les Conseils des trois agences romaines qui permettent de favoriser l'échange d'informations et la coordination entre ces agences. Nous rappelons notre fort attachement à une coopération étroite entre les trois agences, tant à Rome que sur le terrain, dans le respect des mandats de chacune.

Point 12 – Sommet sur les systèmes alimentaires

- Nous sommes satisfaits que le processus préparatoire du Sommet sur les systèmes alimentaires et le Sommet lui-même aient permis de mobiliser conjointement les agences romaines et d'inclure leurs travaux dans une perspective onusienne plus large.
- La structure de suivi issue du Sommet n'est pas encore définie clairement et ne saurait être présentée comme telle. Nous rappelons que le « pôle de coordination » (coordination hub) devra être inclusif vis-à-vis de toutes les parties prenantes, agences des Nations unies romaines ou non (OMS, PNUE, PNUD...), qui devront être traitées sur un pied d'égalité. Si le SGNU a demandé à la FAO d'accueillir le mécanisme de suivi du Sommet, il n'a en aucun cas précisé que ce mécanisme devrait rapporter exclusivement qu'à la direction de la FAO. Au contraire, la Vice-SGNUM a indiqué, lors du dernier Comité consultatif, que le « pôle de coordination » serait sous l'autorité et ferait rapport à un groupe directeur (« steering group ») composé de plusieurs responsables des Nations Unies (chefs d'agences RBAs, PNUE au nom des Nations Unies, DCO ...). La préservation de cette approche du système onusien dans son ensemble (« UN-system wide ») dans le cadre du suivi du Sommet, y compris la structure hiérarchique de *reporting*, est essentielle. Nous saluons la déclaration cross-liste en ce sens prononcée lors du Conseil d'administration du PAM le 15 novembre. Nous rappelons la volonté de la précédente session conjointe que les Membres soient au centre du processus de suivi des engagements du Sommet.
- Nous rappelons la demande de la session conjointe que soit communiquées de plus amples informations sur le pôle de coordination, s'agissant notamment de sa dotation en personnel et de son financement.
- Nous réaffirmons par ailleurs notre souhait, conformément à la déclaration d'action du SGNUM, d'une collaboration étroite du CSA avec ce « pôle de coordination » (Coordination Hub) chargé du suivi du Sommet, de même qu'avec le groupe directeur (Steering group). Nous regrettons que le CSA ne soit pas mentionné dans le document de la FAO et demandons d'y ajouter une référence claire. Nous rappelons aussi notre souhait que les structures mises en place pour la préparation du sommet, y compris le Groupe scientifique, ne soient pas pérennisées, conformément à ce qui avait été indiqué aux Etats membres lors de la dernière réunion du Groupe consultatif. Il doit revenir au HLPE d'être au centre de la coordination du travail scientifique du suivi du Sommet, en lien avec le pôle de coordination.

Point 14 – action humanitaire

- Nous rappelons que l'action des agences romaines en réponse aux crises humanitaires doit s'inscrire dans le cadre de leurs mandats respectifs, notamment pour la FAO et le PAM. Le rapport conjoint d'évaluation de leur collaboration pointe le chevauchement de certaines missions et la concurrence entre les organisations, ce qui nuit à l'efficacité de leur action. A ce titre nous appelons à une meilleure coordination entre les agences s'agissant de leurs actions dans les crises humanitaires, à Rome mais aussi avec le reste des Nations Unies et sur le terrain. Nous sommes attachés au mandat normatif de la FAO, qui ne doit pas se transformer en agence opérationnelle de développement, ce

