



منظمة الأغذية
والزراعة
للأمم المتحدة

联合国
粮食及
农业组织

Food
and
Agriculture
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the
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des
Nations
Unies
pour
l'alimentation
et
l'agriculture

Organización
de las
Naciones
Unidas
para la
Agricultura
y la
Alimentación

CONFERENCE

Thirty-fourth Session

Rome, 17 – 24 November 2007

Programme Implementation Report 2004-2005

(Extract from the Report of the Hundred and Thirty-first Council Session)

(November 2006)

PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION REPORT 2004-2005¹

22. The Council welcomed the concise and more focused document and noted that the Programme Implementation Report (PIR) 2004-05 took due account of previous guidance from the Governing Bodies. In particular, it appreciated the clear reporting of achievements, including the integration of reporting on regional dimensions and extra-budgetary resources at the programme level.

23. The Council recalled that the PIR was an important accountability tool, covering both resource utilization and delivery of outputs in a given biennium. It took note of the reduction of programmatic fragmentation as demonstrated by the substantially-reduced number of planned biennial outputs compared with the previous biennium, and encouraged the Secretariat to continue this effort, contributing to efficiency and effectiveness, and to adopt a strategic approach leading to a more focused prioritization of objectives and activities. The Council recognized that an assessment of programme results and impacts was covered by auto-evaluation, and by independent programmatic and thematic evaluations.

24. The Council endorsed and elaborated upon the requests of the Programme and Finance Committees for further improvements in reporting on programme implementation in the next PIR:

- articulation of programme achievements or lack thereof in the context of planned and expected results, including more quantitative analysis of outputs produced and the results of auto-evaluations;

¹ C 2007/8; CL 131/PV/5; CL 131/PV/6; CL 131/PV/11.

- more in-depth analysis on the contribution of TCP projects to areas within FAO's mandate, including their overall catalytic role and relation to FAO's programmes, including through support to capacity-building, as well as reporting on regional dimensions;
- inclusion of the contribution of collaboration with partners, in particular the Rome-based UN Agencies; and
- clearer presentation of the regional dimensions.

25. The Council was satisfied that the overall delivery under the Regular Programme had included full utilization of budgeted resources. It noted the record of achievements in the biennium and progress achieved on efficiency savings and coverage of certain languages. The Council recalled that the FAO Gender and Development Plan of Action provided a framework for mainstreaming of gender concerns in FAO's programme entities and projects, that all programme entities planned their contributions to the Plan at output level, and that a separate biennial implementation report was provided to Conference.

26. While noting the improved gender balance and a more equitable geographic representation among the staff of the Organization, the Council encouraged the Secretariat to continue to pursue specific measures aimed at redressing the gender balance in the Professional and higher categories of staff and addressing the concerns regarding the variance in desirable ranges of geographic representation. It was, however, noted that the Secretariat should continue employing experts based primarily on their merit.

27. Many Members recalled the fundamental importance of the Technical Cooperation Programme, and requested the Secretariat to maintain the budget allocation and accelerate the delivery. In that respect, they requested the Secretariat to present proposals to strengthen the technical cooperation activities of the Organization.

28. The Council received clarification on the initiation of consultative multi-stakeholder processes to develop voluntary guidelines for planted forests and for fire management. The Secretariat stressed the voluntary nature of these guidelines. Some Members indicated that FAO had not been given a mandate to develop legally-binding instruments in these areas. It was explained that this work had been initiated at the request of countries and stakeholders in several of the Organization's Technical Committees. It was noted that this work was ongoing and would be brought to the attention of the Eighteenth Session of the FAO Committee on Forestry in March 2007.

29. The Council endorsed the document for transmission to the Conference taking into consideration the above comments.