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Продовольственная и  
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منظمة  
الأغذية والزراعة  
للأمم المتحدة

# COUNCIL

## Hundred and Fifty-fifth Session

Rome, 5 - 9 December 2016

### Report of the Joint Meeting of the 120<sup>th</sup> Session of the Programme Committee and 164<sup>th</sup> Session of the Finance Committee (7 November 2016)

#### Executive Summary

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

- a) Rome-based Agencies collaboration (paras. 1-5)
- b) Enhanced Technical Capacity and Consolidation of Programme Management Arrangements in 2016-17 (para. 6)
- c) Roadmap for the independent assessment of technical capacity of the Organization (para. 7)
- d) Progress report on FAO Strategies for partnerships with the private sector and with civil society organizations (para. 8)
- e) Procedure for the selection and appointment of secretaries of Article XIV bodies and other entities hosted in FAO (paras. 9-12)

#### Suggested action by the Council

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

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

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**REPORT OF THE JOINT MEETING OF THE  
HUNDRED AND TWENTIETH SESSION OF THE  
PROGRAMME COMMITTEE AND HUNDRED AND SIXTY-FOURTH SESSION  
OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE**

**Rome, 7 November 2016**

**INTRODUCTION**

1. The Joint Meeting submitted its Report to the Council.
2. In addition to the Chairperson, His Excellency Serge Tomasi (France), and Mr Khalid Mehboob (Pakistan), Chairperson of the Finance Committee, the following representatives of Members were present:

Mr C.A. Amaral (Angola)	H.E. A. Wadhwa (India)
H.E. C.J. Rozenwaig (Argentina)	Mr O. Kubota (Japan)
Ms C. Stephenson (Australia)	Mr F.R. Salamh Al Argan (Jordan)
Mr A.O. Sá Ricarte (Brazil)	Mr B.S. Jiménez Sauma (Mexico)
Mr E. Robinson (Canada)	Mr M. Hooper (New Zealand)
Mr Xie Jianmin (China)	H.E. I. Nordang (Norway)
Mr M. Mankoussou (Congo)	Mr L. Jr. Lazaro (Philippines)
Mr J.A. Carranza Barona (Ecuador)	H.E. Marek Szczygieł (Poland)
Mr K. M.S.H. El Taweel (Egypt)	Mr V.V. Kuznetsov (Russian Federation)
Mr M.N. Nguere Micue (Equatorial Guinea)	Ms A. Malik Osman Malik (Sudan)
Mr H. Thofern (Germany)	Mr T.M. Duffy (USA)
Mr M. Nassir Camara (Guinea)	Mr A. Na'ami Al-Na'ami (Yemen)

**Rome-based Agencies collaboration<sup>1</sup>**

1. The Joint Meeting welcomed document CL 155/12 entitled “Rome-based Agencies collaboration” and commended the three Agencies for its preparation.
2. Members suggested that existing and proposed joint activities, as well as areas for potential collaboration be made more specific and concrete. Furthermore, they could include *inter alia* timelines, joint assessments, suggestions for avoiding overlapping and duplications and mutually beneficial collaborative mechanisms.
3. Members stressed the importance that the collaboration be in line with the demands and priorities of governments and highlighted the need for close collaboration at national and regional levels within the framework of the UN joint collaboration.
4. There was consensus by the Members of the Joint Meeting on the usefulness of holding annual joint meetings of governing bodies of the three Rome-based Agencies, within existing resources.
5. Members agreed that a joint progress report on Rome-based Agencies collaboration be presented annually, taking into account suggestions in paragraph 2 above, to the joint meeting of governing bodies.

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<sup>1</sup> CL 155/12

## **Enhanced Technical Capacity and Consolidation of Programme Management Arrangements in 2016-17<sup>2</sup>**

6. The Joint Meeting noted the contents of the document, appreciated the prior outreach by the Secretariat on the proposals contained therein, and:
- a) welcomed the actions being undertaken by the Director-General aimed at enhancing the technical capacity of the Organization, in particular the re-profiling of administrative positions in the Conference, Council and Protocol Division (CPA), Corporate Services Department (CS), and Shared Services Centre (CSS) to increase capacity in priority technical areas of work, in particular in areas of climate change, fisheries and antimicrobial resistance and South-South Cooperation, while maintaining adequate capacity at decentralized offices;
  - b) welcomed the proposed changes to the organizational structure to strengthen programme management and delivery, on a budget neutral basis, in order to better assist countries in meeting their international commitments, including under the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Paris Agreement on climate change; and submitted them to the Council for approval (Annex 1 to this report) on a budget neutral basis, as follows:
    - i. new Department of Climate, Land and Water (CL) headed by an Assistant Director-General reporting to the Deputy Director-General (Climate and Natural Resources), including related adjustments described in the Annex;
    - ii. new Deputy Director-General (Programmes) (DDP), including related adjustments described in the Annex;
    - iii. new Office of Chief Statistician in DDP described in the Annex.
  - c) appreciated that additional information be provided before the next session of the Council on the budget neutrality of the structural changes, the relationships between the newly created Departments and those already existing, the role of the Chief Statistician, the timing of the change, the conversion of administrative positions to technical positions and the respective timelines.

### **Roadmap for the independent assessment of technical capacity of the Organization<sup>3</sup>**

7. The Joint Meeting noted the roadmap provided by the Secretariat, including the methodology and indicators for the assessment, as well as the terms of reference and curricula vitae of the external consultants. A number of questions were asked regarding the independence of the consultants, their terms of reference and the indicators of the assessment. They noted that further discussion would be undertaken by the 120<sup>th</sup> session of the Programme Committee, with said consultants in attendance.

### **Progress report on FAO Strategy for partnerships with the private sector<sup>4</sup>**

#### **Progress report on FAO Strategy for partnerships with civil society organizations<sup>5</sup>**

8. The Joint Meeting noted the progress reports on FAO Strategies for partnerships with the private sector and with civil society organizations, and welcomed their implementation and continued review as an integral part of the Organization's work.

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<sup>2</sup> JM 2016.2/2

<sup>3</sup> JM 2016.2/3; JM 2016.2/3 Add.1

<sup>4</sup> JM 2016.2/4

<sup>5</sup> JM 2016.2/5

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## **Procedure for the selection and appointment of Secretaries of Article XIV bodies and of other entities hosted in FAO<sup>6</sup>**

9. The Joint Meeting considered document JM 2016.2/6 “Procedure for the selection and appointment of Secretaries of Article XIV bodies and of other entities hosted in FAO,” as well as the deliberations of the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters (CCLM) at its 103<sup>rd</sup> session in October 2016 on the matter, as contained in CL 155/2.
10. The Joint Meeting reviewed the proposal of the FAO Secretariat, including its underlying concerns and expressed a range of views on the matter during its deliberations.
11. While acknowledging the desirability of finding an acceptable solution to this situation, noted that consensus could not be reached at this meeting.
12. The Joint Meeting:
  - a) acknowledged the need to balance the functional autonomy of Article XIV bodies with the responsibilities borne by the Organization for such bodies; and
  - b) stressed the urgency of filling vacant positions of Executive Secretaries of two Article XIV bodies.

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<sup>6</sup> JM 2016.2/6; JM 2016.2/6 Information Note

