

176th Session of the Council

Written Correspondence Procedure – inputs from Members - Original version

Item 16 – Update on FAO’s collaboration with other UN system entities

Member Name	Comments
Japan (Wednesday, 20 November 2024 – 11.31)	<p>Japan appreciates the FAO for sharing the status of Update on FAO’s collaboration with other UN system entities. On this agenda, Japan would like to submit the following comments:</p> <p>Japan appreciates regular progress updates on FAO’s collaboration with other UN system entities. Furthermore, we welcome the progress of collaboration with organizations such as the World Food Programme (WFP) and International Fund for Agricultural Development(IFAD). While supporting such partnerships in general, we would like to ask the secretariat to further elaborate the challenges and way forward regarding the Rome-based Agencies (RBAs)’ MOU. Although the document CL 176/16 states that access to flexible and predictable funding is a key obstacle to RBAs collaboration, and relevant information is provided in document PC 138/7, Japan would appreciate to know more specific status and background information (paragraph 16).</p> <p>In terms of collaboration between FAO and key international frameworks and entities in the field of environmental issues such as climate change and biodiversity loss, including plastic pollution, achieving practical outcomes is crucial while the topics related to agriculture, forestry, fisheries and the environment are becoming increasingly important on the agenda. It is essential to consider the diverse conditions of agriculture, forestry and fisheries among countries, aiming to enhance food security and address environmental challenges simultaneously. With the growing number of agro-environmental issues, Japan encourages FAO to continue to actively provide its technical inputs in the discussions on environmental issues, leveraging its expertise.</p>
European Union (Wednesday, 20 November 2024 – 16.47)	<p>I am honoured to write to you on behalf of the European Union and its 27 Member States regarding this agenda item for the 176th Session of the FAO Council.</p> <p>The EU and its Member States thank FAO for the information provided in document CL 176/16 and welcome the fact that the update covers FAO’s collaboration across the UN system, including but not limited to the RBAs, and appreciate FAO’s actions to strengthen and deepen its collaboration within the UN system.</p> <p>We encourage FAO to continue its effort to strengthen collaboration through complementarity and collective action within the RC-system and the UN Country Teams on integrating agriculture and food systems into national frameworks and fostering coordinated approaches with UN entities.</p> <p>We appreciate the broad overview of FAO’s current UN partnerships and the informative examples of thematic engagements (nutrition, health, food safety, gender equality and women’s empowerment, transparent markets and trade,</p>

	<p>integrated policy support, climate change, biodiversity and the environment, emergencies and resilience, science technology and innovation in all its forms).</p> <p>We note that access to flexible and predictable funding is a key obstacle to mobilizing resources at the country level to transform national agriculture and food systems and call on FAO to improve the visibility of the existing flexible financing mechanisms, such as the FVC and SFERA funds, and to enlarge its donor base.</p> <p>We welcome FAO's increased participation at all levels in interagency pooled funds as a key driver of UN collaboration.</p> <p>We commend FAO for its continued contribution to the operationalization of the HDP Nexus at the regional and national levels. We encourage FAO to operationalize further the HDP Nexus, especially in a fragile context where legitimate and efficient partnerships are key to achieving food security.</p> <p>We commend FAO and WFP for their co-lead on the global food security cluster and the work they deliver in the emergency situations around the globe.</p> <p>We appreciate the technical and financial support provided by FAO and other Rome-based Agencies to the CFS, and we encourage them to continue to provide this. In particular, with regard to the World Food Forum taking place shortly before, we thank FAO for facilitating the CFS plenary week. It is essential that all stakeholders have sufficient time and space to prepare for their participation in the CFS. The CFS policy products are outcomes of inclusive multi-stakeholder processes, and so carry significant legitimacy. We also encourage the Rome-based Agencies to promote and make better use of these policy products.</p> <p>The EU and its Member States would welcome further regular updates on the progress made by FAO in partnering with the wider UN system, including the RBAs.</p>
<p>Switzerland (Wednesday, 20 November 2024 – 17.57)</p>	<p>La Suisse remercie la FAO pour sa collaboration avec d'autres entités du système des Nations Unies et pour les informations fournies sur la collaboration dans un certain nombre de domaines importants tels que la parité hommes-femmes, One Health, le lien avec le développement humain, l'environnement, la nutrition, la résistance aux antimicrobiens, etc.</p> <p>Afin de maximiser l'impact des actions et des programmes, d'éviter les chevauchements et d'accroître l'efficacité des ressources financières et humaines disponibles, nous encourageons la FAO à renforcer la coopération entre les agences basées à Rome ainsi que toutes les autres organisations des Nations Unies concernées dans les pays et sur le terrain.</p> <p>Nous nous félicitons de l'accent mis sur le repositionnement du système de développement des Nations unies, sur les partenariats axés sur les pays, sur les coordonnateurs résidents et des coordinateurs humanitaires des Nations unies et sur les équipes de pays.</p> <p>Nous nous félicitons du protocole d'accord tripartite global, qui reconnaît que la collaboration dans le cadre de l'approche fondée sur les résultats s'appuie sur un large éventail de travaux allant de la réponse aux situations d'urgence et aux chocs aux activités humanitaires et de développement à long terme.</p> <p>Nous accueillons favorablement la stratégie conjointe de la FAO et du PAM sur l'action anticipative (AA), ainsi que les mises à jour connexes sur les impacts du travail d'AA sont également importantes à cet égard.</p>

