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COUNCIL

Hundred Fiftieth Session

Rome, 1-5 December 2014

Report of the Joint Meeting of the 116th Session of the Programme Committee and 156th Session of the Finance Committee (5 November 2014)

Executive Summary

The Joint Meeting of the Programme and Finance Committees brings to the attention of the Council its findings and recommendations on:

- a) Independent review of governance reforms (paras. 4-6)
- b) Report on the implementation of the Strategies for partnerships with civil society and with the private sector (para. 7)
- c) Progress report on language balance in FAO's products (paras. 8-10)

Suggested action by the Council

The Council is requested to endorse the findings and recommendations of the Joint Meeting.

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**REPORT OF THE JOINT MEETING OF THE
HUNDRED AND SIXTEENTH SESSION OF THE PROGRAMME COMMITTEE
AND HUNDRED AND FIFTY-SIXTH SESSION OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE**

Rome, 5 November 2014

INTRODUCTION

1. The Joint Meeting submitted its Report to the Council.
2. In addition to the Chairperson, Her Excellency Cecilia Nordin van Gansberghe (Sweden), and Mr MOUNGUI MÉDI, Chairperson of the Finance Committee, the following representatives of Members were present:

Mr R. Ayazi (Afghanistan)	Mr V. Sharan (India)
Ms K. Boubekeur (Algeria) ¹	Mr O. Kubota (Japan)
Mr G.O. Infante (Argentina)	H.E. P. Carvalho Soto (Mexico)
Mr M. Worrell (Australia)	Mr M. Nahi (Morocco)
Ms N. Feistritz (Austria)	Mr M. Hooper (New Zealand)
Mr O. Vieira (Brazil)	Mr K. Mehboob (Pakistan)
Mr E. Robinson (Canada)	Mr V. V. Kuznetsov (Russian Federation) ²
H.E. Jingyuan Xia (China)	Ms A. Malik Osman (Sudan)
Mr J.A. Carranza (Ecuador)	Ms C.E. Grieder (Switzerland)
Mr A.G. Aseffa (Ethiopia)	Ms N. Brown (USA)
Mr G.F. Cramer (Germany)	Mr H. Shoja'adin (Yemen)
Mr A. Traoré (Guinea)	

Introduction

3. The Joint Meeting welcomed the Director-General's address,³ as well as the informal discussion.

Independent review of governance reforms⁴

4. The Joint Meeting appreciated this thought-provoking draft report and its quality and looked forward to discussing the contents in-depth after the report is finalized in December 2014 after the 150th session of the Council.
5. The Joint Meeting appreciated the fact that reforms at FAO had led to more dynamic governing bodies, and welcomed the greater degree of trust among Members, and between the membership and the Secretariat. It provided guidance for the finalization of the report on a wide range of issues, including:
 - a) clarify and articulate better the definitions, substance, practicability and potential benefits of proposals, including on priority setting, ministerial segments, use of external expertise, format of governing body reports, and status of regional conferences;
 - b) avoid proposals or recommendations which may undermine the trust dividend achieved so far;

¹ Ms K. Boubekeur attended the Joint Meeting as silent observer

² Mr V. Navara attended part of the Joint Meeting

³ <http://www.fao.org/about/who-we-are/director-gen/faodg-statements/detail/en/c/264659/>

⁴ CL 150/9

- c) provide a clearer description of the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters (CCLM) and its role;
 - d) recognize the contributions of regional conferences within the system of governing bodies, and their unequivocal status in the governance framework of FAO;
 - e) take into account budgetary implications of the recommendations;
 - f) include a graphic representation of progress made, current problems and recommendations to facilitate Member States' discussions;
 - g) include comparison of the functioning of technical committees; and
 - h) use language in line with the Basic Texts on FAO's international functions.
6. The Joint Meeting also requested a brief outline for the 150th session of the Council on overall governing body architecture of FAO.

**Report on the implementation of the Strategies for partnerships with civil society
and with the private sector⁵**

7. The Joint Meeting warmly welcomed this update and commended the Secretariat for the impressive work undertaken in a short space of time. The Joint Meeting:
- a) recalled the objective and importance of partnerships in supporting the Strategic Objectives, building bridges and increasing FAO's visibility;
 - b) invited the Organization to continue in its outreach efforts to build partnerships with non-state actors at all levels;
 - c) noted the importance of the monitoring and evaluation system with appropriate indicators to ensure that partnerships effectively contribute to FAO's goals, and encouraged the Secretariat to continue its related, ongoing work;
 - d) noted the need for alignment with Country Programming Frameworks;
 - e) stressed the importance of risk management and neutrality in approaching partners; and
 - f) requested for the future specific progress reports on each of the two Strategies containing differentiated information on the different groupings of partners at global, regional and national levels.

Progress report on language balance in FAO's products⁶

8. The Joint Meeting noted the report and strongly underlined the importance of increasing concrete efforts to reach language balance in FAO.
9. To ensure cost efficiency, it requested the Secretariat to seek pragmatic measures, and partners to find service providers at best cost and quality.
10. The Joint Meeting requested a more in-depth report on the matter to be submitted at its next session.

⁵ JM 2014.2/2

⁶ JM 2014.2/3