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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

منظمة
الغذية والزراعة
للأمم المتحدة

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COUNCIL

Hundred and Fifty-first Session

Rome, 23-27 March 2015

Report of the 117th Session of the Programme Committee (Rome, 9-13 March 2015)

Executive Summary

The Programme Committee examined a number of matters relating to programme planning and evaluation, in particular with regards to:

- a) Mid-term Review Synthesis Report – 2014 (para. 4)
- b) Medium Term Plan 2014-17 (Reviewed) and Programme of Work and Budget 2016-17 (para. 5)
- c) Status Report on Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) (para. 6)
- d) Terms of reference for the independent evaluation of the evaluation function (para. 7)
- e) Follow-up to the Evaluation of FAO's role in investment for food and nutrition security, agriculture and rural development (para. 8)
- f) Follow-up to the Evaluation of FAO's Regional and Subregional Offices for Europe and Central Asia (para. 9)

The Committee brings its findings and recommendations on these and other matters to the attention of the Council.

Suggested action by the Council

The Council is requested to endorse the findings of the Programme Committee, as well as its recommendations on matters within its mandate.

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

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REPORT OF THE HUNDRED AND SEVENTEENTH SESSION OF THE PROGRAMME COMMITTEE

Rome, 9-13 March 2015

Introduction

1. The Committee submitted to the Council the following report of its Hundred and Seventeenth session.
2. In addition to the Chairperson, Her Excellency Cecilia Nordin van Gansberghe (Sweden), the following representatives of Members were present:

Ms K. Boubekeur Ameur (Algeria)

Mr J.A. Carranza (Ecuador)

Mr G.O. Infante (Argentina)

Mr A.G. Aseffa (Ethiopia)

Ms N. Feistritz (Austria)

Mr V. Sharan (India)

Mr E. Robinson (Canada)

Mr M. Hooper (New Zealand)

H.E. Jingyuan Xia (China)

Ms C.E. Grieder (Switzerland)

Mr H. Shoja'aadin (Yemen)

Election of the Vice-Chairperson

3. The Committee decided unanimously to reconfirm Mr Gustavo Infante of Argentina as Vice-Chairperson of the Programme Committee for the current session.

Mid-term Review Synthesis Report – 2014¹

4. The Committee welcomed the Mid-term Review Synthesis Report 2014 and:
 - a) welcomed the good progress and results achieved in implementation of the Programme of Work and Budget 2014-15 so far;
 - b) appreciated that delivery in the biennium was on track, with 82 percent of the Output indicators showing good progress;
 - c) encouraged the Organization to continue its efforts on areas identified with moderate progress;
 - d) reiterated the importance of reporting on progress on the Regional Initiatives as representing priorities for the regions;
 - e) appreciated the good delivery rate of resources under all sources of funds;
 - f) emphasized the need for a good monitoring system for measuring results and to serve as an analytical base for decisions;
 - g) highlighted that formulation of indicators and monitoring against targets was an ongoing process.

¹ PC 117/5 – FC 157/7

Medium Term Plan 2014-17 (Reviewed) and Programme of Work and Budget 2016-17²

5. The Committee appreciated the Medium Term Plan 2014-17 (Reviewed) and Programme of Work and Budget 2016-17 document for its concise and well-structured presentation, as well as the clarifications provided by the Secretariat. The Committee:

- a) commended the identification of trends and developments in the Medium Term Plan, namely Post-2015 development agenda, climate change, transboundary plant and animal pests and diseases, nutrition, and urbanization and migration;
- b) supported the higher-priority areas of work identified in the Programme of Work and Budget, including the mainstreaming of nutrition as a cross-cutting theme, and increased efforts in South-South Cooperation and requested further information on resource allocation trends to these priority areas;
- c) endorsed the programme of work proposed in the document;
- d) welcomed the explicit articulation of areas of de-emphasis and realignment, and requested further information in this regard;
- e) appreciated the fact that guidance from the Regional Conferences was incorporated in the document;
- f) endorsed the proposed increase of the Technical Cooperation Programme to help Small Islands Developing States;
- g) appreciated the proposal for a more proactive and tailored approach in respect of middle-income countries in order to better address their specific development needs and their potential in South-South Cooperation;
- h) noted with satisfaction the highlighting of food safety in the headquarters office structure;
- i) encouraged the continued use of partnerships to enable the Organization to leverage its comparative advantages;
- j) encouraged the continued review of capacity and location of human resources and skills mix for optimal delivery of the programme of work;
- k) emphasized the importance of consolidation of decentralization efforts in order to reinforce the holistic work of the Organization.

Status Report on Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR)³

6. The Programme Committee welcomed the clear analysis provided in the status report. In particular, the Committee:

- a) noted with appreciation the leading role FAO had taken within its mandate and the tripartite partnership with WHO and OIE, and stressed the need for cooperation at all levels, including information sharing, establishment of common guidelines, participation in early warning and establishment of monitoring and action systems;
- b) pointed out the large social, economic and environmental impact of AMR;
- c) noted the need for increased awareness, especially at policy levels and encouraged science-based risk management approaches;
- d) supported the adoption by Conference of a resolution on AMR and suggested that the resolution also include consideration regarding resources;
- e) requested to be kept updated at least yearly of FAO's work on AMR.

² C 2015/3

³ C 2015/28

Terms of reference for the independent evaluation of the evaluation function⁴

7. The Committee welcomed the draft terms of reference for the independent evaluation of the evaluation function and:
- a) noted that finalization of the terms of reference could benefit from the report of the Independent Review of FAO Governance Reforms;
 - b) underlined the need for clarity of the role of the Office of Evaluation (OED) in the exercise as it is the primary object of the evaluation itself;
 - c) encouraged the inclusion in the evaluation panel of specialists from other UN agencies with similar business models and needs;
 - d) noted that regional balance in OED evaluation coverage be addressed by the independent evaluation;
 - e) looked forward to receiving continuous updates on the progress of the evaluation.

Follow-up to the Evaluation of FAO's role in investment for food and nutrition security, agriculture and rural development⁵

8. The Committee welcomed the report "Follow-up to the Evaluation of FAO's Role in Investment in Food Security, Nutrition, Agriculture and Rural Development" and the progress made in the implementation of the recommendations. It underlined the importance of the Investment Centre's work and appreciated the alignment of this work with the Strategic Framework and the Strategic Objectives Action Plans. The Committee also:

- a) encouraged continued efforts for implementation of all recommendations;
- b) noted the importance of outreach efforts in further strengthening FAO's ties with financing institutions, expanding partnerships, and increasing voluntary contributions to support their important work;
- c) underlined that close cooperation with the Rome-based agencies, in particular IFAD, was essential and encouraged FAO to pursue its efforts in this regard.

Follow-up to the Evaluation of FAO's Regional and Subregional Offices for Europe and Central Asia⁶

9. The Committee appreciated the Follow-up report to the Evaluation of FAO's Regional and Subregional Offices for Europe and Central Asia. The Committee:

- a) noted with satisfaction that the "One-FAO" approach was now firmly established in the region;
- b) welcomed the extended use of Russian language;
- c) appreciated the establishment of the Gender Network, and looked forward to recruitment of requisite resources;
- d) appreciated the presence of the Chairperson of the European Commission on Agriculture (ECA) in the Committee, who confirmed that ECA was in the process of being revitalized.

Any other business

10. The Committee appreciated the timely despatch of documents for the session, and resolved to revisit possible amendment to the Rules of Procedure in relation to document despatch and election of Vice-Chairperson at a future meeting.

⁴ PC 117/2

⁵ PC 117/3

⁶ PC 117/4