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COUNCIL

Hundred and Sixty-first Session

Rome, 8-12 April 2019

Report of the Joint Meeting of the 126th Session of the Programme Committee and 175th Session of the Finance Committee (18 and 21 March 2019)

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 2018-21 (*reviewed*) and Programme of Work and Budget 2020-21 (paragraphs 3-4)
- b) Corporate policy, processes and measures on the prevention of harassment, sexual harassment and authority abuse - Updated action plan (paragraphs 5-6)

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:

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**REPORT OF THE JOINT MEETING OF THE
HUNDRED AND TWENTY-SIXTH SESSION OF THE
PROGRAMME COMMITTEE AND HUNDRED AND SEVENTY-FIFTH SESSION
OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE**

Rome, 18 and 21 March 2019

INTRODUCTION

1. The Joint Meeting submitted its Report to the Council.
2. In addition to the Chairperson, Mr Lupino jr. Lazaro (Philippines), and His Excellency Johannes Petrus Hoogeveen (Netherlands), Chairperson of the Programme Committee, the following representatives of Members were present:

Mr Carlos Alberto Amaral (Angola) ¹	Mr Toru Hisazome (Japan)
H.E. Maria Cristina Boldorini (Argentina)	Mr Salah Yousef Ahmed Al Tarawneh (Jordan) ²
Ms Cathrine Stephenson (Australia)	Mr Muhammad Rudy Khairudin Mohd Nor (Malaysia)
Mr Manash Mitra (Bangladesh)	Mr Benito Santiago Jiménez Sauma (Mexico)
Mr Antonio Otávio Sá Ricarte (Brazil)	Mr Donald G. Syme (New Zealand)
Ms Jennifer Fellows (Canada)	Ms Claudia Elizabeth Guevara de la Jara (Peru)
Mr NI Hongxing (China)	Mr Vladimir V. Kuznetsov (Russian Federation)
Mr Marc Mankoussou (Congo)	Mr Sid Ahmed M. Alamain Hamid Alamain (Sudan)
Mr Haitham Abdelhady Elsayed Elshahat (Egypt)	H.E. François Pythoud (Switzerland)
Mr Heiner Thofern (Germany)	H.E. Marie-Therese Sarch (United Kingdom)
H.E. Mohammad Hossein Emadi (Islamic Republic of Iran)	Mr Thomas Duffy (United States of America)

Medium Term Plan 2018-21 (*reviewed*) and Programme of Work and Budget 2020-21³

3. The Joint Meeting welcomed the Medium Term Plan 2018-21 (*reviewed*) and Programme of Work of Budget 2020-21, and:
 - a) noted that the Programme and Finance Committees had reviewed the document separately according to their respective mandates and made recommendations to the Council;
 - b) appreciated the preparation of a flat nominal budget with no change in the level of assessed contributions and net budgetary appropriation compared with 2018-19;
 - c) noted the identification of proposed areas of emphasis and de-emphasis and the reallocation of savings to cover increased costs.
4. Accordingly, the Joint Meeting supported the budget level of USD 1,005.6 million at a budget rate of exchange of EUR 1 = USD 1.22, and recommended endorsement by the Council for submission to the Conference.

¹ Mr Carlos Alberto Amaral was replaced by Ms Maria Esperança Pires dos Santos for the Joint Meeting on 21 March

² Mr Salah Yousif Ahmad Al-Tarawneh has been designated to replace Mr Fiesal Rasheed Salamh Al Argan as representative of Jordan for the 126th session of the Programme Committee

³ C 2019/3; C 2019/3-WA11

Corporate policy, processes and measures on the prevention of harassment, sexual harassment and authority abuse - Updated action plan⁴

5. The Joint Meeting reviewed the updated corporate action plan to tackle harassment, sexual harassment and authority abuse presented in document JM 2019.1/2.
6. The Joint Meeting:
 - a) emphasized the importance of raising awareness and instilling a culture of zero tolerance that prevents work place harassment and prohibited conduct, with a strong tone from the top;
 - b) reviewed the updated corporate action plan, noting the actions implemented in the areas of reporting, investigation and decision-making, and outreach and support;
 - c) noted the introduction of a new policy on prevention of sexual harassment in February 2019;
 - d) noted the UN System survey on *Sexual Harassment in our Workplace* and emphasized the importance of immediately addressing the issues highlighted;
 - e) recommended a further survey in coordination with the Rome-based Agencies, with an improved methodology and response rate at headquarters and decentralized offices;
 - f) requested that a section on sexual harassment and authority abuse be included in the staff satisfaction survey to be undertaken in the second semester of 2019 and annually thereafter;
 - g) encouraged FAO in its implementation of agreed actions and in particular on the priority areas identified for 2019;
 - h) recommended that one or more Key Performance Indicators be established within the results framework to monitor and report on harassment, sexual harassment and authority abuse;
 - i) requested that the JIU Report on “*Review of Whistle-Blower Policies and Practices in United Nations System Organizations*” (JIU/REP/2018/4) and FAO’s revised Whistleblower Protection Policy be considered at the session of the Finance Committee in November 2019.

⁴ JM 2019.1/2