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FINANCE COMMITTEE

Hundred and Forty-eighth Session

Rome, 18 - 22 March 2013

Status of Outstanding Recommendations of the Finance Committee

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

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- This document presents the updated status of outstanding recommendations made by the Committee at its previous sessions and is presented in a format which mirrors the Committee's approved Multi-Year Programme of Work for 2010-13. In line with the request of the Committee at its 147th Session in November 2012, the document includes the specific planned dates for those actions which will be addressed at future sessions of the Committee.

GUIDANCE SOUGHT FROM THE FINANCE COMMITTEE

- The Committee is invited to take note of the information presented in this document.

Recommendation	Status
I. FINANCIAL POSITION	
Report of the 140th Session of the Finance Committee – document CL 143/8	
<p>The Committee <u>requested</u> that the Secretariat undertake an analysis of the political and financial effectiveness of the incentive scheme to encourage prompt payment of contributions during the period 2009 to 2013 and present the results of this analysis to the Spring session of the Committee in 2014.</p> <p>- paragraph 12</p>	<p>Superseded by request of 147th Session below (CL 145/7, paragraph 12) and which will be reported to the March 2013 Session of the FC (item 4).</p>
<p>The Committee approved the proposal to reinforce the staffing of the Treasury function in Finance Division through the addition of one professional officer at the P-4 grade, charging the related costs to investment income, and <u>looked forward</u> to receiving the report of implementation of this decision at a subsequent session</p> <p>- paragraph 21</p>	<p>Information to be presented to the March 2013 Session of the FC (item 7).</p>
Report of the 143rd Session of the Finance Committee – document CL 144/12	
<p>The Committee:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>proposed</u> that even greater visibility be given to the status of contributions and arrears by making such information more accessible on the FAO public website, drawing it to the attention of Members attending major FAO meetings and making positive and public appreciation of Members paying contributions on a timely basis; • <u>recommended</u> that further efforts to encourage payment of arrears should emphasise the moral obligation of Members to pay their contributions rather than punitive consequences for late or non-payment. <p>- paragraph 11</p>	<p>Updated information to be presented to the March 2013 Session of the FC (item 4).</p>
Report of the 147th Session of the Finance Committee – document CL 145/7	
<p>The Committee:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • recognising that the underfunding of the Staff Related Liabilities is a recurrent issue, <u>requested</u> that prior to consideration of this matter at the next regular session of the Committee, it be reviewed at an informal meeting of Permanent Representatives and members of the Finance 	<p>Information to be presented at an informal meeting of Permanent Representatives prior to the March 2013 regular Session of the FC.</p>

Recommendation	Status
<p>Committee in the first quarter of 2013, and further <u>requested</u> that the consultation document to be prepared by the Secretariat including a range of options to address this matter should be made available at least 30 days prior to that informal meeting</p> <p>- paragraph 7</p>	
<p>The Committee <u>requested</u> that the Secretariat prepare a report on the status of the Organization's considerations regarding an accountability and internal control framework for its next regular session</p> <p>- paragraph 9</p>	<p>Information to be presented to the October 2013 Session of the FC.</p>
<p>The Committee <u>proposed</u> that the status of implementation of the recommendations arising from the 2010-11 Long Form Report, including the management response to these recommendations, be reviewed at an informal meeting of the Committee in early 2013, prior to its next regular session.</p> <p>- paragraph 9</p>	<p>Information to be considered at an informal session of the FC Members prior to the March 2013 regular Session of the FC.</p>
<p>The Committee (on the <i>Incentive Scheme for Prompt Payment of Contributions</i>):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>requested</u> that the Secretariat undertake an analysis of the effectiveness and costs of administering the incentive scheme and present the results of this analysis to the Spring session of the Committee in 2013, considering a range of options to encourage prompt payment of contributions • <u>requested</u> the Secretariat in future reports on the item to provide information on measures undertaken by the Management to draw attention of member states on their obligation to pay on time and in full. <p>- paragraph 12</p>	<p>Information to be presented to the March 2013 Session of the FC (item 4).</p>