	<p>qui est un mandat relevant d'autres agences des Nations Unies, et moins encore en agence humanitaire, ce dont elle n'a ni les moyens ni le mandat.</p> <p>Point 15 – les agences romaines et le CSA</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nous appuyons la demande de la précédente session conjointe de renforcer la coopération entre les trois agences pour promouvoir les produits du CSA et demandons de poursuivre dans cette voie pour une plus grande visibilité du CSA et de ses produits, notamment sur les « systèmes alimentaires et la nutrition (VGFSyN) » et sur « les pratiques agroécologiques et autres approches innovantes ». La France appelle également les agences romaines à renforcer leur appui au CSA, notamment en termes de financements et de mise à disposition de ressources humaines. <p>Point 21 – programme conjoint au Sahel</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nous rappelons l'importance que nous attachons à la mise en œuvre du programme conjoint au Sahel (SD3C), permis par la coordination entre le FIDA, le PAM et la FAO. Le Sahel est une zone prioritaire pour répondre au défi de l'insécurité alimentaire et de la malnutrition.
<p>European Union (Mon 22/11/2021 20:42)</p>	<p>I am honoured to write to you on behalf of the European Union and its 27 Member States regarding item 12 on the agenda of the 168th Session of the FAO Council.</p> <p>The Candidate Countries Montenegro, Republic of North Macedonia¹ and Turkey, the country of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidate Bosnia and Herzegovina, as well the Republic of Moldova and the Republic of San Marino, align themselves with this written statement.</p> <p>We welcome the progress report, which gives a good overview of the activities implemented at global, regional and country level. We appreciate the improved structure of the report, including the results and concrete examples of implemented activities and progress made. We call upon FAO to continue to improve collaboration with WFP and IFAD, focusing also on concrete results at regional and country level.</p> <p>We recall the request for a joint RBA feasibility study on integrating administrative functions, which is outstanding since the December 2020 Council session. We invite the RBAs to provide this study as a matter of priority, recalling that the study should focus primarily on administrative collaboration between headquarters.</p> <p>We appreciate the emphasis placed on aligning RBAs' collaboration with UNDS reform and the fact that the RBAs have been able to identify and advocate for joint priorities in UN Country Teams (UNCTs) and in the formulation of UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Frameworks (UNSDCFs). RBAs' collaboration is not an end in itself and must be placed in the context of wider UN collaboration aimed at delivering results towards the SDGs.</p> <p>We commend the RBAs for their coordinated efforts and collaboration in the response to the COVID-19 crisis, with emphasis on the most vulnerable groups. We appreciate the central role they have played in supporting countries, local NGOs and other UN agencies, in particular through policy and analytical support for developing effective measures to mitigate the consequences of the crisis.</p>

¹ The Republic of North Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia and Albania continue to be part of the Stabilisation and Association Process.

	<p>We also commend the RBAs for their collaboration and involvement in the preparation of the UN Food Systems Summit and the pre-summit. The RBAs have a crucial role to play in keeping food systems transformation high on the 2030 Agenda and in contributing, together with the CFS and other relevant UN bodies, to the summit follow-up process. In this regard, we underline the importance of continued RBA support to the CFS, including through strengthened financing and staffing, and of ensuring that the CFS and its products are an integral part of the RBAs' activities in the follow-up to the Food Systems Summit.</p> <p>We appreciate the annual preparation of the SOFI reports, together with UNICEF and WHO, as well as other joint initiatives such as the global reports on food crises and hunger hotspots, which serve as an important scientific basis for addressing food insecurity.</p> <p>We thank the RBAs for the update on the Joint Programme for the Sahel in Response to the Challenges of COVID-19, Conflict and Climate Change, approved by IFAD in December 2020. We encourage the RBAs to build on this experience of regional cooperation in improving integrated actions with other UN agencies within the repositioning of the UN Development System.</p> <p>We express our full support for continued RBA collaboration, including the efforts to increase synergies and to enhance the effectiveness and efficiency of their work, both at headquarters level and on the ground, avoiding duplication and competition, as well as in supporting the UNDS reform. With these comments, we endorse the progress report.</p>
<p>Africa Regional Group (Wed 24/11/2021 10:37)</p>	<p>The statement is delivered on behalf of the Africa Regional Group by South Africa, Zambia and Kenya on agenda item 12 on the Progress Report on Rome-based Agencies Collaboration.</p> <p>The Group wishes to express its sincere appreciation for the progress report on the collaboration between the Rome-based Agencies for the period 2020-2021. The outline of concrete examples of such collaboration across the global, regional and country levels is a confirmation of its value in contributing to end hunger in Africa by 2025. Efforts to provide access to sufficient, affordable and nutritious food for all are facing challenges that inhibit agricultural development such as extreme weather events and climate change, limited levels of adoption of yield-increasing technologies as well as the impact of COVID-19 and the spread of animal diseases and pests such as Fall Armyworm and desert locusts.</p> <p>On a strategic level, Africa is guided by the Africa 2003 Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP), as a continental policy framework for agricultural transformation to increase food security and nutrition and reduce poverty, which was reinforced in 2014 under the Malabo declaration on agricultural growth and transformation. The Group believes that the Rome-based Agencies should extend their joint collaboration to also engage the African Union on a strategic level to facilitate the implementation of this policy framework and in a collaborative manner to engage with relevant institutions to mobilise resources to address the challenges to advance agricultural development. The Group also believes that those examples of successful collaboration among the Rome-based Agencies, as demonstrated in their joint action to address hunger in humanitarian crises and addressing the impact of COVID-19, needs to be strengthened and expanded in the humanitarian-development-peace nexus and in efforts on a regional and national basis to transform agri-food systems.</p>

