

## 166<sup>th</sup> Session of the Council

### **Report of the 130<sup>th</sup> Session of the Programme Committee (22-26 March and 6 April 2021)**

The 130<sup>th</sup> Session of the Programme Committee was held from 22 to 26 March and its Report was adopted 6 April 2021, which is submitted to the Council in document CL 166/9.

The Programme Committee had twenty items on its agenda, including five items for information. The session was conducted virtually on an exceptional basis due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Committee reviewed the Strategic Framework 2022-31 and the Medium Term Plan 2022-25 and Programme of Work and Budget 2022-23 at length. Members of the Committee welcomed the strategic narrative around the *four betters* to contribute to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), in particular SDG 1, 2 and 10, as well as the twenty Programme Priority Areas that represent themes where the Organization has a comparative advantage, track record and ability to act. Members also appreciated FAO's move to an SDG-based framework and the alignment of both documents with the repositioning of the UN development system (UNDS). The Committee recommended the Council to further review the documents before their submission to the 42nd Session of the Conference.

The Committee welcomed the findings in the Mid-term Review Synthesis Report – 2020, noting that the 2020 Outputs were delivered in a context of unprecedented challenges raised by the COVID-19 pandemic. Regarding the Hand-in-Hand Initiative, Members appreciated that it is now benefiting 36 countries and that the inception process for a majority is nearing the milestone of agreement on the nature of the country programme, and the flexibility to enable broader access to Hand-in-Hand methodologies, data platforms, training, partnering mechanisms and investment support.

The Committee recommended the Council to approve both the Vision and Strategy for FAO's Work in Nutrition as well as the Terms of Reference of the International Platform for Digital Food and Agriculture. The Committee was updated on FAO policies on Protection of Data and Intellectual Property Rights, the UN Food Systems Summit and FAO's work in food systems and the new Strategy for Private Sector Engagement.

The Committee reviewed the FAO Action Plan on AMR 2021-2025 and the 2021-23 Action Plan for the Implementation of the FAO Strategy on Mainstreaming Biodiversity across Agricultural Sectors, and recommended further informal consultations with Members on these two action plans with their revised versions to be submitted to the 166<sup>th</sup> Session of the Council for its consideration.

The Committee also reviewed and discussed two evaluation items and their respective Management responses: FAO's role and Work on Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR), and FAO's support to climate action (SDG 13) and the implementation of its Strategy on Climate Change.

*H.E. Hans Hoogeveen, Ambassador. Chairperson of the Programme Committee*