Recommendation	Status
II. BUDGETARY MATTERS	
Report of the 138th Session of the Finance Committee – document CL 141/9	
<p>The Committee <u>requested</u> the Secretariat to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>take account</u> of lessons learned with the first Mid-Term Review (MTR) process so as to improve the format and content of the next MTR Synthesis Report, including financial information on expenditure incurred by budgetary Chapter; and • <u>review</u> and take into account best practices in implementation reporting by other UN agencies, including the level of detail of financial information. <p>- paragraph 25</p>	<p>In progress – Report to be presented at the March 2013 Session of the FC (item 9).</p>
<p>The Committee (on <i>Measures to Improve Implementation of the Organization's Support Cost Policy</i>) looked forward to reviewing proposals at a future session to mitigate the risk associated with Trust Fund project deficits and losses</p> <p>- paragraph 29</p>	<p>Information to be presented to the October 2013 Session of the FC.</p>
Report of the 147th Session of the Finance Committee – document CL 145/7	
<p>The Committee (on the <i>Progress Report on the Immediate Plan of Action Implementation</i>) <u>requested</u> that in the interim, a paper outlining progress on PEMS, mobility policy and the cultural change vision and implementation programme should be provided to Finance Committee members</p> <p>- paragraph 18</p>	<p>The information requested by Finance Committee Members was provided during the fourth Informal Seminar for Permanent Representatives, which was organized on 22 November 2012 and whose agenda covered IPA implementation and Human Resources policies.</p>
<p>The Committee (on the <i>Reviewed Strategic Framework and Outline of the Medium Term Plan 2014-17</i>) <u>looked forward</u> to the further elaboration in the MTP and the Programme of Work and Budget 2014-15 of the objective on Technical Quality, Knowledge and Services, including the development of performance indicators, as well as on the approaches to budgeting and matrix-style management.</p> <p>- paragraph 28</p>	<p>Information to be presented to the March 2013 Session of the FC (item 11).</p>

Recommendation	Status
III. HUMAN RESOURCES	
Report of the 147th Session of the Finance Committee – document CL 145/7	
<p>The Committee:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>requested</u> further information to be presented at its next regular Session regarding (i) tangible steps to reduce recruitment timeframes; (ii) the geographical distribution of Junior Professionals; (iii) progress on further development of the corporate mobility policy; and (iv) progress towards achieving gender and geographic representation targets; • <u>requested</u> a status update on HR policies regarding (i) Delegations of Authority and (ii) Hiring of Retirees, within the context of pursuing a rejuvenated workforce, as well as revised selection procedures for staff, in particular of senior level staff. <p>- paragraph 30</p>	<p>Information on policies for hiring of retirees and selection procedures for senior level staff were provided to FC members by e-mail on 14 November 2012.</p> <p>Information on the remaining items will be presented to the March 2013 Session of the FC (item 12).</p>
IV. ADMINISTRATIVE AND INFORMATION SYSTEMS FRAMEWORK	
Report of the 143rd Session of the Finance Committee – document CL 144/12	
<p>The Committee (<i>on the Progress Report on the Implementation of an Enterprise Risk Management Framework</i>) <u>requested</u> the Secretariat to accelerate progress in order to ensure complete implementation of ERM by end-2013 as scheduled - paragraph 22</p>	<p>Update will be presented to the October 2013 Session of the FC within item on an Accountability and Internal Control Framework.</p>
Report of the 147th Session of the Finance Committee – document CL 145/7	
<p>The Committee (on the Progress Report on the Implementation of the Global Resource Management System) <u>requested</u> that the Secretariat provide additional information on post implementation arrangements and costs at its next session, particularly regarding the full implementation of IPSAS in 2014 and the plans to assess and monitor the realization of the GRMS benefits.</p> <p>- paragraph 36</p>	<p>Information to be presented to the March 2013 Session of the FC (item 13).</p>

