

Chair's Aide Mémoire – Ninth Meeting of CoC-IEE WG I
Monday 10 April 2008, 09.30 – 17.30
Vic Heard, Chair

1) **Aide Mémoires:** Members agreed that the Aide Mémoires are a Chair's summary of discussions and specific remarks on the text can be recorded in subsequent Aide Mémoires, rather than through revisions of the original text. **In this regard**, making reference to the Aide Mémoire of the Eighth Meeting of Working Group I:

- a) Members reaffirmed the importance the crops sector; and
- b) Noted that before reaching final agreement on the three Global Goals of Member Countries, more discussion would be necessary.

2) **Consideration of draft strategy notes, including format and approach for further strategy papers:** The session examined four strategy notes (in annex) building on previous discussion in Working Group I. Members noted that these are work in progress and appreciated the structure of the strategy papers divided into four components: 1) Analysis of needs and FAO comparative advantages; 2) Vision and objectives; 3) Expected outcomes; and 4) Implementation. There was agreement that the future strategy papers should be brief (two pages) remaining at a high conceptual level. The paragraph addressing "Analysis of Needs and FAO's Comparative Advantage" should also refer briefly to the context. Feedback on the notes will be reflected in the draft elements for the Strategic Framework and Medium-Term Plan for the Working Group's further consideration, but time does not permit the notes as such to be reviewed further by the group. Members should thus send additional comments on the notes to the ADG concerned with a copy to the Director of PBE and to the CoC-IEE secretariat within two weeks of the meeting at which the strategy concerned was presented.

3) