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FINANCE COMMITTEE

Hundred and Fifty-fourth Session

Rome, 26 - 30 May 2014

Status of Outstanding Recommendations of the Finance Committee

Queries on the substantive content of this document may be addressed to:

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- This document presents the updated status of outstanding recommendations made by the Committee at its previous sessions.

GUIDANCE SOUGHT FROM THE FINANCE COMMITTEE

- The Committee is invited to take note of the information presented in this document.

Draft Advice

- **The Committee took note of the Status of Outstanding Recommendations of the Finance Committee and looked forward to receiving an updated version of the document at its next regular session.**

Recommendation	Status
I. FINANCIAL POSITION	
Report of the 148th Session of the Finance Committee – document CL 146/3	
<p>The Committee supported the recommendation of the Conference at its 33rd Session, adjusted for the new calendar of sessions of the Governing Bodies, that requests for restoration of voting rights be referred to the Director-General for submission to the Spring Session of the Finance Committee in Conference years; and requested the CCLM to examine the legal aspects of this matter, including whether this would require any changes to the Basic Texts of the Organization.</p> <p>- paragraph 10</p>	<p>Following consideration of this matter by the 97th Session of the CCLM in October 2013, this item will be presented to the May 2014 Session of the FC (item 7).</p>
<p>The Committee (<i>on the Report on Investments 2012</i>) requested the Secretariat to consider the feasibility of increasing its investment risk level in light of the improved investment climate.</p> <p>- paragraph 15</p>	<p>Information to be presented to the May 2014 Session of the FC within the Report on Investments 2013 (item 4).</p>
Report of the 151st Session of the Finance Committee – document CL 148/6	
<p>The Committee (<i>on the levels of the Working Capital Fund and the Special Reserve Account</i>) requested the Secretariat to carry out a comprehensive review of the amounts required for these reserves and of the alternative sources of funding for these requirements - paragraph 8</p>	<p>Document to be presented to the May 2014 Session of the FC (item 5).</p>
<p>The Committee (<i>on the Incentive Scheme to encourage Prompt Payment of Contributions</i>) proposed to discuss the effectiveness of the scheme including its costs at its next regular session in 2014 following a review of this matter at an informal meeting of the Committee prior to that session - paragraph 10</p>	<p>Document to be presented to the May 2014 Session of the FC (item 6).</p>
<p>The Committee (<i>on Funding of After Service Medical Coverage Liabilities</i>):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • encouraged the Secretariat to further review these options and any other options in the context of the considerations of this matter by the United Nations General Assembly • further requested detailed information on all the proposed options and analysis of the possibility of combining them <p>- paragraph 14</p>	<p>An update to be presented to the May 2014 Session of the FC as an addendum to the 2013 Actuarial Valuation of Staff Related Liabilities (item 3).</p>

Recommendation	Status
II. BUDGETARY MATTERS	
Report of the 148th Session of the Finance Committee – document CL 146/3	
<p>The Committee (<i>on the Mid-Term Review Synthesis Report for 2012</i>):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • looked forward to future reports which should include improved information on measuring financial performance in the delivery of Organizational Results as the results-based budgeting model is further elaborated; and • requested that reporting on performance in the Asia and the Pacific Regional Office clearly delineate performance in the South West Pacific Subregional Office. <p>- paragraph 19</p>	<p>To be addressed in the MTR Report for 2014 to be presented to the Spring 2015 Session of the FC.</p>
Report of the 151st Session of the Finance Committee – document CL 148/6	
<p>The Committee (on the Annual Report on Support Costs Expenditure and Recoveries) requested that future annual reports further break down the statistics on projects approved at their ceiling rates to show the type, number and volume of such projects approved at a non-standard PSC rate - para 24</p>	<p>To be reflected in the next Annual Report to be presented to the Autumn 2014 Session of the FC</p>
III. HUMAN RESOURCES	
Report of the 151st Session of the Finance Committee – document CL 148/6	
<p>The Committee (<i>on the Progress Report on Implementation of the Human Resources Strategic Framework and Action Plan 2012-13</i>):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • requested the Secretariat to provide an update on the revised Human Resources strategy and related action plan for 2014/15 for review at its next session; and • looked forward to receiving a regional update on human resources <p>- paragraph 28</p>	<p>Progress Report to be presented to the May 2014 Session of the FC (item 11).</p>
<p>The Committee (<i>on the Recommendations and Decisions of the International Civil Service Commission and the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Board to the General Assembly</i>) requested that the Secretariat raise the matter of the high level of the margin between the United Nations and the comparator United States Federal Civil Service with the ICSC with a view to introducing mechanisms to ensure that the margin will remain within the desirable mid-range level of 115 - paragraph 30</p>	<p>The next Report on the <i>Recommendations and Decisions of the International Civil Service Commission and the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Board to the General Assembly</i> will be presented to the Autumn 2014 Session of the FC.</p>

