

March 2011

	منظمة الأغذية والزراعة للأمم المتحدة	联合国 粮食及 农业组织	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations	Organisation des Nations Unies pour l'alimentation et l'agriculture	Продовольствен ная и сельскохозяйств енная организация Объединенных Наций	Organización de las Naciones Unidas para la Agricultura y la Alimentación
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COUNCIL

Hundred and Forty-first Session

Rome, 11-15 April 2011

Report of the Joint Meeting of the 106th Session of the Programme Committee and the 138th Session of the Finance Committee (Rome, 23 March 2011)

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REPORT OF THE JOINT MEETING OF THE PROGRAMME AND FINANCE COMMITTEES

Rome, 23 March 2011

INTRODUCTION

1. The Joint Meeting submitted its Report to the Council.
2. In addition to the Chairperson, Mr Y.A.R. Sorour (Egypt), and Ms R. Laatu (Finland), Chairperson of the Programme Committee, the following representatives of Members were present:

Mr R. Ayazi (Afghanistan)	Ms S. Nilsson (Germany)
Mr C.A. Amaral (Angola)	Mr S.K. Pattanayak (India)
Ms M. del Carmen Squeff (Argentina)	H.E. J.S. Tavakolian (Islamic Republic of Iran)
Ms M. Baldwin (Australia)	Mr C. Miscia (Italy)
Ms E. Collins (Australia)	Mr K. Shioya (Japan)
Ms S. Afroz (Bangladesh)	H.E. J.E. Chen Charpentier (Mexico)
Ms M. van Dooren (Belgium)	Mr R. Elkhuisen (Netherlands)
Ms A. Heuchan (Canada)	H.E. G.J. Martinelli della Togna (Panama)
H.E. Li Zhengdong (China)	H.E. A.M. Baiardi Quesnel (Paraguay)
Mr M. Hosni Abdel Aziz (Egypt)	Mr M. Eltayeb Elfaki Elnor (Sudan)
H.E. C. Obama Ondo (Equatorial Guinea)	Mr R. Sabiiti (Uganda)
Mr L. Charicauth (Gabon)	Mr C. Hegadorn (USA)

3. The Joint Meeting appreciated the opening address from the Director-General.

Item 1: Adoption of the Agenda¹

4. The Agenda for the Joint Meeting was approved.

Item 2: Medium Term Plan 2010-13 (*Reviewed*) and Programme of Work and Budget 2012-13²

5. After receiving oral summary reports from the respective Chairpersons on the deliberations in the two Committees, the Joint Meeting addressed the financial implications of the Programme of Work and Budget 2012-13.
6. The Joint Meeting appreciated the document, noting that it broadly reflected governing body recommendations and lessons learned, while recognizing that its format would improve with experience. It noted in particular that the basis for programmatic emphasis and de-emphasis and the associated resource shifts was not clearly presented.
7. The Joint Meeting stressed the importance of applying greater fiscal discipline in the proposed budget, given the budgetary constraints of many Member States. It welcomed the continuing efforts by the Secretariat to attain efficiency gains and encouraged further examination and review of administrative and governance costs. On the proposal for establishing one global Shared Services Centre, some Members supported the proposal, while others did not.

¹ JM 2011.1/1

² C 2011/3

8. In relation to the budget level and resource shifts, the Joint Meeting:
- a) agreed to put forward two options on the budget level for 2012-13 for consideration by the Council: no decrease to the level of assessments proposed in the PWB 2012-13; or a reduction in the level of assessments, heeding the appeal of the UN Secretary General to do more with less and noting the proposed 3 percent reduction in the UN budget;
 - b) reaffirmed the IPA target for the Evaluation budget of 0.8 percent of the net appropriation and proposed 0.7 percent for 2012-13, an increase of approximately USD 1 million over the Evaluation budget proposed in the PWB 2012-13;
 - c) recommended increasing the budget allocation for Strategic Objective K (gender) without impacting the overall budget level;
 - d) requested the Secretariat to provide further information to the Council to explain the proposed resource shifts between and within all Strategic and Functional Objectives, and to elaborate on the areas of emphasis and de-emphasis in all Strategic Objectives and Functional Objective X; and in addition
 - e) requested the Secretariat to prepare, as soon as possible during the course of ongoing deliberations on the Programme of Work and Budget, a table indicating the reference for decision (for example, inputs from Regional Conferences, Technical Committees, Council, and Strategy Teams), as well as implications for the net appropriation and extrabudgetary resources.

