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Food and Agriculture
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Продовольственная и
сельскохозяйственная организация
Объединенных Наций

Organización de las
Naciones Unidas para la
Alimentación y la Agricultura

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COUNCIL

Hundred and Seventy-first Session

Rome, 5-9 December 2022

Report of the Joint Meeting of the 134th Session of the Programme Committee and 194th Session of the Finance Committee (Rome, 7, 8, 9 and 11 November 2022)

Executive summary

In its Report of the Joint Meeting of the Programme and Finance Committees:

- 1) **makes specific recommendation for decision by the Council** on: the update on the Strategic Exercise of the Technical Cooperation Programme (TCP); integrated water resources management for food security and climate resilience; the strategic policy framework on multilingualism; and the establishment of the Committee on Fisheries Sub-Committee on Fisheries Management;
- 2) **brings to the attention of the Council for its endorsement**, its conclusions regarding: the update on FAO Country Programming Frameworks (CPFs); the Progress Report on Rome-based Agencies Collaboration (RBAs); and the update on the UN Food Systems Coordination Hub;
- 3) **informs the Council** of the Joint Meeting's considerations related to: the Annual Report on Corporate Policy, Processes and Measures on the Prevention of Harassment, Sexual Harassment and Sexual Exploitation and Abuse.

Suggested action by the Council

The Council is invited to:

- 1) **endorse** the recommendations of the Joint Meeting on:
 - a) The update on the Strategic Exercise of the Technical Cooperation Programme (TCP);
 - b) Integrated water resources management for food security and climate resilience;
 - c) The strategic policy framework on multilingualism; and
 - d) The establishment of the Committee on Fisheries Sub-Committee on Fisheries Management.
- 2) **endorse** the conclusions of the Joint Meeting on:
 - a) The update on FAO Country Programming Frameworks (CPFs);
 - b) The Progress Report on Rome-based Agencies collaboration (RBAs); and
 - c) The update on the UN Food Systems Coordination Hub.
- 3) **note** the Joint Meeting's considerations on:
 - a) The Annual Report on Corporate Policy, Processes and Measures on the Prevention of Harassment, Sexual Harassment and Sexual Exploitation and Abuse.

Queries on the substantive content of this document may be addressed to:

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Introductory Items

1. The Joint Meeting submitted its Report to the Council.
2. In addition to the Chairperson, H.E. (Ms) Yael Rubinstein (Israel), Ms Imelda Smolčić Nijers (Uruguay), the Chairperson of the Finance Committee, and the following representatives of Members were present:

H.E. (Mr) Carlos Bernardo Cherniak (Argentina)	H.E. (Mr) Miguel García Winder (Mexico)
Ms Lynda Hayden (Australia)	Ms Jenny Reid (New Zealand) ²
H.E. (Mr) Fernando José Marroni de Abreu (Brazil)	Ms Tahirou Rahila Rabiou (Niger)
Mr Maarten de Groot (Canada)	Ms Bjørg Skotnes (Norway)
Mr LI Bo (China)	Mr Tomás Duncan Jurado (Panama)
Mr Mina Rizk (Egypt)	Mr Denis Cherednichenko (Russian Federation) ³
Mr Kaba Urgessa Dinssa (Ethiopia)	Ms Saadia Elmubarak Ahmed Daak (Sudan)
Mr Michel Lévêque (France) ¹	Ms Pernilla Ivarsson (Sweden)
H. E. (Ms) Neena Malhotra (India)	Ms Ratchanok Sangpenchan (Thailand) ⁴
Mr Kuraya Yoshihiro (Japan)	Mr Rodney Hunter (United States of America) ⁵
Ms Traoré Halimatou Kone (Mali)	Mr Kayoya Masuhwa (Zambia)

3. Iraq and Saudi Arabia were not represented.
4. The Joint Meeting thanked the Director-General for his comprehensive statement and appreciated his leadership of the Organization in these very unprecedented times.

I. Adoption of the Provisional Agenda

5. The Joint Meeting adopted the Provisional Agenda for the Session.

II. Update on the Strategic Exercise of the Technical Cooperation Programme (TCP)

6. The Joint Meeting:
 - a) appreciated the open, transparent and inclusive consultation process on the TCP Strategic Exercise;
 - b) noted that FAO Governing Bodies should review regional TCP resource shares every four years in line with the Medium Term Planning cycle, and emphasized the need to periodically review the criteria and their respective weights with more scenarios on which regional shares are based;
 - c) appreciated the harmonized principles for TCP resource allocation within regions, noting they ensure greater uniformity while keeping the required flexibility to respond to regional specificities in line with guidance from Regional Conferences; and
 - d) recommended that the Council endorses for approval by the 43rd Session of the FAO Conference the following regional TCP resource shares to be applied starting with the 2024-25 biennium as indicated as the “Example 1” in document JM 2022.2/2: Africa 40.3%; Asia and the Pacific 24.5%; Europe 8.3%; Latin America and the Caribbean 18.3%; Near East and North Africa 8.6%.