	<p>La Suisse note et salue les économies de coûts et l'amélioration de l'efficacité opérationnelle que la FAO a réalisées grâce au « BOS », au « CBO » et au « CP ».</p> <p>La Suisse est impatiente de soutenir le travail de la FAO avec l'Alliance mondiale contre la faim et la pauvreté du G20, y compris sur la façon de renforcer la coordination.</p> <p>La Suisse souhaiterait également recevoir des informations sur la manière dont le Centre de coordination des systèmes alimentaires des Nations unies favorise la coordination.</p> <p>La Suisse souhaiterait obtenir davantage de détails sur la manière dont la FAO collabore et coordonne ses travaux avec les banques multilatérales de développement, telles que la Banque mondiale et la Banque africaine de développement. Nous soulignons l'importance de ne pas mesurer uniquement la quantité de collaborations, mais également leur qualité. La FAO devrait créer des bases de référence, des mesures claires de réussite, et s'assurer qu'elle mesure l'impact et la contribution des collaborations pour nous aider à réaliser l'Agenda 2030.</p> <p>La Suisse souligne que les collaborations devraient tirer parti de l'avantage comparatif unique de la FAO en tant que principal fournisseur d'expertise normative et technique qui contribue à l'élaboration d'orientations fondées sur des données avérées et de bonnes pratiques pour les solutions relatives aux systèmes alimentaires.</p> <p>La Suisse recommande à ce que la charge administrative, la responsabilité en matière de rapports et de suivi, ainsi que le financement puisse être partagés équitablement entre chaque organisation.</p> <p>La Suisse soutient la réforme du système de développement des Nations unies et sa pleine mise en œuvre.</p> <p>La Suisse souligne qu'il est indispensable que les Nations unies agissent comme une seule et même organisation au niveau national. Nous aimerions voir davantage d'informations sur la manière dont la FAO met en œuvre la réforme du système de développement des Nations unies.</p> <p>Voici des éléments plus précis sur certains § :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • §12 : quelles sont les suites de cette réunion et où est le rapport ? • §14 : les deux autres agences ont-elles aussi procédé à un tel sondage et qu'en résulte-t-il ? • §15 : « Anticipatory Action Strategy », pourrait-on la référencer ici aussi ? • §24 : des exemples concrets d'initiatives avec le PAM existent-elles ? • §40 : nous ne voyons aucune mention du comité des produits qui a eu sa réunion biennale en 2024. Il nous semble important de le mentionner. • §57 : félicitations pour ces résultats • §59 : il faut veiller à assurer la coordination avec le PAM pour éviter les doublons dans ce genre de travail. • §64 : félicitations, à développer comme dit plus haut.
<p>Australia (Wednesday, 20 November 2024 – 22.16)</p>	<p>Australia supports FAO's efforts to work with other UN system entities, including the International Labour Organization, the World Health Organization and the World Trade Organization, among others, to align social protection, health, trade policies and food security with the broader goals of the SDGs. It is critical that UN organisations pool resources effectively to tackle global challenges, including on climate, gender equality, Indigenous Peoples and health.</p>

