

165th Session of the Council

Written Correspondence Procedure – inputs from Members - English version

Item 16 - Status of Implementation of Decisions taken at the 164th Session of the Council (6-10 July 2020)

Member Name	Comments
Indonesia – Member (Thursday 26/11/2020 14:08)	<p>Indonesia appreciates the completed status of implementation of decisions taken at the 164th Session of the FAO Council. Indonesia encourages FAO to continue endeavor with regard to the on-going status of implementation of decisions taken at the 164th Session of the FAO Council, in particular with the Impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on food security and food systems.</p> <p>Indonesia welcomes the three-pronged approaches by FAO: (1) focusing on keeping food systems functioning as the most efficient way to protect lives and livelihoods of the 4.5 billion people across the world involved in food production and distribution; (2) making expanded social protection work for food security and nutrition during the immediate response; and (3) focusing on repurposed and accelerated investment in order to ‘build to transform’ food systems as a key driver of recovery and the 2030 Agenda. However, local context and national priorities must be considered as the primary concerns.</p> <p>Indonesia supports the Hand-in-Hand approach to evidence-based decision making and multi-stakeholder matchmaking partnerships that being adopted to support the FAO COVID-19 Response and Recovery Programme and to help drive improvements to living standards through sustainable and inclusive growth processes. With these few comments, Indonesia endorses the document on the status of implementation of the decision taken at the 164th Session of the Council.</p>
Dominican Republic – Member (Thursday 26/11/2020 17:18)	<p>The Dominican Republic [a] welcomes the progress made in transferring functions from the former Office of Support to Decentralized Offices (OSD), the changes in lines of responsibility and the increased level of delegation of authority granted to regional representatives, and would appreciate being kept informed of future updates to the governance structure of decentralized offices, [b] underlines that some of the ongoing action relates to issues that have been on the table for some time (such as the appointment of the Secretaries of Bodies under Article XIV and efforts to strengthen the Office of the Inspector General and its operational independence); we therefore appreciate the Secretariat's efforts to ensure that these and other actions move forward smoothly, and [c] notes that the adjustments under way aim to increase the quality and effectiveness of support given to Members to achieve the 2030 Agenda and post-pandemic recovery, and are in line with the recommendations of the 36th session of the Regional Conference for Latin America and the Caribbean.</p>
Canada – Member (Thursday 26/11/20 17:30)	<p>On the Medium-Term Plan and Programme of Work and Budget (PWB):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Canada welcomes FAO’s commitment to efficiency and cost-savings and appreciates the transparency with which the proposed further adjustments are presented. Adjustments to the PWB should continue to be balanced by savings that do not jeopardize the delivery of the technical work of the Organization.

- Canada appreciates FAO’s continuity in strategic direction, and welcomes FAO’s overall objective of eliminating silos and encouraging collaboration across the Organization.
- Canada supports establishment of an office of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and the implied greater alignment of the FAO’s activities with the SDGs.
- Canada continues to propose that further sustainable funding for the Food Safety Scientific Advice Programme and the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC), beyond the 1 million USD, be put forward. This funding is welcome but still insufficient.
- Canada welcomes the fact that “gender” is now reflected in the title of the division, which has not been the case since 2013 with the Revised Strategic Framework – this will help give more visibility to this important cross-cutting issue, although the document specifies that cross-cutting issues are dealt with by offices. We welcome additional clarification about “gender equity” wording, adding that while we acknowledge that gender equity can be seen as an important step in reaching gender equality, gender equality is the goal and gender equity ensures that measures consider the historical and social disadvantages of different groups/individuals, such as women and girls. We would recommend replacing “gender equity” with “gender equality”.

On the Programme Implementation Report 2018-19:

- Canada welcomes the major policy developments over the past biennium including FAO role in supporting countries in transitioning towards sustainable agriculture and food systems and the work on Sustainable Development Goals.

On the International Platform for Digital Food and Agriculture:

- Canada welcomes the initiative and is supportive of the Council's goal to build bridges with digital fora and to provide policy recommendations to governments on supporting digitalization and sharing best practices. This is much needed.
- Canada welcomes additional thinking on the sustainability of the funding for the platform.
- Canada stresses that the platform should not duplicate activities under the mandate of other international organizations or other global multi-stakeholder initiatives already underway.

On the Impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on food security and food systems:

- Canada appreciates and welcomes FAO’s update on COVID-19 and its impact on food security and nutrition, food availability, and food systems.
- Canada appreciates the leadership FAO has shown during the pandemic in hosting high-level meetings, producing joint statements and reporting for evidence-based policymaking.
 - We are glad to see that lessons were learned in 2008 and that, to date, countries have understood the negative impact of resorting to export restrictions.
 - In Canada’s view, open, transparent and predictable trade is critical to keep food supply chains functioning during and after the COVID-19 pandemic emergency and beyond.
- Canada recognizes that recovering from the pandemic and related economic hardships will likely affect livelihoods and access to food for the poorest and most vulnerable segments of the population.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We urge that FAO analysis continues to be fact based and neutral. • Canada continues engaging with the FAO and other partners to respond appropriately globally, regionally and at the country level. • Canada looks forward to future updates on FAO’s work in tackling the COVID-19 crisis and its consequences for food security and food systems and will appreciate continued frequency and transparency. <p>On RBA collaboration:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We note that a detailed feasibility study on two pilot areas has started and will be concluded by year end, and reiterate the FAO Council request and recent recommendation of the Joint Meeting to provide a first assessment regarding the feasibility of integrating administrative functions, and greater collaboration in some oversight functions, as soon as possible. <p>On FAO Gender Action Plan:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We note that the updated FAO Gender Equality Policy was published in November 2020, and receiving a copy or the link to the document. • We also note that the Gender Action Plan to be prepared in 2020 is being developed in parallel with the Strategic Framework, and expect that it will be submitted as soon as developed.
<p>Brazil – Member (Thursday 26/11/2020 19:11)</p>	<p>Brazil would like to express its appreciation for the series of events organized throughout 2020 on data, statistics and the indicators of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. We further thank the Secretariat for the information on the update of FAO's Strategy for the Modernization of Statistics, as well as on the preparation of an implementation plan to translate the Strategy into action. We recall the decision made at the 128th Session of the Programme Committee, in which it "looked forward to receiving regular updates on FAO's statistical work through informal consultations and at the Programme Committee sessions". In this respect, we suggest that the new documents be presented not only at the Programme Committees 130th Session, but also through an informal seminar, in which FAO's wide membership would be able to participate and provide its feedback.</p>