

43rd Session of the Conference

Written Correspondence Procedure – inputs from Members - Original version

Item 14 – Progress report on the Quadrennial Comprehensive Policy Review of Operational Activities for Development of the United Nations System

Member Name	Comments
Argentina (Monday, 12 June 2023 — 13.07)	<p>En el marco del procedimiento de comentarios escritos, establecido para abordar temas específicos de la agenda del 43º período de sesiones de la Conferencia de FAO, la Representación Permanente de la República Argentina tiene a bien compartir los siguientes comentarios.</p> <p>La Argentina reconoce el aumento significativo en las contribuciones voluntarias movilizadas en el bienio 2021-2022 en comparación con el período anterior. Es alentador ver que el objetivo de 1.700 millones de USD fue superado, estableciendo un nuevo récord de 2.140 millones de USD de recursos anuales movilizadas en 2022. Esto demuestra el creciente compromiso y apoyo hacia la FAO.</p> <p>Sin embargo, sería beneficioso contar con un mayor desglose de los donantes para identificar a aquellos actores relevantes comprometidos con la FAO. Aunque se mencionan los Estados Miembros, bancos de desarrollo, el sector privado y fondos para el clima y el medio ambiente como parte de los 144 asociados que contribuyen recursos, no se proporciona información específica sobre quiénes son estos donantes. Conocer quienes son los principales donantes y su nivel de compromiso (como sucede en el Programa Mundial de Alimentos) podría ayudar a evaluar mejor la sostenibilidad y la diversidad de los recursos financieros de la FAO.</p> <p>Además, sería relevante tener más detalles sobre el aumento del 208% en los recursos procedentes de fondos verticales e instituciones financieras internacionales, así como del aumento del 183% en las donaciones del sector privado, principalmente de fundaciones. Comprender el origen de estos recursos adicionales podría proporcionar información valiosa sobre las áreas de mayor apoyo y las oportunidades para fortalecer las asociaciones existentes o buscar nuevas alianzas estratégicas.</p> <p>Por otro lado, la Argentina resalta el significativo trabajo de la FAO en su participación y liderazgo en los mecanismos mundiales y nacionales de coordinación, eficiencia y asociación de las Naciones Unidas. Estas acciones demuestran un compromiso sólido con la colaboración global y la búsqueda de soluciones conjuntas conforme los objetivos de la resolución (A/RES/75/233).</p> <p>Sin embargo, es fundamental recordar que la transformación de los sistemas agroalimentarios además de situarse estratégicamente en el centro de la Agenda de las Naciones Unidas para el Desarrollo Sostenible debe ser una realidad. Esto necesariamente implica considerar las capacidades, prioridades y contextos locales, evitando soluciones universales que podrían no ser adecuadas para todas las situaciones, y por lo tanto cómplices de una agenda, aunque central, sin sustancia ni resultados concretos.</p>

