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COUNCIL

Hundred and Fifty-first Session

Rome, 23-27 March 2015

Report of the Joint Meeting of the 117th Session of the Programme Committee and 157th Session of the Finance Committee (11 March 2015)

Executive Summary

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

- a) Medium Term Plan 2014-2017 (Reviewed) and Programme of Work and Budget 2016-17 (paras. 4-6)
- b) Synthesis of Evaluations of FAO Regional and Subregional Offices (paras. 7-9)
- c) Assessment of Governance Reforms, including consideration of the Independent Review Report (para. 10)
- d) Progress on language balance in FAO's products (para. 11)

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:

Rakesh Muthoo
Secretary, Programme Committee
Tel. +3906 5705 5987

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**REPORT OF THE JOINT MEETING OF THE
HUNDRED AND SEVENTEENTH SESSION OF THE PROGRAMME
COMMITTEE AND HUNDRED AND FIFTY-SEVENTH SESSION OF THE
FINANCE COMMITTEE**

Rome, 11 March 2015

INTRODUCTION

1. The Joint Meeting submitted its Report to the Council.
2. In addition to the Chairperson, Mr MOUNGUI MÉDI (Cameroon), and Her Excellency Cecilia NORDIN VAN GANSBERGHE (Sweden), Chairperson of the Programme Committee, the following representatives of Members were present:

Ms K. Boubekeur Ameur (Algeria)	Mr A. Traoré (Guinea)
Mr G.O. Infante (Argentina)	Mr V. Sharan (India)
Mr M. Worrell (Australia)	Mr O. Kubota (Japan)
Ms N. Feistritz (Austria)	H.E. P. Carvalho Soto (Mexico)
Mr O. Vieira (Brazil)	Mr M. Lemghari (Morocco)
Mr E. Robinson (Canada)	Mr M. Hooper (New Zealand)
H.E. Jingyuan Xia (China)	Mr K. Mehboob (Pakistan)
Mr J.A. Carranza (Ecuador)	Mr V.V. Kuznetsov (Russian Federation)
Mr K. M.S.H. Eltaweel (Egypt)	Ms A. Malik Osman (Sudan)
Mr A.G. Aseffa (Ethiopia)	Ms C.E. Grieder (Switzerland)
Mr G.F. Cramer (Germany)	Ms N.E. Brown (USA)
	Mr H. Shoja'adin (Yemen)

Introduction

3. The Joint Meeting welcomed the informal discussion with the Director-General.
Medium Term Plan 2014-2017 (Reviewed) and Programme of Work and Budget 2016-17¹
4. The Joint Meeting welcomed the presentation by the Director-General of the Medium Term Plan 2014-2017 (Reviewed) and Programme of Work of Budget 2016-17. Having considered the outcome of the separate deliberations of the Programme and Finance Committees on the proposals, and noting the spirit of cooperation among Members and with the Secretariat, the Joint Meeting:
 - a) underlined the importance of continuity in the strategic direction of the Organization in the Medium Term Plan and supporting the Programme of Work;
 - b) appreciated the identification of proposed areas of emphasis, de-emphasis and savings and welcomed the proposed reallocation of USD 14.2 million to higher priority areas;
 - c) welcomed the increase in the TCP appropriation to bring it to 14 percent of the net appropriation in line with Conference Resolution 9/89 and to address the impact of climate change in Small Island Developing States.

¹ C 2015/3

5. The Joint Meeting requested the Secretariat to provide further information to facilitate the consideration of the proposals by the Council covering:
- further articulation of areas of emphasis and de-emphasis, including financial quantification;
 - the use of TCP resources to help Small Island Developing States;
 - identification of further efficiency gains and savings without affecting the implementation of the programme of work;
 - the proposed approach for providing FAO services to middle-income countries;
 - suggestions on how to better address the issue of AMR.
6. The Joint Meeting supported the idea of reaching a consensus on the budget level at the 151st session of the Council.

Synthesis of Evaluations of FAO Regional and Subregional Offices²

7. The Joint Meeting reviewed the report “Synthesis of Evaluations of FAO Regional and Subregional Offices”, noting the document presented an executive summary of the more comprehensive report prepared by the Office of Evaluation.
8. However, it was expressed that the original request was to provide a short synthesis document detailing “common critical issues” of the five Evaluations undertaken between 2009-2013. This request was reiterated by the Joint Meeting which requested such a document to be prepared.
9. In reviewing the document, the Joint Meeting:
- endorsed the three recommendations contained in the report;
 - with regard to Recommendation 1, recommended the Council recommend to the Conference an independent review be undertaken, and its findings be submitted, along with Management Views, to the 153rd Session of the Council through the Joint Meeting of the Programme and Finance Committees;
 - endorsed the document for transmission to the Council.

Assessment of Governance Reforms, including consideration of the Independent Review³

10. The Joint Meeting welcomed the final report of the Independent Review, and appreciated the Assessment of Governance Reforms and the efforts of the Independent Chairperson of the Council and the Secretariat in compiling the Assessment through Open-ended Working Group meetings (OEWG). The Joint Meeting:
- reviewed the Assessment of Governance Reforms and noted that it faithfully reflected consensus reached in the OEWG, with the exception of the proposed action for Recommendation 4 on the size of the Council, which could be more accurately expressed as “There is consensus that the outstanding IPA action regarding the size and composition of Council be suspended pending further consultation among Members to reach consensus on this issue.”;
 - took note of views expressed on the access of Article XIV bodies to the governing bodies and proposed that such bodies approach the Independent Chairperson of the Council as needed on an ad hoc basis with a view to the inclusion of an item on the Provisional Agenda of Council;
 - decided to submit the report to the Council for its endorsement.

² C 2015/10; C 2015/10 Sup.1

³ C 2015/25; C 2015/26

Progress on language balance in FAO's products⁴

11. The Joint Meeting took note of the document "Progress on language balance in FAO's products" and:

- a) expressed appreciation for improvements in language balance in the past year;
- b) called for continuous efforts to ensure language balance, particularly for those languages for which progress lagged behind;
- c) requested the Secretariat to report regularly on information on the balanced use of languages.

⁴ JM 2015.1/2