



**PARTNERING FOR
RESULTS**



Informal Meeting

FAO Headquarters, Rome (Red Room)
17 October 2013

SUMMARY NOTE

Welcome by José Graziano da Silva, Director-General

In his welcome address, the Director-General highlighted that FAO has renewed its focus and is vigorously pursuing its mandate at a time when attention to food and agriculture issues has never been greater. The level of political commitment that exists today to eliminate hunger once and for all in the world is higher than ever. “Partnering for Results”, therefore, is an opportunity to highlight the important role of partnerships in mobilizing the best available knowledge and capacities for a more food secure and sustainable world. It’s an opportunity to partner with and invest in FAO’s work to ensure people have regular access to enough high-quality food to lead active, healthy lives today and in the future.

Messages from the Regional Offices (via video conference)

Remarks provided by:

Tony Alonzi Officer-in-Charge, Regional Office for Europe and Central Asia;

Lamourdia Thiombiano Officer-in-Charge, Regional Office for Africa;

Hiroiyuki Konuma Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific;

Raul Benitez Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean;

Abdessalam Ould Ahmed Regional Office for the Near East and North Africa

Shortly after the welcome address by the Director-General, each Regional Representative greeted the audience via video conference. They provided the audience a regional perspective on the resources needed to implement the Strategic Framework. Along with a brief summary of current regional initiatives underway. Collectively, they underscored the importance of addressing regional priorities as a key means for achieving results and the success of this renewed programme of work.

How FAO achieves Results

Presentation delivered by: Kostas Stamoulis, Director Agricultural Development Economics Division

The main components of the Strategic Framework were explained. The presenter described the thorough process involved in developing a strategic framework that strongly supports regional priorities and the implementation of Country Programming Frameworks (CPFs). The approach taken in achieving results at country level is based on accountability for the delivery of these results. The presentation highlighted the critical need to build strategic partnerships for achieving results, as well as the importance of working together across disciplines and offices to align our efforts at all levels – global, regional, national.

Illustrative examples of areas of work for action

Presentation delivered by: Dominique Burgeon, Director Emergency and Rehabilitation Division

Illustrative examples of areas of work were presented to demonstrate how FAO works together with governments, the public and private sector and civil society to achieve global results. The examples selected were based on their replicability, sustainability, the partnerships involved, country ownership, best practices and their capacity to link the local to the global level.

Status of Voluntary Contributions to FAO's Programmes

Presentation delivered by:

Mina Dowlatchahi, Deputy Director - Office of Strategy, Planning, and Resources Management

Dominique DiBiase, Senior Programme Officer - Donor Liaison and Resource Mobilization Team

The meeting highlighted the importance of voluntary contributions in support of FAO's Programme of Work and Budget in 2014/15. In a challenging aid environment, FAO has been able to maintain a stable trend of contributions. One reason for this is its increased focus on diverse and innovative partnerships. This has involved engaging emerging resource partners from middle-income countries and employing a wide range of partnership modalities, such as South-South Cooperation (SSC), Unilateral Trust Funds, Joint Programming, Multidonors approach for pool funding. At the same time, the focus on partnering for results, requires new ways of working with partners, whether it be through the One United Nations approach or the FAO Multipartner Programme Support Mechanism (FMM), in support of a clear results chain at country and global level.

Together we make a Difference: Solutions for Development

Presentation delivered by: Festus Akinnifesi, Chief, South-South-Cooperation Team

South-South Cooperation (SSC) Programme serves as one of many innovative means of partnership which contribute to the achievement of FAO's Strategic Objectives. By facilitating the exchange of development solutions amongst countries in the Global South, FAO ensures that solutions are exchanged where they are most needed. Additional financial resources will allow SSC to expand and assist FAO to achieve more. Southern and Northern partners are vital to the success of this beneficial partnership.

Together we make a Difference: Partnering Modalities, Best practices

Presentation delivered by: Laurent Thomas, Assistant Director-General, Technical Cooperation Department

In addition, innovative funding modalities are gaining momentum, examples included the Africa Solidarity Trust Fund for Food Security and the Global Strategy to Improve Rural and Agricultural Statistics. But the focus and emphasis was placed on the FAO Multipartner Programme Support Mechanism (FMM), with FAO advocating the FMM as a funding modality that allows greater flexibility and freedom to support efficiently and effectively the Strategic Framework. A lot of work will be done to demonstrate transparency with partners to attract them to the FMM, together with those who have signed up.

Conclusions/Next steps

Remarks provided by: MariaHelena Semedo, Deputy Director-General, Coordinator for Natural Resources;

Daniel Gustafson, Deputy Director-General Operations

Both speakers reiterated the importance to partner with and invest in FAO's work now. They wrapped up the meeting, by reminding everyone that FAO is in the strongest position to make a difference. Today, FAO is a fitter, more flexible organization, with a stronger presence in the field through its network of decentralized offices and a clear focus on achieving results that contribute to all three global goals of the Organization. The mobilization of sufficient resources towards policy and programme implementation is key.

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