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Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
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Organisation des Nations
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Продовольственная и
сельскохозяйственная организация
Объединенных Наций

Organización de las
Naciones Unidas para la
Alimentación y la Agricultura

منظمة
الأغذية والزراعة
للأمم المتحدة

COUNCIL

Hundred and Fifty-ninth Session

Rome, 4-8 June 2018

Report of the Joint Meeting of the 124th Session of the Programme Committee and 170th Session of the Finance Committee (21 May 2018)

Executive Summary

The Joint Meeting of the Programme and Finance Committees brings to the attention of the Council its findings and recommendations on:

- a) Programme Implementation Report 2016-17 (paragraphs 3-6)
- b) Date of Implementation of the United Nations Resolution on the Mandatory Age of Separation (paragraphs 7-8)
- c) Proposal for a high-level event on FAO's role in food security matters at World Food Day (paragraph 9)

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:

Rakesh Muthoo
Chief Secretary
Programme and Finance Committees
Tel. +3906 5705 5987



**REPORT OF THE JOINT MEETING OF THE
HUNDRED AND TWENTY-FOURTH SESSION OF THE
PROGRAMME COMMITTEE AND HUNDRED AND SEVENTIETH SESSION OF
THE FINANCE COMMITTEE**

Rome, 21 May 2018

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 Hooegeven (Netherlands), Chairperson of the Programme Committee, the following representatives of Members were present:

Mr Carlos Alberto Amaral (Angola)	H.E. Mohammad Hossein Emadi (Islamic Republic of Iran)
H.E. Maria Cristina Boldorini (Argentina)	Mr Toru Hisazome (Japan)
Mr Ryan Wilson (Australia) ¹	Mr Fiesal Rasheed Salamh Al Argan (Jordan)
Mr Manash Mitra (Bangladesh)	Mr Muhammad Rudy Khairudin Mohd Nor (Malaysia)
Mr Antonio Otávio Sá Ricarte (Brazil)	Mr Benito Santiago Jiménez Sauma (Mexico)
Ms Jennifer Fellows (Canada)	Mr Matthew B. Hooper (New Zealand)
Mr NI Hongxing (China)	Ms Claudia Elizabeth Guevara de la Jara (Peru)
Mr Marc Mankoussou (Congo)	Mr Vladimir V. Kuznetsov (Russian Federation)
Mr Kanga Kouamé (Côte d'Ivoire)	Mr Sid Ahmed M. Alamain Hamid Alamain (Sudan)
Mr Khaled M.S.H. El Taweel (Egypt)	H.E. François Pythoud (Switzerland)
Mr Mateo Nsogo Nguere Micue (Equatorial Guinea)	H.E. Marie-Therese Sarch (United Kingdom)
Mr Heiner Thofern (Germany)	Mr Thomas Duffy (United States of America)

Programme Implementation Report 2016-17²

3. The Joint Meeting welcomed the Programme Implementation Report (PIR) 2016-17, and the overall progress made by FAO, but expressed concern at this being against a background of rising global hunger as a result of climate change and increasing number of conflicts.
4. The Joint Meeting:
 - a) expressed overall satisfaction at the implementation of the programme of work in 2016-17 and welcomed FAO's results in reaching 82% of the planned Outputs under a more rigorous target setting and measurement approach, but noted with concern the limited progress achieved in implementing some of the Outcomes of the Strategic Programmes;
 - b) underlined FAO's important work in policies related to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and other global developments during 2016-17;
 - c) encouraged FAO's work on the collection of data on SDG indicators and underlined the importance of this data being used to support national efforts to implement the SDGs, as well as advocacy by Members and FAO;

¹ Mr Ryan Wilson had been designated to replace Ms Cathrine Stephenson as representative of Australia for the 170th session of the Finance Committee.

² C 2019/8

- d) looked forward to FAO's continued engagement in emerging threats and opportunities in the area of sustainable agriculture, food security and nutrition, and encouraged continued efforts at regional level focused through the Regional Initiatives;
 - e) noted and encouraged continuing efforts to reinforce the decentralized office network, and work initiated in relation to the review of country office staffing models, in line with the guidance of the Council at its 154th session in 2016;
 - f) expressed satisfaction at the net budgetary appropriation expenditure at 99.6%, the higher delivery of Trust Funds and TCP, and the resource mobilization figure of over USD 2 billion, coupled with increased efficiencies including achievement of USD 37 million in savings;
 - g) encouraged continued progress in achieving equitable geographical representation of staff, and gender balance at professional and senior levels and requested the Secretariat to provide more detailed information on these concerns to Members; and
 - h) appreciated the provision of key programmatic and operational lessons learned for each Objective to help improve future performance and encouraged the Secretariat to report on the lessons learned in future Programme Implementation Reports.
5. Furthermore, the Joint Meeting:
- a) recalling the Conference authorized the Director-General, notwithstanding Financial Regulation 4.2, to use any unspent balance of the 2016-17 appropriations for one-time use to support programmes of the Organization, including for the Special Fund for Development Finance Activities (SF DFA);
 - b) took note that the final 2016-17 budgetary outturn based on the unaudited accounts of the Organization resulted in an overall underspending of USD 3.9 million which would be entirely transferred to the Special Fund for Development Finance Activities (SF DFA) to advance financing to provide technical assistance and investment programming for development finance;
 - c) requested periodical updates on the funding and activities of the SF DFA;
 - d) recalled that the Joint Meeting of the 122nd session of the Programme Committee and 169th session of the Finance Committee had also approved allocation, with agreement from resource partners, of 10 percent of the unspent balances of the MAFAP/FMM Trust Funds, up to a maximum of USD 0.5 million, for the Blind Trust Fund aimed at supporting a sustainable funding solution to the FAO's work and activities relating to scientific advice for food safety and the Codex Alimentarius.
6. The Joint Meeting endorsed the Programme Implementation Report 2016-17 for transmission to the Council.

Date of Implementation of the United Nations Resolution on the Mandatory Age of Separation³

7. The Joint Meeting took note of the discussions held on the matter separately in the Finance Committee, as well as its own deliberations.
8. Noting no consensus on a date was reached on the date of implementation of the MAS for FAO, the Joint Meeting concurred with the Finance Committee's decision to transmit the matter to the Council for decision.

³ JM 2018.1/2; Information Notes 1, 2 and 3

**Proposal for a high-level event on FAO's role in
food security matters at World Food Day⁴**

9. The Joint Meeting, welcomed the proposal for a high-level event on FAO's role in food security matters at World Food Day, and:

- a) requested that a Concept Note be prepared by the Secretariat setting out the expected objectives and outcomes of the high-level event, as well as how the CFS would be involved;
- b) requested that consideration be given to launching the SOFA report during the Committee on Agriculture (COAG) session in October 2018, noting the relevance of the SOFI report to the mandate of the Committee on World Food Security (CFS);
- c) recalled the need for geographical and gender balance in the two panels to be held on WFD;
- d) recommended that an update on the implementation of the UN Decade of Action on Nutrition be jointly presented by FAO and the World Health Organization (WHO) during the event; and
- e) noted that the costs for the event would be absorbed by the WFD 2018 budget and voluntary contributions.

10. The Joint Meeting requested FAO management to present the action plan for the prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse and sexual harassment to the 159th session of the Council for consideration.⁵

⁴ JM 2018.1/3

⁵ As mentioned in FC 170/11 paragraph 10