

## 171st Session of the Council

### Written Correspondence Procedure – inputs from Members - English version

#### Item 12 - Progress Report on Rome-based Agencies collaboration

Member Name	Comments
<p>Chile (Monday, 14 November 2022 – 17.16)</p>	<p>Chairperson,</p> <p>Global problems require joint responses. This principle lies at the root of multilateralism and international cooperative action.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. The report we have seen shows how the three agencies have worked together to progress towards achieving objectives at global, regional and national levels.</li><li>2. Regretfully, as we are all aware, the COVID-19 pandemic, climate change, latent conflicts between states and the economic crisis have led to setbacks in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and food security at global level. Our duty is to work together to foster certainty and hope for the people on all our continents who long for social development, peace and stability by:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• getting back to basics and charting a road map;</li><li>• resetting priorities;</li><li>• stepping up coordination and collaboration between and among the public and private sectors and civil society;</li><li>• encouraging partnerships and avoiding duplication of efforts; and</li><li>• supporting the UN Secretary-General and the Joint Coordination Centre (JCC) in the Black Sea Grain Initiative, in order to extend its lifetime.</li></ul></li><li>3. We would like to highlight the work done in 2022 by FAO, IFAD and WFP in three areas:<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1) the Russia-Ukraine situation, which prompted in-depth discussions within the UN General Assembly, the Global Crisis Response Group, the G-7 and G-20, and the UN Security Council, leading to firm proposals in response to the food crisis; 2) the follow-up to the Food Systems Summit, regarding the functions of the joint Coordination Hub within the Committee; and 3) the Committee on World Food Security (CFS).</li></ol></li></ol> <p>The issues that require concerted attention are: firstly, addressing the impact of the Russia-Ukraine conflict on food security issues, advocating for continued commitment by nations to urgently transform agrifood systems in order to</p>

	<p>increase their efficiency, inclusiveness, resilience and sustainability, all crucial elements if we are to achieve the SDGs since the lack of consensus means that the final CFS report could not be adopted; and secondly, to resume negotiations on the Guidelines on Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment in the Context of Food Security and Nutrition.</p>
<p>Japan (Wednesday, 16 November 2022 – 16.09)</p>	<p>Japan welcomes the <i>Progress Report on Rome-based Agencies (RBAs) collaboration</i>.</p> <p>In addition to the prolonged impacts of COVID-19, the aggression against Ukraine by the Russian Federation is worsening food insecurity and malnutrition. Under such circumstances, it is important for the RBAs to collectively call for urgent action to address the global food security crisis in high-level global fora including the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA), the Global Crisis Response Group (GCRG), the G7 and G20.</p> <p>Towards strengthening the global food security, in addition to emergency food assistance, we emphasize the necessity of mid- and long-term approaches to build more resilient and sustainable agriculture and food systems. Japan expects further cooperation among RBAs in the mid- and long-term, going beyond the current crisis.</p> <p>Moreover, it is important to support evidence-based decision making and promote policy coordination for ensuring transparency of the food and fertilizer markets and preventing both arbitrary measures and abuse of the resources for political purposes. From the point of view, we encourage the three Agencies to continue providing up-to-date and objective data and information, market assessment and outlooks through tools such as Agricultural Market Information System (AMIS).</p> <p>The document states that, as a part of RBAs collaboration activities at regional and country level, more than USD 16 billion has been provided since 1977 to almost 400 IFAD-funded projects through the partnership between the FAO Investment Centre and IFAD. We would appreciate seeing them in time-series, i.e. the number of projects and the amount invested each year.</p>
<p>European Union (Friday, 18 November 2022 – 11.08)</p>	<p>Chairperson,</p> <p>I am honoured to write to you on behalf of the European Union and its 27 Member States regarding the above-mentioned agenda item for the 171st Session of the FAO Council.</p> <p>We welcome the Rome-based Agencies’ (RBAs) Progress Report, which gives a good overview of the activities implemented at global, regional and country levels for the period 2021-2022. We call upon FAO to continue to improve collaboration with the World Food Programme (WFP) and the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), focusing on five long-term priorities and the set of recommendations resulting from the 2021 evaluation. In the future, we would welcome an analysis of the challenges of RBA collaboration and plans on how to address them.</p> <p>We commend the RBAs for their coordinated efforts and collaboration in response to the global food crisis exacerbated by Russia’s war of aggression against Ukraine. We appreciate the central role they have played in supporting countries, local non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and other UN agencies, particularly through short and long-term measures, policies and analytical support in mitigating the consequences of the crisis.</p>