	<p>In particular, we support stronger collaboration with the WTO, including utilising FAO’s technical and normative knowledge to support to the WTO Committee on Agriculture, and further enhancing collaboration on sanitary and phytosanitary measures. We also note the opportunity greater collaboration brings to work with the WTO and the OECD on key agricultural policy reforms, including repurposing environmentally harmful agricultural subsidies. In line with the commitment by FAO Management to continued open and transparent communication with Members, we request FAO provide finalised partnership agreements to Members including, where appropriate, MoUs, workplans and other key initiatives.</p>
<p>New Zealand (Wednesday, 20 November 2024 – 22.17)</p>	<p>New Zealand supports FAO’s efforts to work with other UN system entities, including the World Health Organization, the International Labour Organization, the World Organisation of Animal Health, and the World Trade Organization to align social protection, health, trade policies and food security with the broader goals of the SDGs. It is critical that UN organisations work together and avoid overlap or duplication.</p> <p>We request FAO provide finalised partnership agreements with UN entities to Members including, where appropriate, MoUs, workplans and other key initiatives.</p>
<p>United Kingdom (Wednesday, 20 November 2024 – 22.31)</p>	<p>The UK welcomes the regular updates to Members on FAO’s work to collaborate with the wider UN system, across the humanitarian-development-peace nexus. Only through effective and efficient partnerships can the Sustainable Development Goals be achieved. This means moving away from siloed and sectoral ways of working, towards approaches that coordinate and complement to transform food systems for people, planet and prosperity.</p> <p>As such, the UK appreciates FAO’s efforts to align with UNSDG prioritisation of alignment of UNCT policy and programmatic frameworks with UN entities’ expertise, leveraging interagency pooled funds and joint programmes. Ensuring that food systems are a visible issue that cut across UNSDCFs and CCAs is crucial, and so we welcome FAO’s efforts on alignment. This is in line with the recent MOPAN report’s commentary on development of FAO CPFs, including in ensuring that FAO directly engages with targeted communities in its planning.</p> <p>Equally, FAO and agrifood systems issues can play an important role in relevant contexts in joining up efforts between UN Country Teams and Humanitarian Country Teams in support of double (or triple) hatted UN Resident Coordinators and Humanitarian Coordinators. In this regard, the UK welcomes efforts taken by FAO to deepen its partnerships with the Resident Coordinator system, including increasing the numbers of Resident Coordinators participating in the accountability mechanisms of FAO Representatives, including performance management. We encourage FAO to continue to take steps to improve this partnership and look forward to FAO’s next Interim Report on the QCPR to be issued at FAO Conference in 2025.</p> <p>The UK also welcomes MOUs with various UN system entities, including ILO, UN-Habitat and the WTO. We would welcome seeing the results of these MOUs presented to the relevant Governing Body meetings. The same is true for the successes (and challenges) from the global tripartite MOU between the three Rome-Based Agencies of the UN. We note the Joint Inspection Unit report’s findings about joint programming and initiatives helping to build synergies and mainstream UN-wide strategies and policies. For these reasons, the UK asks FAO management to continue helping to facilitate joint meetings of the Governing Bodies of the Rome-Based Agencies, as an important accountability and</p>

collaboration function. This will be particularly important as we look ahead to ensuring food systems are taken into due consideration at the Fourth Financing for Development Conference in Seville in 2025.

On One Health, the UK appreciates FAO's continued commitment to the Quadripartite, including its efforts at the High-Level Meeting on Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) during the UN General Assembly High-Level Week in September. The UK welcomes the ambitious Political 2nd Declaration on AMR adopted at the High-Level Meeting and notes the Report of the FAO Committee on Agriculture's 29th Session's calls for Kenya and the UK to lead an open-ended Working Group to draft a Conference Resolution on the issue. The UK continues to call for the Quadripartite to effectively balance different elements of a One Health approach, and requests that FAO continue its engagement with the mechanism and its entities at the highest levels.

Beyond One Health, there are a number of other thematic issues where FAO collaboration is important – for example, on emergencies and resilience, nutrition, climate and nature, and gender. On emergencies and resilience, we note the positive work of the Global Network Against Food Crises, FAO's engagement in the Inter-Agency Standing Committee, and FAO's co-leadership of the Global Food Security Cluster, as well as FAO's collaboration on resilience issues to ensure effective division of labour across the UN system. On nutrition, the UK welcomes FAO's work as part of UN-Nutrition and with the wider Scaling Up Nutrition Movement (including at the national level, with Government Focal Points), and we note the successful inaugural Rome Nutrition Week in June this year, to which FAO contributed significantly, as well as the launch of the RBA-wide Group of Friends of Nutrition in November.