¹ Mr Michel Lévêque was designated to replace Ms Delphine Babin-Pelliard.

² Ms Jenny Reid was designated to replace Mr Donald G. Syme.

³ Mr Denis Cherednichenko was designated to replace Mr Vladimir V. Kuznetsov for the Session.

⁴ Ms Ratchanok Sangpenchan was designated to replace Mr Thanawat Tiensin.

⁵ Mr Rodney Hunter was designated to replace Ms Jennifer Harhigh.

III. Update on FAO Country Programming Frameworks (CPFs)

7. The Joint Meeting:
- a) acknowledged that, in line with the UN development system repositioning, the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) serves as the polestar of all UN country-level activities;
 - b) encouraged FAO to continue its strong efforts to build a culture of transparency enabling broad and swift access to the Organization's activities;
 - c) noted that the timing of the UNSDCF process is negotiated between the Resident Coordinator and the government;
 - d) appreciated the Organization's efforts to adjust the FAO Country Programming Framework (CPF) process to ensure that it is now fully derived from the UNSDCF;
 - e) noted the progress to-date and welcomed the active participation of FAO Country Offices in the formulation, negotiation and adoption of UNSDCFs and FAO CPFs by the governments;
 - f) underlined that the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are the framework for FAO's Programme Priority Areas (PPAs) and the country results planned in the UNSDCFs/CPF;
 - g) commended FAO on its ongoing efforts to put in place mechanisms to more fully bring to bear FAO's wealth of technical, policy and investment capacity at country level;
 - h) reaffirmed the importance of CPFs linking directly with the FAO Strategic Framework 2022-31, and highlighted that the value of the CPF information could allow more efficiency of FAO's work in the field;
 - i) requested that in time for the next cycle of the Governing Bodies meetings in the spring of 2023, FAO make available to Members, as appropriate, all endorsed CPFs in one single place; and
 - j) recommended to continue discussion of this topic at its next Joint Meeting sessions on the process for CPF development, endorsement and availability among Members.

IV. Integrated water resources management for food security and climate resilience

8. The Joint Meeting:
- a) took note of the document CL 171/6 - *Integrated water resources management (IWRM) for food security and climate resilience* and recognized the importance of IWRM for the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), in particular food security, climate change and sustainable agrifood systems;
 - b) stressed that further debate on water at FAO would be an opportunity to recall that Members should redouble efforts to fully implement the SDGs and promote sustainable development in its three dimensions;
 - c) welcomed the development of initiatives for sustainable agricultural water management, addressing the impacts of water scarcity, drought and floods on agrifood systems, as guided by the FAO Strategy on Climate Change 2022-2031, and encouraged FAO to continue seizing the growing momentum ahead of the UN 2023 Water Conference, including consideration of Indigenous Peoples' approaches;
 - d) underlined the need to mainstream integrated water resources management in relevant Programme Priority Areas (PPAs) and to implement programmatic actions with sufficient resources, including from international financial institutions, resource partners and voluntary contributions by Members in line with FAO's mandate;
 - e) recognized that there are no one-size-fits-all solutions and recommended FAO, within its mandate, in close collaboration with relevant UN agencies under coordination of UN-Water, to support Members, upon request, in their efforts in contributing to country-led national water dialogues and developing their national water roadmaps in

support of SDGs, as appropriate, while also taking into consideration regional perspectives; and

- f) supported water resources management to be considered as the topic for the general debate of the 43rd Session of the Conference and as the biennial theme for Governing Body sessions in 2024-25, and recommended the Council to endorse this proposal for approval by the 43rd Session of the Conference.

