

May 2012

	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	Продовольственная и сельскохозяйственная организация Объединенных Наций	Organización de las Naciones Unidas para la Alimentación y la Agricultura
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COUNCIL

Hundred and Forty-fourth Session of the Council

Rome, 11-15 June 2012

Report of the 110th Session of the Programme Committee (7-11 May 2012)

Executive Summary

At its first regular session of the calendar year 2012, the Programme Committee examined matters relating to Evaluation, as well as programme planning and priority setting, and brings its findings and recommendations to the attention of the Council.

Suggested action by the Council

The Council is requested to endorse the findings of the Programme Committee, as well as its recommendations on matters within its mandate.

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**REPORT OF THE HUNDRED AND TENTH SESSION OF
THE PROGRAMME COMMITTEE**

Rome, 7 - 11 May 2012

Introduction

1. The Committee submitted to the Council the following report of its Hundred and Tenth session.
2. In addition to the Chairperson, Her Excellency Cecilia Nordin van Gansberghe (Sweden), the following representatives of Members were present:

Mr A.R. Ayazi (Afghanistan)	Mr Handi Guo (China)
Mr M. Mellah (Algeria)	Mr E.O. Fayed (Egypt)
Mr G.O. Infante (Argentina)	Mr A.G. Aseffa (Ethiopia)
Ms S. Afroz (Bangladesh)	Mr F.G. Cramer (Germany)
Ms M. van Dooren (Belgium)	Mr N. Fraser (New Zealand)
Mr M. Valicenti (Canada)	Mr G. Vega Berrio (Panama)

3. The Chairperson informed the Committee that for this session:
 - H.E. Guido J. Martinelli had been designated to replace Mr G. Vega Berrio as the representative of Panama for the afternoon session of Wednesday, 9 May; and
 - Ms Debra Price had been designated to replace Mr M. Valicenti as the representative of Canada for the morning session of Wednesday, 9 May.

A summary of the qualifications of the substitute representatives can be downloaded from the FAO Governing and Statutory Body Web site at:

www.fao.org/unfao/govbodies/gsbhome/programme-committee/en/ .

Adoption of the Provisional Agenda and Timetable¹

4. The Programme Committee adopted the Provisional Agenda with the following amendment: to remove Item 4 - *Strategy and vision for FAO's work in nutrition (Outline)* because of the very late receipt of the document and defer consideration of the matter to its next regular session.

Election of the Vice-Chairperson for 2012

5. The Committee decided unanimously to re-elect Ms Sultana Afroz as Vice-Chairperson of the Programme Committee for the calendar year 2012.

¹ PC 110/1; PC 110/INF/1

Programme planning and priority setting

Progress Report on the Action Plan for the prevention and containment of major animal diseases and related human health risks²

6. The Committee:
- a) took note favourably of the report, commending FAO's work on the "One Health" Action Plan and related partnerships;
 - b) advised the Secretariat to rank the priorities based on the input provided by the Committee Members on the Action Plan considering the resources needed; and
 - c) advised that work on partnerships should be further enhanced.

Evaluation

Appointment of the Director of Evaluation³

7. The Committee:
- a) noted that the mandate of the incumbent Director of the Office of Evaluation ends on 31 August 2013;
 - b) noted that in line with the process for appointment of the Director of Evaluation set out in paragraph 42 of the Charter of the FAO Office of Evaluation, a Panel will make a final recommendation regarding candidates appropriate for appointment by the Director-General;
 - c) noted the high-level roadmap included in Appendix 2 of the document, starting with formation of the Panel in June 2012 and aiming for appointment of the new Director of Evaluation by May 2013 and recruitment by 1 September 2013; and
 - d) agreed, in line with the Charter of the Office of Evaluation, to nominate two of its Members to the Panel as soon as possible.

Evaluation of FAO's work in tenure, rights and access to land and other natural resources and Management Response⁴

8. The Programme Committee appreciated the quality of the Evaluation report and the methodology used. It noted that the Evaluation was timely and relevant to current activities, and the Management Response was well prepared.
9. The Programme Committee:
- a) agreed with the Evaluation's recommendations, and welcomed the fact that Management had accepted all of them;
 - b) highlighted the need for the work on the global level (which needs a critical mass at headquarters) to continue, and exhorted renewed effort in order to enhance delivery and impact at the country level;
 - c) underlined the importance of a clear vision and coherent strategy, duly aligned to the evolving strategic direction of the Organization, for implementation of work in tenure, rights and access to land (TRA);

² PC 110/2

³ PC 110/9

⁴ PC 110/4; PC 110/4 Add.1; PC 110/4 Sup.1

- d) underlined the need for a robust monitoring and evaluation, and accountability framework;
- e) recognized the importance of FAO's role as a neutral actor in the global TRA architecture as a comparative advantage for the Organization;
- f) noted the shortcomings relating to knowledge transfer and capacity building, and FAO's role and work on policy at the country level;
- g) underlined the need for increased partnerships with other UN agencies, civil societies and the private sector; and
- h) noted the need for prioritization, which was also evidenced in other Evaluations, and urged Management to further enhance efforts in these areas.

