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# CONFERENCE

## Fortieth Session

Rome, 3-8 July 2017

## Implementation of FAO Governance Reform Actions

### Executive Summary

At its 39<sup>th</sup> Session in June 2015, the FAO Conference endorsed a series of recommendations arising from the *Assessment of the Independent Review of FAO Governance Reforms*. These recommendations, presented to the Conference as Part II of document C 2015/26 Rev.1, were the outcome of two meetings of an *Open-ended Working Group on the Assessment of Governance Reforms* convened by the Independent Chairperson of the Council in February 2015, as mandated by the 148<sup>th</sup> Session of Council (December 2013). The present document provides information on follow-up actions taken in response to such recommendations.

### Suggested action by the Conference

The Conference is invited to take note of information on follow-up actions taken in response to agreed recommendations of the *Assessment of Governance Reforms*.

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

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1. The present document provides details of the actions taken in response to agreed recommendations.
2. **Recommendation 1 – On the review of Global policy coherence and regulatory frameworks:** The 155<sup>th</sup> session of the Council (December 2016) endorsed “Climate Change and its impact on the work and activities of FAO” as 2018-19 biennial theme, which is submitted to the Conference for approval under document C 2017/35.
3. **Recommendation 2 – On Council’s oversight function:** The Secretariat has increased the focus on results-based data made available to Members in the Programme Implementation Report 2014-15 and the Mid-Term Review Synthesis Report 2016, as well as through informal meetings that allow presentation and in-depth analysis and discussion of issues and documents prior to formal governing body sessions.
4. **Recommendation 5 – On greater support for the ICC when additional responsibilities are attributed:** The established practice of the Independent Chairperson of the Council (ICC) calling on the assistance of the Secretariat according to inter-sessional needs has successfully continued.
5. **Recommendation 6 – On qualifications for the ICC:** A proposed additional reference to the required qualifications of candidates for the office of Independent Chairperson of the Council is submitted to the Conference for approval under document C 2017/LIM/8.
6. **Recommendation 7 – On tracking issues over time:** The Agenda of the Programme and Finance Committees is constructed on the basis of the mandates of the Committees as set out in Rules XXVI and XXVII of the General Rules of the Organization, guidance from the Committees themselves or the Council, as well as cross-cutting or strategic issues, which are periodically reviewed in the programming cycle as required. The Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters is called upon to consider specific items referred to it by the Council or the Director-General by the nature of its mandate.
7. **Recommendation 8 – On qualifications of candidates to Committees of the Council:** The ICC reminded Members of the relevant provisions of the General Rules of the Organization at the Informal meeting with Chairpersons and Vice-Chairpersons of the Regional Groups in preparation for the 156<sup>th</sup> Council Session. In addition, an online nomination form was developed to enable candidates to include their *curricula vitae*, and to ensure improved processing of the document regarding the candidates for the three Council Committees to be tabled at the one day session of the Council following the Conference.
8. **Recommendation 9 – On the review of evaluation and audit reports:** Proposals regarding evaluation and audit reports are reviewed – and cleared with the respective Chairpersons – by Members of the Programme and Finance Committees when considering the Provisional Agenda for their respective sessions. In the case of evaluation reports, the Programme Committee periodically reviews an “Indicative Rolling work plan of strategic and programme evaluation” for endorsement by Council.
9. **Recommendation 10 – On the mandate of Technical Committees during the inter-sessional period:** The recommendation has been mainstreamed into the working practices of each Committee. Further to the advice of the CCLM, which noted the prevalent position through the United Nations system, over the past biennium the Bureaux/Steering Committees have held several meetings in the inter-sessional period focused on establishing the Agenda of the Committees, in coordination with other Committees’ Bureaux, and in reviewing progress for the preparation of the sessions.
10. **Recommendation 11 – On priority-setting by the Regional Conferences:** Although results were provided at the Output- and Outcome-level (see below), guidance by the Regional Conferences on priorities at the regional level focused on Regional Initiatives and emerging issues, including the SDGs. In view of the strong link between FAO’s Strategic Objectives and the SDGs in the Medium Term Plan 2018-21, this will provide the opportunity to better focus priority setting at the regional level in the 2018 round of Regional Conferences.

11. **Recommendation 12 – On information available to the Regional Conferences:** There has been an increase in the range and quantity of results-based data made available to the Regional Conferences, including region-specific tabulation of Output- and Outcome-level results and progress on Regional Initiatives.

12. **Recommendation 13 – On MYPOW format for Council and its Committees:** Council issues are tracked and reviewed as required following inputs and proposals regularly discussed by Members at informal meetings with the Independent Chairperson and at Council Sessions. Council Committees follow their own established practice.

13. **Recommendation 15 – On the scope of thematic evaluations:** A proposal for evaluation of thematic strategies, as well as a Strategy and Action Plan for the Office of Evaluation were reviewed by the Programme Committee at its 121<sup>st</sup> session, and endorsed by Council at its 156<sup>th</sup> Session.