Item 3: Vision for the structure and functioning of Decentralized Offices³

9. The Joint Meeting reviewed the document on the “Vision for the structure and functioning of Decentralized Offices”. The Joint Meeting:
- a) re-affirmed the importance of decentralization for the work of the Organization and the critical need for headquarters and decentralized offices to function as one in the most effective and efficient manner;
 - b) underlined the need for rationalization of all layers of operations, including staffing, when necessary, according to the IPA;
 - c) underlined the ongoing need for actions to enhance expertise and performance in decentralized offices in line with their priorities and needs;
 - d) stressed the need for appropriate and adequate resources which will enable decentralized offices to exercise the delegation of authority given to them through the IPA and encouraged careful and continued monitoring of the decentralized network;
 - e) noted the progress made on benchmarking and welcomed the consultations with other UN organizations;
 - f) welcomed the steps that were being taken for greater professionalism in the recruitment of heads of decentralized offices; stressed the urgent need to adopt and implement the rotation and mobility policy, competency profiles, and recruitment procedures, as foreseen in the IPA; and
 - g) emphasised the importance of the revised Circular on Responsibilities and Relationships between headquarters and decentralized offices, which was under preparation.

³ CL 141/15

Item 4: Resource Mobilization and Management Strategy⁴

10. The Joint Meeting welcomed the outline of the Resource Mobilization and Management Strategy. It expressed appreciation for the corporate nature of the Strategy, the emphasis on partnership, the realistic approach to targeting resources, and the approach to communications through Impact Focus Areas as one resource mobilization tool. It noted that the Strategy was firmly linked to the results-based frameworks and core functions in the Medium Term Plan, with focus given to meeting priorities at country level through the Country Programming Framework.

11. The Joint Meeting looked forward to reviewing the final version of the Resource Mobilization and Management Strategy at its next Session.

12. The Joint Meeting requested the Secretariat to publish on its Web site information regarding voluntary contributions.

Item 5: FAO Strategy on partnerships with the private sector⁵

13. The Joint Meeting recognized the provisional outline as a positive step towards the finalization of the Strategy. It recommended that the Secretariat amend the document to:

- a) refine and further detail the criteria and principles for selection of private sector partners and the definition of financial institutions;
- b) include a chapter on the guiding principles for partnering, as well as the risks associated with private sector engagement and to better describe different partnerships foreseen at national and global levels;
- c) where appropriate, better harmonize the role of the Committee for World Food Security (CFS) and the Alliance against Hunger and Malnutrition (AAHM) within the FAO Strategy on partnerships with the private sector, and look for partnership options beyond those.

14. The Joint Meeting requested to review the final version of the FAO Strategy on partnerships with the private sector at its next session.

Item 6: Progress on implementation of the TCP⁶

15. The Committees noted the progress made on the implementation of the TCP and recommended implementation of the proposal to earmark 0.4 percent of the TCP appropriation to facilitate the reporting by decentralized offices on results of TCP projects achieved after project closure. The Joint Meeting stressed the need for TCP projects to be strategic, catalytic and more gender balanced, as well as for expeditious utilization of the TCP appropriation.

Item 7: Any other business

16. There was no discussion under this item.

⁴ JM 2011.1/3

⁵ JM 2011.1/4

⁶ JM 2011.1/5