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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-third Session

Rome, 30 November - 4 December 2015

Report of the 118th Session of the Programme Committee (Rome, 2 - 6 November 2015)

Executive Summary

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

- a) Adjustments to the Programme of Work and Budget 2016-17 (para. 4)
- b) Evaluation of FAO's contribution on knowledge on food and agriculture (para. 5)
- c) Evaluation of FAO's contribution to climate change adaptation and mitigation (para. 6)
- d) Follow-up report on the evaluation of FAO's Regional and Subregional Offices for Africa (para. 7)
- e) Evaluation of the Evaluation function (para. 8)

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.

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REPORT OF THE HUNDRED AND EIGHTEENTH SESSION OF THE PROGRAMME COMMITTEE

Rome, 2-6 November 2015

Introduction

1. The Committee submitted to the Council the following report of its Hundred and Eighteenth session.
2. In addition to the Chairperson, His Excellency Serge Tomasi (France), the following representatives of Members were present:

H.E. C. J. Rozencwaig (Argentina)	Mr O. Kubota (Japan)
Mr E. Robinson (Canada)	Mr F.R. Salamh Al Argan (Jordan)
Mr M. Mankoussou (Congo)	Mr M. Hooper (New Zealand)
Mr J.A. Carranza Barona (Ecuador)	H.E. I. Nordang (Norway)
Mr M.N. Camara (Guinea)	Mr A. Halasiewicz (Poland)
Mr V. Sharan (India)	Mr H.A. Shoja'aadin (Yemen)

Election of the Vice-Chairperson

3. The Committee decided unanimously to elect H.E. Claudio Javier Rozencwaig as Vice-Chairperson of the Programme Committee for the term of the Committee June 2015 – July 2017.

Adjustments to the Programme of Work and Budget 2016-17 ¹

4. The Committee:
 - a) welcomed the document reflecting the decisions of the Conference;
 - b) welcomed and endorsed the results framework, targets and indicators, and looked forward to reviewing progress during 2016-17;
 - c) supported the introduction of climate change as a cross-cutting theme under Objective 6;
 - d) noted that resource distributions in Table 2 of document CL 153/3 were consistent with Conference guidance;
 - e) stressed the importance of FAO's work on antimicrobial resistance (AMR), and underlined the importance of fully implementing Conference Resolution 4/2015, including the review of regular reports by the Committee on Agriculture (COAG). In addition, the Committee requested the Secretariat to provide an update at its next session on ongoing and planned activities for the 2016-17 biennium, as well as estimated resource requirements and availability in line with the approved Programme of Work and Budget;
 - f) welcomed the alignment of FAO's Strategic Framework with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and noted there would be opportunity for bringing further coherence while preparing the Medium Term Plan 2018-21;
 - g) welcomed the internal management arrangements for enhanced programme delivery and additional clarifications thereon, including the establishment of Strategic Programme leaders and teams;

¹ CL 153/3

- h) recommended the Council approve the proposed rationalization and streamlining of headquarters' organizational structure, while emphasizing the importance of maintaining the integrity of the technical capacity at FAO headquarters;
- i) encouraged the Secretariat to continue with further efforts on decentralization, and enhancing capacity at decentralized locations;
- j) emphasized the necessity of strengthening the Technical Cooperation Programme (TCP), and welcomed the USD 2 million mobilized so far toward the SIDS² Trust Fund, and encouraged more voluntary contributions from Members and resource partners.

Evaluation of FAO's contribution on knowledge on food and agriculture³

5. The Committee welcomed this evaluation and Management Response, and:
- a) noted the positive findings of the evaluation regarding the relevance, reputation and appreciation of FAO's knowledge products and services;
 - b) supported the two recommendations of the evaluation and appreciated Management confirmation that some actions to address the recommendations were underway, and further actions to implement both the recommendations and the findings of the evaluation would be taken in future;
 - c) underlined the importance of greater participation on the part of users in the design and development of knowledge products and services;
 - d) stressed the importance of greater dissemination and outreach of knowledge products, including through the use of new technologies;
 - e) noted the need for better analysis, targeting and monitoring of users and audience, as well as monitoring of the quality of the knowledge products themselves;
 - f) underlined the importance of partnerships for both the development and dissemination of FAO's knowledge products;
 - g) stressed the role of the decentralized offices network in the production and dissemination of knowledge products, as well as bringing knowledge to the field, and taking into consideration geographic and greater language balance.