Recommendation	Status
V. OVERSIGHT	
Report of the 147th Session of the Finance Committee – document CL 145/7	
<p>The Committee (on the <i>Progress Report on Implementation of the External Auditors Recommendations</i>):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>looked forward</u> to receiving an updated report at its next regular session, including the status of implementation of recommendations included in the Long Form Report on the 2010-11 financial statements; • <u>requested</u> that in future reports information on the office responsible for implementation be included. <p>- paragraph 38</p>	<p>Progress Report to be presented to the March 2013 Session of the FC (item 22).</p>
<p>The Committee (on the <i>Disclosure of Internal Audit Reports</i>) <u>requested</u> the Secretariat to gather information on the audit report disclosure policies implemented by other United Nations agencies and to perform an analysis of the data and present the results to the Committee at its next regular session.</p> <p>- paragraph 40</p>	<p>Information to be presented to the March 2013 Session of the FC (item 18).</p>
<p>The Committee (on the <i>Terms of Reference of the FAO Audit Committee</i>) <u>requested</u> the Secretariat to provide a revised version of the Audit Committee Terms of Reference which reflects the Committee's recommendations at its next regular session in 2013 for endorsement;</p> <p>- paragraph 46</p>	<p>Information to be presented to the March 2013 Session of the FC (item 19).</p>
<p>The Committee (on the Review of Article XIV Statutory Bodies with a view to allowing them to exercise greater financial and administrative authority while remaining with the framework of FAO):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • requested Management to provide further information on the main statutory, administrative and financial characteristics of existing bodies under Article XIV so that it could examine the proposals made in relation to specific bodies; and • decided to re-examine the matter in detail at its session of Spring 2013. <p>- paragraph 50</p>	<p>Information to be presented to the March 2013 Session of the FC (item 21).</p>

Recommendation	Status
<p>The Committee (on <i>Progress on the Financial Disclosure Programme</i>) <u>requested</u> that progress reports on the implementation of the Financial Disclosure Programme be presented at future sessions of the Committee.</p> <p>- paragraph 52</p>	<p>Progress report to be presented to the October 2013 Session of the FC.</p>
VI. IMPROVED METHODS OF WORK AND EFFICIENCY OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE	
Report of the 147th Session of the Finance Committee – document CL 145/7	
<p>The Committee <u>requested</u> that an updated version of the MYPOW be prepared for its next regular session and which should reflect the further editorial corrections suggested by the Committee during their review of the document - paragraph 55</p>	<p>Report to be presented to the March 2013 Session of the FC (item 23).</p>
<p>The Committee (on the <i>Status of Outstanding Recommendations of the Finance Committee</i>) <u>requested</u> that the document include the specific planned dates for those actions which would be presented to future sessions of the Committee - paragraph 56</p>	<p>Report to be presented to the March 2013 Session of the FC (item 24)</p>
<p>The Committee (on <i>Working Methods of the Committee</i>) <u>requested</u> the Secretariat to consider the introduction of information technology tools which would support the review of documentation by members - paragraph 58</p>	<p>For consideration under discussion of working methods of the Committee at the March 2013 Session of the FC (item 25).</p>
OTHER MATTERS	
Report of the 139th Session of the Finance Committee – document CL 143/6	
<p>The Committee (on the Evaluation of FAO's Regional and Subregional Offices for the Near East) <u>requested</u> the Secretariat to share the status of follow-up action on the implementation of the recommendations which fall under the purview of the Committee at a future session – paragraph 8</p>	<p>Information to be presented to the March 2013 Session of the FC (doc PC113/6 - FC 148/INF/3)</p>
Report of the 143rd Session of the Finance Committee – document CL 144/12	
<p>The Committee (on its Approach to the Review of Reports of the Joint Inspection Unit) <u>requested</u> the Secretariat to prepare a summary report on the status of implementation of JIU recommendations on matters of relevance to the mandate of the Committee and that this should be included as a standing item on the Finance Committee agenda - paragraph 42</p>	<p>Report to be presented to the October 2013 Session of the FC</p>