V. Progress Report on Rome-based Agencies collaboration

9. The Joint Meeting:

- a) welcomed the Progress Report and recognized concrete achievements arising from strengthened Rome-based Agencies (RBAs) collaboration, especially at country level, in line with the recommendations from the *Joint evaluation on collaboration among the United Nations Rome-based Agencies*;
- b) stressed the importance of close collaboration of RBAs in the context of the current food crises, including on the topic of fertilizers;
- c) encouraged continuous assessment of the enablers and challenges as well as sharing of lessons learned from RBA collaboration;
- d) encouraged further strategic collaboration within the framework of the UN development system (UNDS) repositioning, based on each Agency's comparative advantages and building on complementarities, in order to continue achieving substantial efficiency gains, greater coherence and better results in support of Members' priorities for global food security;
- e) encouraged FAO to engage creatively with the RBAs using the recently adopted Strategies on Private Sector Engagement, Science and Innovation, and Climate Change to collaborate on the response to the current global food crises;
- f) underscored that FAO shall be guided by its agreed mandate in RBA collaboration including on non-UN system wide initiatives; and
- g) looked forward to further deliberations on RBA collaboration including during the next informal joint meeting of the Governing Bodies of the RBAs.

VI. Annual Report on Corporate Policy, Processes and Measures on the Prevention of Harassment, Sexual Harassment and Sexual Exploitation and Abuse

10. The Joint Meeting:

- a) welcomed the comprehensive updates provided in the *Annual Report on Corporate Policy, Processes and Measures on the Prevention of Harassment, Sexual Harassment and Sexual Exploitation and Abuse*;
- b) recognized the continuous progress made in alignment with UN system-wide initiatives and inter-agency collaboration in this regard, commended FAO's enhanced work to promote a victim/survivor-centred, transparent, accountable, dynamic, engaged and ethical workplace, and encouraged FAO to share its learning from building capacity with other UN agencies;
- c) commended the Organization for carrying out the second FAO Employee Satisfaction Survey and noted the results of the Survey;
- d) highlighted the importance of accessibility and usability of the policies, in particular from the perspective of potential complainants, including those most vulnerable in emergency contexts; and
- e) encouraged FAO to continue strengthening its policies and practices on protection from sexual exploitation, abuse, harassment, sexual harassment, discrimination and abuse of authority, ensuring a victim/survivor-centred approach and looked forward to updates at future sessions.

VII. Strategic policy framework for multilingualism

11. The Joint Meeting welcomed the strategic policy framework for multilingualism, and in particular:
- a) stressed that multilingualism is a fundamental characteristic of FAO as an international, intergovernmental agency and implies the use of all six FAO languages in the delivery of the Organization's mandate;
 - b) commended the appointment of a Corporate Coordinator for Multilingualism and the associated role in coordinating Organization-wide efforts for implementation of the strategic policy framework;
 - c) stressed the importance of multilingualism in human resources policies;
 - d) appreciated that progress on implementation of the policy framework will be reported on through the Programme Implementation Report and Human Resources Annual Report, amongst others, and called for the publication of regular data on the implementation of the FAO policy on multilingualism;
 - e) recognized that the policy framework should be subject to review and potential update in the future, in consultation with Members through relevant Governing Bodies;
 - f) noting the surge in the provision of language goods and services since 2019, appreciated the efforts made by the Organization within the context of available resources, especially those using non-FAO languages with the support of voluntary extra-budgetary resources; and
 - g) recommended the 171st Session of the Council to endorse the strategic policy framework for multilingualism.

VIII. Establishment of the Committee on Fisheries Sub-Committee on Fisheries Management

12. The Joint Meeting:
- a) concurred with the proposal endorsed by the 35th Session of the Committee on Fisheries (COFI35);
 - b) recommended the Council to consider and endorse the proposal contained in the document COFI/2022/6 *Enhancing COFI discussion including Recommendations of the Working Group on the Proposal of the Establishment of the Sub-Committee on Fisheries Management* which includes the plan to hold the Sub-Committee on Fisheries Management (SCFM) first meeting before the 36th Session of COFI in virtual modality, taking into consideration financial and administrative implications; and
 - c) welcomed the voluntary contributions from Members towards the organization of sessions of the Sub-Committee, and encouraged Members, observers and other stakeholders to contribute to the multi-donor fund.

IX. Update on the UN Food Systems Coordination Hub

13. The Joint Meeting:
- a) welcomed the briefing on the current status and operations of the UN Food Systems Coordination Hub, and recognized the progress achieved;
 - b) appreciated the support provided to the Hub by FAO and other UN system organizations;
 - c) recalled the Report of the Council at its 168th Session requesting that the Coordination Hub should not create new structures and should not replicate existing UN functions and capacities;
 - d) noted that the Hub has started to provide technical support to countries on implementing their national food system pathways, and emphasized the importance to continue and augment the support to more countries;
 - e) understanding that the Executive Office of the UN Secretary-General will be proposing main aspects for the modality of the Food Systems Stocktaking Moment to be organized in

2023, requested the Hub to provide more details about the event once they are available;
and

- f) looked forward to receiving regular updates, including a progress report at a future session of the Joint Meeting.