Evaluation of FAO's role and work in food and agriculture policy and Management Response⁵

10. The Committee appreciated the Evaluation and the methodology used and welcomed the positive Management Response.

11. The Committee:

- a) endorsed the implementation of the Evaluation recommendations, as accepted by Management, which will contribute to the overall renewal and transformation of the work of the Organization by increasing accountability within the decentralized offices network, focusing on priorities and promoting more efficient use of resources;
- b) highlighted that policy work is one of the most important core functions of FAO, and the requirement for the Organization to ensure its human resources competencies and recruitment are aligned with this core function; and the importance of preserving capacities, in particular at headquarters for the excellent, objective and recognized policy work of FAO at the global level;
- c) highlighted the need to increase efforts and activities at the country level in order to improve the impact of policy work;
- d) stressed the need for creating an impact assessment culture;
- e) stressed that policy work must be integrated across geographical and sectoral areas, in order to provide appropriate support to decentralized offices for effective delivery of policy work in line with Members' demands, in accordance with FAO's mandate, and consistent with its core functions and comparative advantages; and that any structural changes and transfer of resources be based on a thorough functional analysis;
- f) noted the need for FAO to widen its partnership with line ministries in individual countries, and to generally strengthen the fostering of partnership;
- g) requested that the future focus of the Organization's work in policy, as well as implementation of the recommendations of the Evaluation, be integrated into the evolving corporate strategic direction, as embodied in the reviewed Strategic Framework 2010-19, the Medium Term Plan 2014-17 and the Country Programming Frameworks;
- h) highlighted the need to take into account the decentralization model – in particular the relationship between headquarters and decentralized offices – in country work; and
- i) emphasized that progress reports on implementation of the recommendations should focus on benefits and impact.

⁵ PC 110/5; PC 110/5 Add.1; PC 110/5 Sup.1

Evaluation of FAO's response to the July 2010 floods in Pakistan and Management Response⁶

12. The Committee appreciated the Evaluation and the methodology used.
13. The Committee:
- a) commended the Organization for the high quality of work carried out in very challenging circumstances;
 - b) recommended improvements for the future, in particular on:
 - the time required to start-up emergency programmes
 - development of Standard Operating Procedures
 - targeting of beneficiaries
 - integration of gender considerations
 - monitoring and evaluation of emergency programmes
 - c) encouraged enhanced collaboration with partner agencies to increase mutually beneficial knowledge-sharing and stressed the key role of FAO Representatives in major emergency situations; and
 - d) emphasised the importance of further strengthening integration of emergency and development activities in order to increase resilience, which should be included in the Country Programming Frameworks.

FAO's effectiveness at country level: A synthesis of evaluations in countries with major emergency and rehabilitation programmes (Ethiopia, Zimbabwe and Haiti)⁷

14. The Committee appreciated the synthesis report, which drew common lessons across countries with large emergency and rehabilitation programmes, and highlighted systemic issues.
15. The Committee:
- a) emphasized the importance of further strengthening the integration of emergency and development activities;
 - b) stressed the need for enhanced monitoring and evaluation, and accountability of country-based activities;
 - c) urged that inclusion of gender considerations be accelerated;
 - d) recommended that cross-cutting themes, such as sustainable environment and adaptation to climate change, should be considered in countries in protracted crisis situations; and
 - e) suggested that the choice of future country evaluations could target countries on the basis of geographical and economic commonalities.

Follow-up to the Evaluation of FAO's role and work related to water⁸

16. The Committee appreciated the Follow-up report and the new validation process.
17. The Committee:
- a) endorsed the use of the validation process for future major evaluations, providing it is cost-effective; and
 - b) urged that the validation process concentrate on recommendations at the strategic level.

⁶ PC 110/6; PC 110/6 Add.1; PC 110/6 Sup.1

⁷ PC 110/7

⁸ PC 110/8; PC 110/8 Add.1; PC 110/8 Sup.1

18. With respect to FAO's work on water, the Committee:
- a) confirmed its importance, along with the Water Platform;
 - b) underlined the importance of its normative products and recognized that they were widely used outside the Organization;
 - c) encouraged Management to maintain the extensive set of partnerships established, particularly strengthen its partnerships with International Financial Institutions;
 - d) highlighted the significance, and encouraged the continuation of work on agricultural heritage systems;
 - e) noted the significance of work on transboundary water basins; and
 - f) underlined the need to safeguard capacity at headquarters to develop normative public goods, in particular for coordinated water programmes.
19. The Committee asked that estimated cost of implementation of recommendations be provided in Management Responses to all Evaluations. It encouraged Management to seek opportunities to implement recommendations of Evaluations in a cost-neutral manner to the extent possible.

Standing Items

Date, place and items for discussion at next session

20. The Committee was informed that the 111th (Special) Session, jointly with the 145th (Special) Session of the Finance Committee, would take place on 31 May and 1 June 2012.
21. The Committee noted the overarching need to receive documents in a timely manner to enable their review required for a thorough discussion, and urged the Secretariat to ensure that deadlines of at least two weeks before the meeting, consistent with established practice are duly met.

Any other business

22. The Committee welcomed a presentation by the Gender, Equity and Rural Employment Division on the Organization's activities related to Decent Rural Employment, and appreciated the informal nature of the presentation. It requested for the future that the Secretariat identify suitable areas of activity of the Organization which might be presented informally to the Committee at sessions where the agenda would permit it to entertain such a presentation.
23. The Committee welcomed the Secretariat's efforts in setting-up an online forum for the Committee, and encouraged its Members to make greater use of it to exchange ideas primarily on Evaluation matters.
24. The Committee recalled that in line with the Basic Texts of the Organization,⁹ Member Nations elected to the Committee appoint as their representatives individuals who have "special competence", and that if "the representative of a Member is expected to be unable to attend a session of the Committee, that Member shall inform the Director-General and the Chairperson as soon as possible."

⁹ General Rule XXVI