Evaluation of FAO's contribution to climate change adaptation and mitigation⁴

6. The Committee welcomed this timely evaluation, and supported its recommendations, and:
- a) welcomed that Management accepted all six recommendations, and noted that actions were already underway for their implementation;
 - b) looked forward to reviewing the Organization's Strategy for its work on climate change at a future session, including delineation of the role and mission for FAO in addressing both adaptation and mitigation issues with regards to agriculture and food security, consistent with its comparative advantages at global, regional, and national levels. In this regard, the Committee requested that a roadmap for developing the Strategy, and its conceptual framework, be submitted to its next session;
 - c) recommended that climate change become a cross-cutting theme under Objective 6, in line with the adjustments to the Programme of Work and Budget 2016-17. Accordingly, the Committee noted that resource requirements, indicators and targets would be developed;

² Small Islands Developing States (SIDS)

³ PC 118/2; PC 118/2 Sup. 1

⁴ PC 118/3; PC 118/3 Sup. 1

- d) emphasized that due attention by the Secretariat be given to effective internal coordination of its work and responsibilities in relation to climate change, both at headquarters and in decentralized locations;
- e) supported FAO's full engagement in the forthcoming Paris COP 21 meeting;
- f) stressed the importance of partnerships at global, regional and national levels, for progressing FAO's work in climate change;
- g) emphasized the importance of regional balance in the choice of countries selected for all future evaluations.

Follow-up report on the evaluation of FAO's Regional and Subregional Offices for Africa (cf. PC 114/2)⁵

7. The Committee took note of this follow-up report and welcomed the progress of implementation of recommendations.

Update on progress on the independent evaluation of the evaluation function

8. The Committee:
- a) recalled the terms of reference for the Evaluation of the Evaluation function were reviewed at its 117th session;
 - b) reiterated the importance of independence of this evaluation and agreed on the roadmap of actions to be taken until presentation of the final evaluation report to the Autumn 2016 session of the Committee;
 - c) agreed that the Office of Evaluation would provide secretariat support to the evaluation, and must consult with the Chairperson and the Vice-Chairperson of the Committee on the selection of the evaluation team and the expert panel;
 - d) agreed that the inception report would be shared with Committee Members at an informal meeting.

Date and place of the Hundred and Nineteenth Session

9. The Committee was informed that its 119th session would take place in Rome from 16 to 20 May 2016.

Any other business

10. The Committee took note of a paper on common critical issues on evaluations of FAO's regional and subregional offices.

11. The Committee endorsed the revised evaluation work plan for 2015-2018 as included in *Appendix 1*.

⁵ PC 118/4

Appendix 1: Revised evaluation work plan for 2015-2018

Session of the Committee and evaluations to be presented	Year(s) conducted
Spring 2015 session	
Synthesis report of evaluations of regional and sub-regional offices	2014
Follow-up report on evaluation of FAO's role in investment for food and nutrition security, agriculture and rural development	2012
Follow-up report on evaluation of FAO's regional and sub-regional offices for Europe and Central Asia	2012
Autumn 2015 session	
Evaluation of FAO's contribution to knowledge on food and agriculture	2014-2015
Evaluation of FAO's contribution to climate change adaptation and mitigation	2014-2015
Follow-up report on evaluation of FAO's regional and sub-regional offices for Africa	2013
Spring 2016 session	
Evaluation of FAO's contribution to the conservation and sustainable use of genetic resources for food and agriculture	2014-2015
Follow-up report on evaluation of FAO's regional and sub-regional offices for Asia and the Pacific	2013
Follow-up report on evaluation of FAO's regional and sub-regional offices for Latin America and the Caribbean	2013
Follow-up report on evaluation of FAO's role in support of crop production	2013
Autumn 2016 session	
Evaluation of FAO's contribution to increase the resilience of livelihoods to disasters (SO 5)	2015-2016
Evaluation of FAO's evaluation function	2015
Follow-up report on evaluation of FAO's contribution in crisis-related transition – Linking relief to development	2014
Indicative rolling work plan of evaluations 2017-2019	
Spring 2017 session	
Evaluation of FAO's contribution to reduction in rural poverty (SO 3)	2016
Follow-up report on evaluation of FAO's contribution to knowledge on food, agriculture and natural resources	2014-2015
Autumn 2017 session	
Evaluation of FAO's contribution to inclusive and efficient agricultural and food systems (SO 4)	2016-2017
Follow-up report on evaluation of FAO's contribution to climate change adaptation and mitigation	2014-2015
Follow-up report on evaluation of FAO's contribution to the conservation and sustainable use of genetic resources for food and agriculture	2014-2015
Spring 2018 session	
Evaluation of FAO's contribution to elimination of hunger, food insecurity and malnutrition (SO 1)	2017
Synthesis of lessons learnt in application of the Country Programme Framework	2017
Autumn 2018 session	
Evaluation of FAO's contribution to integrated natural resource management for sustainable agriculture (SO 2)	2017-2018
Follow-up report on evaluation of FAO's contribution to increase the resilience of livelihoods to disasters (SO 5)	2015-2016