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Food and Agriculture  
Organization of the  
United Nations

Organisation des Nations  
Unies pour l'alimentation  
et l'agriculture

Продовольственная и  
сельскохозяйственная организация  
Объединенных Наций

Organización de las  
Naciones Unidas para la  
Alimentación y la Agricultura

منظمة  
الغذية والزراعة  
للأمم المتحدة

## COUNCIL

### Hundred and Fifty-eighth Session

Rome, 4-8 December 2017

### Report of the 122<sup>nd</sup> Session of the Programme Committee (Rome, 6–10 November 2017)

#### 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 2018-19 (paragraph 4)
- b) FAO Strategy on Climate Change – Reviewed Action Plan Results Framework (paragraph 5)
- c) Evaluation of FAO's contribution to inclusive and efficient agricultural and food systems (SO4) (paragraph 6)
- d) Follow-up report to the Evaluation of FAO's contribution on knowledge on food and agriculture (paragraph 7)
- e) Follow-up report to the Evaluation of FAO's contribution to climate change adaption and mitigation (paragraph 8)
- f) Evaluation of FAO's Contribution to Strategic Objective 5 - Annex on gender (paragraph 9)

The Committee brings its findings and recommendations on these 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 TWENTY-SECOND SESSION OF THE PROGRAMME COMMITTEE

Rome, 6-10 November 2017

### Introduction

1. The Committee submitted to the Council the following report of its Hundred and Twenty-second session.
2. In addition to the Chairperson, His Excellency Johannes Petrus Hoogeveen (Netherlands), the following representatives of Members were present:

H.E. Maria Cristina Boldorini (Argentina)	Mr Fiesal Rasheed Salamh Al Argan (Jordan)
Ms Jennifer Fellows (Canada)	Mr Muhammad Rudy Khairudin Mohd Nor (Malaysia)
Mr Marc Mankoussou (Congo)	Mr Matthew Hooper (New Zealand)
Mr Kanga Kouamé (Côte d'Ivoire)	Ms Claudia Elizabeth Guevara de la Jara (Peru)
Mr Shahin Ghorashizadeh (Islamic Republic of Iran)	H.E. François Pythoud (Switzerland)
Mr Toru Hisazome (Japan)	H.E. Marie-Therese Sarch (United Kingdom)

### Election of the Vice-Chairperson for 2017-19

3. The Committee decided unanimously to elect Mr Marc Mankoussou (Congo) as Vice-Chairperson of the Programme Committee for the term of the Committee July 2017 – June 2019.

### Adjustments to Programme of Work and Budget 2018-19<sup>1</sup>

4. The Committee:
  - a) welcomed the document reflecting the guidance and decisions of the Conference and the outcome of enhanced work planning;
  - b) welcomed Management assurances that the Output and Outcome indicators are underpinned by methodological notes accessible to Members;
  - c) requested Management to clarify which indicators in the results framework would be used to report on progress with FAO's work to implement its antimicrobial resistance (AMR) action plan;
  - d) endorsed the results framework targets and indicators;
  - e) underlined the role of the results framework as a tool for accountability, a communication tool for the work of FAO and a tool for lessons learned;
  - f) noted that Output targets may be updated following review by the Regional Conferences in the first half of 2018, and looked forward to reviewing progress during 2018-19 in the mid-term and end-of-biennium assessment;
  - g) appreciated that the Service Level Agreements for 2018-19 aim to better match deliverables and resources, including identifying technical support needs from technical divisions and regional offices, and leveraging partnerships with national and regional institutions;

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<sup>1</sup> CL 158/3

- h) supported the measures to strengthen programme delivery, in particular the enhanced implementation arrangements under the five Strategic Programmes, especially at country level;
- i) supported measures to monitor systematically the formulation and results of FAO programmes and projects with an aim to improve their quality and include this information in the results framework for the 2020-21 biennium;
- j) noted the updated organizational structure (*Web Annex 3*) and the revised budgeted post establishment (*Web Annex 4*);
- k) supported the revised distribution of the net appropriation by budgetary chapter as reflected in *Table 2* for approval by the Council; and
- l) took note of the updated estimates of extrabudgetary resources (*Table 3*) and encouraged Members to provide voluntary contributions to facilitate achievement of the Strategic Objectives and implementation of the integrated Programme of Work.

### **FAO Strategy on Climate Change - Reviewed Action Plan Results Framework<sup>2</sup>**

5. The Committee:
- a) welcomed the reviewed Action Plan Results Framework;
  - b) noted the reviewed outputs and indicators for FAO Strategy on climate change and welcomed its alignment with the Adjustments to the Programme of Work and Budget 2018-19 Output indicators and targets;
  - c) encouraged development of methodology notes for two or three key indicators;
  - d) welcomed the assurance from Management that FAO's support to countries seeking to access climate financing would focus on food security and nutrition and other areas within FAO's mandate and on the countries most vulnerable to climate change;
  - e) encouraged further partnering engagement with international organizations, including other UN organizations and non-state actors, as well as research organizations active in the area of climate change;
  - f) stressed the importance of collaboration among Rome-based agencies in the area of climate change, while respecting each agency's mandate and encouraged Management to monitor collaboration with IFAD and WFP as a separate indicator in the action plan;
  - g) welcomed the Management's agreement to include a separate Annex reporting on the progress with the climate change Action Plan in the Programme Implementation Report 2018-19 and following reports;
  - h) strongly encouraged the implementation of FAO's Strategy on Climate Change, especially in the field of agriculture, in line with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) related to climate change, and encouraged work in support of climate smart agriculture (CSA) approaches in countries that included them in their Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (INDCs); and
  - i) endorsed the Reviewed Action Plan Results Framework for the Strategy.