Recommendation	Status
IV. ADMINISTRATIVE AND INFORMATION SYSTEMS FRAMEWORK	
Report of the 151st Session of the Finance Committee – document CL 148/6	
<p>The Committee (<i>on the Progress Report on the Global Resource Management Programme</i>):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • requested the Secretariat to notify the Committee of any additional future funding requirements identified in relation to the programme; • requested that the Secretariat provide information at a future session of the Committee on the additional benefits and savings achieved through the implementation of GRMS; • requested the GRMS Steering Group give due attention to the critical task of ensuring that GRMS is working effectively. Particular attention should be given to addressing implementation issues surrounding the financial reporting and travel modules and, more generally to the enhancement of project controls. <p>- paragraph 32</p>	<p>Progress Report to be presented to the May 2014 Session of the FC (item 12).</p>
V. OVERSIGHT	
Report of the 148th Session of the Finance Committee – document CL 146/3	
<p>The Committee (<i>on the Annual report of the Ethics Committee</i>):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • requested that when presenting future Annual reports, the report of the Ethics Officer should also be made available to the Finance Committee and noted that the Secretariat would examine this request in light of the practice of other Organizations of the United Nations System. • requested that the next annual report of the Ethics Committee include information on the experience gained during the first year of implementation of the Financial Disclosure Programme <p>- paragraph 38</p>	<p>Information on the financial disclosure programme will be included in the 2013 Annual Report of the Ethics Committee to be presented to the May 2014 Session of the FC (item 16).</p> <p>Examination of the request to include the report of the Ethics Officer will be considered with the presentation of the 2014 Annual Report</p>

Recommendation	Status
<p>The Committee (<i>on the Annual report of the Inspector General</i>) requested that for future presentations of the OIG annual report, management provide at the same time a status report on actions taken to address long outstanding high risk recommendations</p> <p>- paragraph 40</p>	<p>Additional information requested to be addressed in the next Annual Report of the Inspector General to be presented to the May 2014 Session of the FC (item 13).</p>
<p>The Committee (<i>on the Disclosure of Internal Audit Reports</i>) looked forward to receiving, in the 2013 annual report of the Office of the Inspector General, an update on the implementation of the current FAO internal audit report disclosure policy.</p> <p>- paragraph 44</p>	<p>Information requested to be addressed in the next Annual Report of the Inspector General to be presented to the May 2014 Session of the FC (item 13).</p>
<p>The Committee (<i>on the Review of Article XIV Statutory Bodies with a view to allowing them to exercise greater financial and administrative authority while remaining within the framework of FAO</i>) noted that Management was in the process of implementing the recommendations contained in Appendix II to document FC 148/21, and generally reflected in paragraph 27 of that document, which were within Management's authority, and requested a report on the matter at a future session of the Committee, possibly as part of the IPA follow-up report by the Secretariat.</p> <p>- paragraph 50</p>	<p>Report to be presented to the Autumn 2014 Session of the FC.</p>
<p>Report of the 151st Session of the Finance Committee – document CL 148/6</p>	
<p>The Committee (<i>on the Status of Actions on FAO Audit Committee Recommendations</i>) encouraged harmonization of the format of future status reports with other status reports, such as the “Progress Report on Implementation of the External Auditor’s Recommendations” and the “Status of Implementation of JIU Recommendations”;</p> <p>- paragraph 38</p>	<p>Updated report format of progress report to be reflected in the next status report to be presented to the Autumn 2014 Session of the FC.</p> <p>The FAO Audit Committee 2013 Annual Report to the Director-General will be presented to the May 2014 Session of the FC (item 14).</p>
<p>The Committee (<i>on Accountability and Internal Control Framework</i>) requested a further progress report on accountability, risk management and internal control at its session in May 2014</p> <p>- paragraph 43</p>	<p>Progress Report to be presented to the May 2014 Session of the FC (item 17).</p>

Recommendation	Status
The Committee (<i>on Status of Implementation of JIU Recommendations</i>) requested an annual update of the status of implementation of JIU recommendations of relevance to FAO - paragraph 45	The next annual update will be presented to the Autumn 2014 Session of the FC.
OTHER MATTERS	
Report of the 151st Session of the Finance Committee – document CL 148/6	
The Committee requested the Secretariat to explore the possibility of publishing the document related to the audited accounts of the Commissary on the web-site and report back to the Committee on their findings at its next regular session - paragraph 48	Document to be presented to the May 2014 Session of the FC (item 22a).