	<p>Cada país y comunidad tiene sus propias características y desafíos únicos en relación con la agricultura, la seguridad alimentaria y el desarrollo sostenible. Por lo tanto, es esencial que la FAO continúe fortaleciendo su enfoque en la adaptabilidad y contextualización de sus programas y políticas para abordar las necesidades específicas de cada realidad en el terreno. Esto implica colaborar estrechamente con los actores locales, escuchar sus voces, ofrecer el amplio abanico de soluciones posibles, existentes y concretas, y garantizar una participación activa e inclusiva en el diseño e implementación de las estrategias nacionales.</p>
<p>The Russian Federation (Monday, 12 June 2023 — 17.17)</p>	<p>Российская Федерация принимает к сведению промежуточный доклад, содержащий развернутую информацию об участии ФАО в реализации резолюции ГА ООН 75/233 (декабрь 2020 г.). Отмечаем существенные результаты ФАО в мобилизации добровольных взносов (в 2021-2022 гг. - 3,6 млрд долл.; плюс 38% к периоду 2019-2020 гг.) и расширении донорской базы (до 144 структур, включая государств-члены, банки развития, организации частного сектора, климатические и экологические фонды) в первую очередь на реализацию стратегической рамочной программы на 2022-2031 гг. Вместе с тем обращаем внимание на то, что 85% всех мобилизованных ресурсов предоставили 20 крупнейших партнеров, а 53% из них – «пятерка» доноров. Приветствуем последовательное выполнение ФАО обязательств по договору о финансировании ООН, в т.ч. посредством участия в многостороннем целевом фонде ООН и других гибких инструментах финансирования для поддержки реализации ЦУР на страновом уровне под руководством резидентов-координаторов. Поддерживаем вклад ФАО как четвертого крупнейшего учреждения ООН по уровню присутствия на местах в переориентацию программ и мероприятий системы развития ООН на конкретные потребности принимающих стран в части, касающейся преобразования агропродовольственных систем и осуществлении таких инициатив, как программа Генсека ООН «Наша общая повестка дня».</p>
<p>United Kingdom (Monday, 12 June 2023 — 18.11)</p>	<p>In the context of multiple crises, including global food insecurity – exacerbated by Russia’s invasion of Ukraine – that are intensified by climate shocks, it is even more important that every entity of the UN Development System(UNDS) coordinates and collaborates to maximise its comparative advantage so that the system becomes more than the sum of its parts. The United Kingdom (UK) therefore welcomes FAO’s report on the implementation of the Quadrennial Comprehensive Policy Review (QCPR), which notes good progress on realising key UN Reform initiatives to improve the efficiency, effectiveness, coherence and relevance of the UNDS.</p> <p>The UK welcomes FAO’s continued support to the Resident Coordinator system and work actively contributing to Common Country Analyses and UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Frameworks. As the fourth largest UN entity in terms of field presence, we urge FAO to take a leading role in the reforms – including enhancing focus on providing integrated policy support in country as mandated by the QCPR and increasing efforts to leverage scaled-up finance and investment in country.</p> <p>Given the myriad of challenges being faced in many countries, we need to be able to harness the full expertise of the UN system – including improving the regional architecture. We therefore welcome the work of Regional and Subregional Offices to deliver the FAO Strategic Framework 2022-31, with strengthened technical expertise. We would like to ask for information on what measures FAO has put in place to ensure there is a clear mandate between offices, so host Governments know where to access expertise.</p>

	<p>The UK welcomes the establishment of the internal UN Efficiency Board to oversee FAO's effective engagement in the efficiency agenda. To maximise money reaching those in need, resources and premises should be shared. We look forward to following plans to accelerate this work in the coming year as well as to reviewing the findings of the Efficiency Board and their implementation.</p> <p>In the year of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) Summit, we welcome FAO's commitment to working in coalition with the UNDS to leave no one behind. UN priorities for the Summit include transformative actions that will help maximise progress across multiple SDGs, and as FAO notes, transformation of agrifood systems provides a unique opportunity to address other major development challenges. We welcome the focus to mainstream climate and biodiversity, gender equality, disability and youth. We encourage FAO to regularly share data on monitoring and reporting of results.</p>
<p>Switzerland (Tuesday, 13 June 2023 — 8.45)</p>	<p>La Suisse remercie le Secrétariat du rapport intérimaire qui met en lumière le suivi apporté par la FAO aux résolutions de l'Assemblée générale des Nations Unies relatives aux activités opérationnelles de développement du système onusien.</p> <p>Le nouveau cadre stratégique 2022-2031 de la FAO intègre les recommandations du QCPR (Quadrennial Comprehensive Policy Review) approuvées par l'Assemblée générale des Nations Unies en décembre 2020 (A/RES/75/233). Nous encourageons la FAO de continuer à aligner sa planification stratégique et son cadre de résultat sur le cycle du QCPR et de présenter régulièrement ce point de l'ordre du jour aux organes directeurs de la FAO.</p> <p>La Suisse soutient le renforcement de l'efficacité, de la cohérence et de transparence du système de développement onusien tant au niveau global, régional que local. Nous encourageons ainsi la FAO à mettre en place des indicateurs clairs pour refléter sa contribution à des initiatives communes exécutées avec différents partenaires, ainsi que des indicateurs spécifiques reflétant la contribution spécifique de la FAO à la mise en œuvre du QCPR.</p> <p>La Suisse encourage la FAO à continuer de faire rapport sur sa contribution au Plan d'action à l'échelle du système des Nations Unies sur l'égalité des sexes et l'autonomisation des femmes. La Suisse souligne également l'importance d'améliorer la disponibilité de statistiques sexospécifiques dans les domaines de l'agriculture et du développement rural.</p>
<p>Canada (Tuesday, 13 June 2023 — 10.21)</p>	<p>Canada thanks FAO for the Quadrennial Comprehensive Policy Review (QCPR) reporting at this critical juncture. We share the concerns raised in the Report: the world is not on track to reach the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and we are falling behind on SDG 2: Zero Hunger. An already dire global food security situation has been further exacerbated by Russia's invasion of Ukraine.</p> <p>Canada supports a more coherent and coordinated UN response to development challenges at country-level through the strategic leadership of the Resident Coordinator. This includes strengthened joint analysis and programming; improved synergy across peacebuilding and humanitarian work; and greater advocacy and policy dialogue with partners aligned with international standards and norms. FAO has a critical role to play here.</p> <p>We encourage FAO to apply and coordinate UN system-wide approaches in the response to the current global food crisis and future crises, building on the global response to the COVID-19 pandemic.</p>