	<p>We acknowledge the RBAs’ collaboration and active involvement in the follow-up to the UN Food Systems Summit. The RBAs represent a key player in the transformation to sustainable and resilient global food systems. In this regard, we emphasise the importance of continued RBA support to the Committee on World Food Security (CFS), including through financing and staffing, and of ensuring that the CFS, its High-Level Panel of Experts (HLPE) and its products, remain an integral part of the RBAs’ follow-up activity to the Food Systems Summit.</p> <p>We welcome the annual preparation of <i>The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World</i> (SOFI) reports, which serve as an important scientific basis for discussions involving the CFS, RBAs and the larger UN system.</p> <p>We express our full support for strengthened RBA collaboration, including the efforts to effectively respond to the global food and fertilizers crisis or food systems transformation.</p> <p>We welcome the launch by the RBAs of the national home-grown school feeding (HGSF) programmes and encourage the RBAs to continue their support to school meals programme for better food security and nutrition. With these comments, we welcome the Progress Report.</p>
<p>United States of America  (Wednesday, 23 November 2022 – 14.18)</p>	<p>The United States welcomes ongoing efforts by the UN Rome-based Agencies (RBAs) to strengthen collaboration at the global, regional, and country levels. The international community soberly acknowledges that in addition to a global pandemic, pressures and shocks from climate change and existing conflicts, Russia’s unprovoked and unjustified invasion of Ukraine, illegal purported annexation of agricultural lands, and use of the Black Sea as a geopolitical pawn further imperils global food security and sustainable development. This compounded global food crisis calls for enhanced humanitarian and development coordination among the RBAs and all relevant partners at the regional, country and headquarters levels, including determining and leveraging each agency’s comparative advantages and strengths – to do more with less. We recognize that each agency has a specific mandate and role in addressing hunger and food security, but in a world of increasing crisis and finite resources, the RBAs must work together more closely.</p> <p>We note the important collaboration between FAO and IFAD through the FAO Investment Center on projects addressing development and climate adaptation needs, which in 2021 supported over \$USD 600 million in investment across 10 projects and are poised to expand projects with the Green Climate Fund. As the document states, the RBA’s must more broadly position themselves in global initiatives and play a more pivotal role in the UN system-wide response to global food and nutrition challenges. We urge FAO, working with WFP and IFAD, to think creatively about how to use your convening power and expertise in food security to more concretely address the food crisis, including leveraging all the agencies’ recent private sector engagement strategies and commitments to science and innovation.</p> <p>Finally, we encourage continuous assessment of the enablers and challenges in each context, as well as the sharing of lessons learned from RBA collaboration to avoid competition and duplication of efforts.</p>
<p>Africa Regional Group</p>	<p>The Republic of Guinea and the Republic of Congo issue this statement on behalf of the Africa Regional Group (ARG) under Item 12 of the Agenda of the 171st Session of the Council.</p>

(Wednesday, 29  
November 2022 –  
13.56)

The Africa Regional Group welcomes the policy of collaboration among the three United Nations Rome-based Agencies (RBAs) in the context of the repositioning of the United Nations system, the promotion of sustainable solutions for the transformation of agrifood systems and the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Among the issues raised, the evaluation report reveals that "with the intensification of the major drivers behind food insecurity and malnutrition (i.e. conflict, climate change and economic shocks) the world is drifting away from achieving the 2030 global targets".