On climate and nature, FAO must continue to be ambitious in its engagement with other UN system entities, including under the auspices of the three Conferences of the Parties (UNFCCC, UNCCD, UNCBD). This includes ensuring adequate financing is flowing to agrifood systems to support both adaptation and mitigation. The UK welcomes FAO's participation in specific initiatives such as the Vision for Adapted Crops and Soils (VACS) and looks forward to engaging further with the FAO-CGIAR VACS Partnership. On gender, the UK notes the supporting document for this item's highlighting of FAO's participation in a number of relevant mechanisms and networks, as well as its work ahead of the 30th Anniversary of the Beijing Platform for Action next year. We hope that the Commit to Grow Equality Initiative, of which the UK is a member, will help contribute to the process and elevate the needs of women and girls in agrifood systems.

The UK welcomes FAO's engagement in the UN efficiency agenda, and some of the achievements outlined in the supporting document. However, we noted that the update contained no information on outcomes of the internal FAO UN Efficiency Board and the guidance and strategic direction it has set on FAO's participation in UN business operations (detailed in the Interim Report on the QCPR presented to the 43rd Session of FAO Conference). We would welcome more detail on the activities of this Board, as well as further detail on how the UN efficiency Agenda is being factored into work on FAO decentralisation reform, not least given the supporting document's mention of the difficulties of high transaction costs, uneven geographical distribution of expertise and capacity gaps, and other challenges.

Finally, the UK welcomes FAO hosting the UN Food Systems Coordination Hub and looks forward to further updates on preparations for the +4 stocktaking moment next year. In this regard, the UK welcomes the positive discussion at the

	<p>139th Session of the FAO Programme Committee between its Members and the Director of the UN Food Systems Coordination Hub and hopes that further opportunities can be found – in the Governing Bodies and between Governing Body sessions – to have member state discussions with the Coordination Hub.</p>
<p>Norway on behalf of the Nordic countries (Thursday, 21 November 2024 – 17.14)</p>	<p>Thank you for the update on FAO’s collaboration with other UN system entities and for providing information on collaboration on a number of important areas like Gender, One Health, HDP nexus, Environment, Nutrition, AMR etc. To maximise the impact of actions and programmes, to avoid overlaps and to increase the efficiency and effectiveness of available financial and human resources, cooperation among the Rome-based Agencies as well as all other relevant UN organizations in-country, on the ground is critical.</p> <p>We welcome the focus on the repositioning of the UN development system, country-driven partnerships, UN Resident Coordinators and Country Teams.</p> <p>We welcome the global tripartite MoU, recognising that RBA collaboration is built on a broad spectrum of work that spans from responding to emergencies and shocks, to humanitarian and long-term development activities.</p> <p>The joint FAO and WFP strategy on anticipatory action (AA), as well as the related updates on the impacts of AA work is also important in this regard.</p> <p>The Nordics note and welcome the cost savings and improved operational efficiency FAO has made as a result of the BOS, CBO and CP.</p> <p>The Nordics also appreciate the information about the limitations and challenges, important to understand to overcome. The Nordics look forward to support FAO’s work with the G20 Global Alliance against Hunger and Poverty, including on how to strengthen coordination.</p> <p>The Nordics would also welcome information on how the UN Food Systems Coordination Hub fosters coordination. The Nordic countries would welcome more details on how FAO collaborates and coordinates its work with multilateral development banks, such as the World Bank and African Development Bank.</p> <p>We underscore the importance of not just measuring the quantity of collaborations, but also their quality. FAO should create baselines, clear metrics of success, and ensure that they measure impact and the contribution of collaborations in helping us achieve Agenda 2030.</p> <p>The Nordic countries highlight that collaborations should capitalise on FAO’s unique comparative advantage as the utmost provider of technical and normative expertise that contributes to evidence-based guidance and good practice for food systems solutions.</p> <p>The administrative burden, reporting and monitoring responsibility, and financing should also be shared across collaborations and build on each organisation’s comparative advantage.</p> <p>The Nordic countries have been longstanding supporters of the UN Development System Reform. It is important to ensure that the reform of the UN Development System keeps moving forward and is fully implemented.</p> <p>The Nordic countries highlight the prerequisite that the UN delivers as One UN at the country level. We would like to see more reporting on how FAO implements UN reform.</p>