	<p>In this regard, the Group appreciates the pro-active collaboration on the Joint Programme for the Sahel in response to the challenges of COVID-19, conflict and climate change in that region. In addition, the actualisation of the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) and the UN Common Country Analysis tool (CCA) in Kenya through the joint Rome-based Agencies collaboration in support of smallholder farmers is another noteworthy example of how such collaboration could be considered for wider implementation in Africa.</p> <p>However, the Group recognises that collaboration among the Rome-based Agencies is not an end in itself but a means to achieve increased efficiency and avoid duplication of efforts to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals. In addition, that such collaboration should be flexible, focus on technical work and respect the distinct mandates of the Rome-based Agencies. It is also recognised that collaboration already takes place in the context of the wider United Nations reform process to enhance collaboration including in the common services at country level.</p> <p>In conclusion, the African Regional Group takes note of the recommended path forward as outlined in the report contained in document CL 168/11, and encourages the Senior Management of the Rome-based Agencies to enhance their relevant collaboration.</p>
<p>United Kingdom (Observer) (Fri 19/11/2021 19.20)</p>	<p>The COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted more than ever the need for effective collaboration across the UN system and particularly between the Rome-based Agencies in their shared focus on SDG 2 and ending hunger. Collaboration is all about delivering better and more sustainable results and impact, ensuring synergies, sharing information and assessments, conducting joint analysis, and avoiding risk of duplication.</p> <p>The United Kingdom thanks FAO, IFAD and WFP for the <i>Progress Report on Rome-Based Agencies Collaboration</i> and appreciates the examples of collaboration provided.</p> <p>We support FAO's membership, together with WFP, of the Secretary-General's High-Level Task Force on Preventing Famine. We encourage joint needs assessments and reporting, drawing on the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) and the Cadre Harmonisé (CH) analyses as highlighted, and strengthening of early warning systems.</p> <p>We note, however, from the Joint Evaluation (that we look forward to discussing at the next FAO Council) that a lack of shared understanding about roles can impair work, particularly between FAO and WFP. We underline the importance of addressing this finding; and building on complementarities and comparative advantages.</p> <p>We are glad to note that the <i>Joint Programme for the Sahel in Response to the Challenges of COVID-19, Conflict and Climate Change (SD3C)</i>, is now seen 'as a flagship example of the RBAs coming together to identify common objectives and activities at regional levels.' We would like to request the Agencies to share the joint Results Framework that they will use to monitor progress and measure results against these objectives. This is clearly important in terms of clarity and accountability over who does what – an area that has been highlighted for improvement.</p> <p>We encourage FAO in its commitment to strengthening strategic partnerships, both with the Rome-based Agencies, but also with others – including WHO and UNEP on One Health issues, for example – in the context of the UNDS reform.</p>