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PROGRAMME COMMITTEE

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**FOLLOW-UP TO THE EVALUATION OF FAO'S ACTIVITIES ON
CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT IN AFRICA**

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

Ms Xiangjun Yao

Director, Office of Knowledge Exchange, Research and Extension (OEK)

(Follow-up Report)

Tel. (06) 570-53579

Mr Robert Moore

Director, Office of Evaluation

(Validation Report)

Tel (06) 570-53903

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1. At its 104th session in October 2010, the Committee considered the *Evaluation of FAO's activities on capacity development in Africa* and the Management Response to that Evaluation.¹ In line with standing practice, after two years the Committee is presented with a report on *Follow-up to the Evaluation of FAO's activities on capacity development in Africa* prepared by FAO management. In addition, following a first experience at the 110th session with the Follow-up to the Evaluation of FAO's role and work related to water, the Committee also is receiving a Validation Report on the Follow-up report, prepared by the Office of Evaluation (OED). This cover page provides the key issues for information on the attached follow-up and validation reports.

Follow-up key issues

2. Good progress is reported on implementation of many of the Evaluation's recommendations in line with the Management Response, and in particular the steps taken in addressing changes in capacity development (CD) programming and uptake of new CD tools and practices; consideration of CD in member countries during the country programming process; and progress made by the Regional Office for Africa in developing national capacities for inclusive policy formulation.

3. The Organization has been able to give attention to nearly all the recommendations of the Evaluation despite their complexity and broad span. Looking forward, the process of preparing the reviewed Strategic Framework and the Medium Term Plan 2014-17 offer opportunities for further addressing the recommendations.

Validation findings

4. The validation process, besides document review, included staff feedback focusing on learning and understanding gained from on-going FAO CD activities in Africa. The findings of the validation report are articulated in two main parts: (i) a section which focuses on the validation of progress made as stated in the follow-up report and (ii) a short strategic discussion of the overall challenges, as emerged in the course of the validation process.

5. The validation report agrees with the overall analysis of the implementation of the Management Response. Since the Evaluation, there has been considerable effort on the supply side, with the production of strategies, guidelines and training material. The majority of staff interviewed underlined the need to support these efforts with the required financial and human resources as well as engagement from Senior Management. They also highlighted the need to strengthen the monitoring efforts to track progress made and to improve the capture and sharing of good practices and lessons. The majority of stakeholders interviewed agree that CD should be understood as one of FAO's longer-term objectives and needs to be reflected in the reviewed Strategic Framework and priorities of the Organization.

Guidance sought

6. The Programme Committee may wish to take note of progress on the follow-up actions by Management and the observations provided in the Validation Report.

¹ PC 104/5; PC 104/5 Sup.1 <http://www.fao.org/bodies/pc/pc104/en/>