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<sup>2</sup> PC 122/2

### **Evaluation of FAO's contribution to inclusive and efficient agricultural and food systems (SO4)<sup>3</sup>**

6. The Committee welcomed the evaluation and the Management Response, and:
- a) noted the positive findings of the evaluation regarding the relevance of SP4 outputs particularly at the country and regional levels; as well as the confidence shown by governments and intergovernmental agencies on FAO's roles and expertise in this area;
  - b) agreed with the six recommendations of the evaluation and appreciated the proposed actions contained in the Management Response to address them;
  - c) noted the importance of an agricultural and food systems approach and urged FAO to support broadening understanding and application of this approach among member countries and relevant partners; and encouraged Management to report on progress as part of the follow-up report on the implementation of the agreed recommendations;
  - d) underlined the importance to intensify work with partners, including non-traditional partners such as sectoral ministries, international financial institutions, private-sector actors and consumer associations;
  - e) stressed the importance of improving outreach and raise awareness on programmatic offerings under SP4;
  - f) supported the proposed action to ensure increased SP4 attention on cross-cutting issues, including gender, climate change and nutrition;
  - g) welcomed the Office of Evaluation assurance that future evaluation reports would provide direct answers to evaluation questions, and provide clear links between these and the reports' conclusions and recommendations; and
  - h) looked forward to the follow-up report on the implementation of agreed recommendations in two years.

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### **Follow-up report to the Evaluation of FAO's contribution on knowledge on food and agriculture (cf. PC 118/2; PC 118/2 Sup.1)<sup>5</sup>**

7. The Committee took note of this follow-up report, and:
- a) expressed appreciation for the important progress made by the Secretariat in the implementation of recommendations;
  - b) encouraged the Secretariat to continue improving the dissemination and quality assurance systems of FAO's knowledge products;
  - c) noted the importance of developing targeted dissemination strategies to reach different types of users of FAO's knowledge products; and
  - d) supported the Secretariat's efforts to gather feedback from users' and peers' on the accessibility, quality and utility of FAO's knowledge products.

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<sup>3</sup> PC 122/3; PC 122/3 Sup.1

<sup>4</sup> Management will provide a follow-up report on progress on implementing the recommendations of the Independent Evaluation of Evaluation Function.

<sup>5</sup> PC 122/4

### **Follow-up report to the Evaluation of FAO's contribution to climate change adaption and mitigation (cf. PC 118/3; PC118/3 Sup.1)<sup>6</sup>**

8. The Committee took note of this follow-up report and welcomed the progress of implementation of recommendations, and:
- a) appreciated the recently launched FAO Strategy on Climate Change responded to the first and foremost recommendation of the Evaluation, as well as to several other recommendations;
  - b) welcomed that the Organization had strengthened its presence and visibility in relevant global and regional fora on climate change and that new and existing partnerships aimed at scaling-up climate action had been developed at all levels of the Organization;
  - c) appreciated that FAO was mainstreaming climate change into the FAO Project Cycle, as well as further integrating gender and capacity development perspectives into climate change work;
  - d) noted ongoing strengthening of capacity in decentralized offices on climate change adaptation and mitigation;
  - e) welcomed FAO had communicated more effectively on the CSA approaches, in countries that included them in their INDCs, to a wide range of stakeholders, and continued its involvement in relevant global and regional alliances; and
  - f) looked forward to implementation of the Strategy in the biennium 2018-19.

### **Evaluation of FAO's Contribution to Strategic Objective 5 - Annex on gender<sup>7</sup>**

9. The Committee:
- a) appreciated the in-depth analysis provided in the document, while noting many of the SO5-related products and services considered in the review were new and required some time before producing significant impact;
  - b) welcomed the assessment in the Annex of the progress that SP5 and the Social Policies and Rural Institutions Division (ESP) had made in implementing the minimum standards set in the FAO Policy on Gender Equality, and looked forward to reviewing the next corporate report on progress on FAO's standards in the Programme Implementation Report 2016-17 at its next session;
  - c) encouraged furthering the assessment of results achieved at regional and country levels in future evaluations;
  - d) stressed the importance of capacity development and partnerships, especially partnership with the Rome-based Agencies, for improving gender equality in the context of resilience initiatives;
  - e) looked forward to progress reporting on the conclusions of this Annex on gender be reviewed at the time of submission of the follow-up report to the Evaluation of SO5;
  - f) reiterated the importance of inclusion of the gender dimension in evaluations; and
  - g) requested Management to bring forward targets for meeting minimum standards set in FAO's Policy on Gender Equality from 2021 to 2019.

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<sup>6</sup> PC 122/5

<sup>7</sup> PC 122/6

### **Any other business**

10. The Committee regretted the late distribution of document PC 122/7 concerning the renewal of the Term of Office of the Director, Office of Evaluation (OED), asked for adequate information to make a merit-based advice possible, and agreed to postpone review of this item at the 123<sup>rd</sup> Special session of the Programme Committee due to take place in Rome on 21<sup>st</sup> November morning at 9.00 hrs.

### **Date and place of the Hundred and Twenty-fourth Session**

11. The Committee was informed that its 124<sup>th</sup> session would take place in Rome from 21 to 25 May 2018, as per the approved Calendar of FAO Governing Bodies and other Main Sessions 2017-18 (CL 157/REP).

12. The Committee recognized the European Regional Conference was scheduled immediately before the Committee and, while cognizant of the two weeks' despatch deadline, urged the Secretariat to provide documents in all languages for the 124<sup>th</sup> session of the Programme Committee as early as possible.