Extract from the Report of the 164th Session of Council (6-10 July 2020)

Programme Implementation Report 2018-19

15. The Council endorsed the findings of the Joint Meeting of the 128th Session of the Programme Committee and the 180th Session of the Finance Committee on the Programme Implementation Report (PIR) 2018-19, and in particular:

   a) welcomed the progress made in implementing the Programme of Work in 2018-19, and the 95 percent result achieved for Output indicator targets, while noting with concern that global progress towards SDG 2 remained off track;
   b) noted with appreciation the 7.2 percent increase in total expenditure compared to the preceding biennium;
   c) expressed its appreciation for the efficiency savings of USD 11.7 million achieved in 2018-19;
   d) appreciated the increase of 17 percent of voluntary contributions mobilised from resource partners in support of FAO’s Programme of Work compared to the previous biennium, emphasised the importance of unearmarked voluntary contributions, and looked forward to the continuation of such trend inter alia through the Investment Centre by close cooperation with a broad range of partners, including the private sector;
   e) noted the reporting on the use of the 2016-17 carryover;
   f) noted with concern the underperformance in several Key Performance Indicators under Functional Objective 10 and requested Management to take remedial action;
   g) recognised the crucial role of FAO’s normative and technical work, and requested FAO use multilaterally-agreed concepts and science- and evidence-based linkages in flagship publications;

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1 C 2021/8; C 2021/8 Web Annexes 7 and 8; CL 164/5 paras. 10-11; CL 164/PV/3; CL 164/PV/8
h) recognised the importance of mainstreaming biodiversity across agricultural sectors, and the use of agroecology, sustainable intensification, no-till farming, and all other innovations and technologies to promote sustainable food systems;

i) stressed the importance of quality, while improving balance, in translations in FAO languages, in accordance with the principle of multilingualism at FAO, and the associated language service capacity within the Organization; and requested information from Management on how to further secure the principle of multilingualism in the Organization be presented to Members prior to the next Council Session;

j) appreciated FAO’s work and activities in relation to climate change and encouraged FAO to continue its support to Members at their request to integrate, as appropriate, food security, nutrition and agriculture into their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) to the Paris Agreement;

k) welcomed FAO’s attention towards achieving sustainable food systems and as such, recalled that transformation of food systems should be encouraged in a coherent manner, as appropriate and according to, and dependent on, national contexts and capacities;

l) called for action from FAO to anchor its new Strategic Framework to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and to provide guidance to Members;

m) noted with satisfaction the priority given by the Organization to the use of partnerships to enable it to leverage its comparative advantages, including through South-South and Triangular Cooperation;

n) welcomed progress in achieving equitable geographical representation of staff; and

o) appreciated the extensive presentation of lessons learned throughout the document as a valuable instrument in refining and enhancing the impact of the Organization’s work.