	<p>Canada also expects implementation of efficiency reforms – especially in-country – by consolidation of operations, increased data interoperability, use of common premises and common back offices with other UNDS entities. We also encourage the use and improvement of relevant data collections to include more effective system-level SDG monitoring and reporting.</p> <p>In conclusion, we urge FAO and other UNDS entities to prioritize partnerships in all their work, including analysis, policy support, programming and advocacy. We believe that fully implementing UNDS reforms will take us one step closer to reaching the SDGs.</p>
<p>European Union (Thursday, 15 June 2023 — 19.35)</p>	<p>I am honoured to write to you on behalf of the European Union (EU) and its 27 Member States. Bosnia and Herzegovina, Moldova, San Marino, Serbia, and Türkiye align themselves with this statement. The European Union and its 27 Member States note FAO’s progress in implementing the Quadrennial Comprehensive Policy Review (QCPR) in the context of the United Nations development system (UNDS), as decided in General Assembly Resolution 75/233.</p> <p>We welcome the information that FAO mobilised USD 3.6 billion in voluntary contributions in 2021-2022 and that the Organization was able to widen the resource partner base. At the same time, we need to be mindful of the stability and predictability of budget execution, so that FAO can plan and implement the Programme of Work with greater certainty and consistency. We call for the development of a comprehensive vision for the funding of the Organization including the use of assessed and voluntary contributions, and the management of the various funding arrangements and their contribution to the achievement of the Organization’s objectives and the Strategic Framework 2022-31 in an effective, efficient and transparent way.</p> <p>Furthermore, we appreciate the new Annual and Monthly Funding Overview webpages, which strengthen the openness and transparency of FAO.</p> <p>We recognize FAO’s important role in putting the transformation of agriculture and food systems at the centre of sustainable development and appreciate FAO’s alignment of strategic priorities to better harmonize with the UNDS. It is essential that we further reduce duplication and generate synergies at country level. We note with concern ongoing competition for resources between UN agencies. We call upon FAO to strengthen efforts to programme and deliver based on the Organization’s comparative advantages, and avoid being driven by individual agency funding targets. We also call upon FAO to continue to fully integrate UN coordination in standard operating procedures, rather than view it as an additional task.</p> <p>We welcome the empowerment of the Decentralised Offices and recognize their important role in facilitating partnerships between many different actors at both subregional and regional level. We welcome that great strides have been made in coherence, cooperation and collective action at country level. We want to emphasize that it is essential for FAO to support Resident Coordinator’s (RC) in-country leadership. RCs need to be enabled and empowered – through the active support of all country team members – to utilize their convening power and bring the system together for enhanced delivery.</p> <p>We recognize FAO’s work on resilience and its role in the Humanitarian-Development-Peace nexus and appreciate the work that is done by the Organization while stressing the importance of a multi-perspective and multistakeholder</p>

approach in addressing food insecurity. As evident in Figure 4 of document C 2023/6, FAO is already working closely with other UN organizations at country level, especially with the Rome-based Agencies, and we encourage further collaboration between FAO, The World Food Programme (WFP) and the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) at all levels. We again would like to flag the pivotal role of the RC/HC in advancing UN shared values and norms regarding human rights, including gender equality, and in consolidating the UNDS's offer and coordinating interventions across the Humanitarian – Development – Peace nexus. Especially collaboration on peacebuilding seems to remain challenging. We therefore welcome the UN Secretary General's request to identify ways to strengthen support, and we encourage FAO to actively engage in this.

We welcome FAO's work as part of the Global Network against Food Crises, which was launched jointly by the European Union, FAO and WFP following the first World Humanitarian Summit in 2016.

The EU is conscious of the major setbacks that the COVID-19 pandemic, the climate crisis, economic downturns and, not least, the multiple armed conflicts have caused for the implementation of the Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development. The EU and its 27 Member States fully support FAO's work towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals and will continue to be a strong partner for FAO in the future.