Thus, despite the tireless efforts made by the RBAs in humanitarian crisis situations, the ARG notes with concern the constant increase from year to year in the number of people suffering from hunger and plunged into extreme poverty in the world, and Africa is not spared from this. Presumably, if the root causes of the aforementioned global food crisis, including the lack of financing, the energy crisis and the health crisis are not addressed, the work of the RBAs, notwithstanding the effectiveness and efficiency of their collaboration, will not meet the targets set for the achievement of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 1 and 2.

In addition, the report refers to "shrinking donor resources and increased competition among UN Agencies". Taking this situation into account and the fact that most of the causes that affect the work of the RBAs are exogenous to their mandate and fall within the purview of UN specialized agencies, the ARG encourages the strengthening of collaboration and coordination of United Nations RBAs around the humanitarian-development-peace nexus and remains attentive to the independent evaluation of the efficiency gains resulting from the synergies of interventions in the field. In this perspective, the RBAs are called upon to develop common guidelines in order to avoid competition and overlap among them.

The ARG also welcomes RBA collaboration in the framework of:

- the implementation of the Joint Programme for the Sahel in Response to the Challenges of COVID-19, Conflict and Climate Change (SD3C) in Burkina Faso, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Senegal and Chad and looks forward to feedback from this initiative with a view to a possible scale-up;
- support to the G-20 Sherpa Group;
- the United Nations Food Systems Coordination Hub;
- South-South and Triangular Cooperation; and
- gender-related matters.

Finally, the ARG urges the RBAs to leverage positive experiences of collaboration and gradually focus on resource mobilization around the common initiatives of the food security hub of the 2030 Agenda of which they form essential pillars.

	<p>With these comments, the ARG takes note of and welcomes the <i>Progress Report on Rome-based Agencies collaboration</i>.</p>
<p>Russian Federation (Friday, 2 December 2022 – 10.55)</p>	<p>We are grateful to the Secretariat for the Progress Report on Rome-based Agencies (RBAs) collaboration. Undeniably, the agrifood organizations play a special role in countering the effects of the current food crisis at the global, regional and national level, within the scope of their clearly established constitutional mandates. We support this work to strengthen the efforts of the RBAs, minimize shared costs and increase the overall impact and effectiveness of joint actions, including by “splicing” administrative structures and some supervisory functions.</p> <p>We assume that the RBAs will use their capacity to combat the root causes of the crisis. The topic of the agencies’ collaboration should not be used by individual countries to continue their politicized assessment of the situation in the Ukraine.</p> <p>In developing joint work for the future, we attach great importance to taking into account the recommendations resulting from the evaluation of the effectiveness of RBA collaboration, presented in the framework of the independent evaluation of collaboration in 2021. In the context of the current report, we would have liked to have seen the results of the evaluation of these recommendations, which called for renewal of the coordination architecture and raising the overall quality and effectiveness of collaboration. This is extremely topical in view of the upcoming extension of the 2018 RBA Memorandum of Understanding. Unfortunately, in the current material the Secretariat has placed the emphasis only on programmatic cooperation, which, as summarized in the 2021 independent evaluation, is characterized by the absence of clear separation of powers on the ground as a result of a lack of understanding of respective mandates, according to the comparative advantages of each RBA, in the first instance FAO and WFP.</p> <p>As regards the RBA response measures to the current food crisis, as is known, on the basis of the Memorandum, each organization shall contribute to strengthening global food security in accordance with its constitutional mandate. The format of RBA collaboration is not called upon to create new programmatic priorities for cooperation between organizations in the UN system. We note with regret that the RBAs, under pressure from donors, are taking on tasks and functions formulated in the context of separate initiatives by a group of countries without the required discussion and agreement with Member Nations of FAO. We are thinking, first of all, of the European Union-promoted Global Alliance for Food Security and the Food and Agriculture Resilience Mission (FARM). These projects have a certain political bias in the context of the current situation in Ukraine. They have not received support at the level of the United Nations organization and organizations in the UN system.</p>