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FINANCE COMMITTEE

Hundred and Forty-eighth Session

Rome, 18 - 22 March 2013

Annual Report of the Ethics Committee

**Extract from the Report of the 96th Session of the Committee on
Constitutional and Legal Matters (Rome, 4 - 6 March 2013)**

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Extract from the Report of the 96th Session of the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters (Rome, 4 – 6 March 2013)

[...]

II. ANNUAL REPORT OF THE ETHICS COMMITTEE

4. The CCLM examined document CCLM 96/2 “*Annual report of the Ethics Committee*”. The CCLM noted that the Ethics Committee had been established by the Council in April 2011 as recommended by the Immediate Plan of Action (IPA) for FAO Renewal, for an initial period of four years during which the membership, through the CCLM and the Finance Committee, would review its work in order to determine, at the end of the period, whether the Committee should be extended for a further period, or established on a permanent basis, or whether its *modus operandi* should be reexamined. The CCLM recalled a number of specific features of its composition and mandate.

5. The CCLM noted that the Ethics Committee had expressed general satisfaction at the activities of the Ethics Officer, which it considered to be adequate within the available budget, as well as the ethics programme which, in its view, was operating effectively through the roll out of training workshops, provision of ethics related advice and regular communications to staff. The CCLM further observed that the Ethics Committee had expressed satisfaction at the implementation of the Financial Disclosure Programme, which had been under review for a number of years.

6. The CCLM noted the observations of the Ethics Committee concerning duplication of a few FAO staff related functions, such as the ethics function, the ombudsman, staff relations, the mediation programme and the desirability of seeking to rationalize and make these functions more efficient. The CCLM noted that Management had sought to address this situation by reexamining relevant job descriptions and classification of positions.

7. While welcoming the first annual report of the Ethics Committee and recognizing that it was too early to make an assessment of its work, the CCLM invited Management to keep in mind the issue of the long term justification for the Committee in light of the decision of the Council of April 2011. To this effect, the CCLM requested management to collect comprehensive information so that the report on the matter could be prepared and presented in due course.

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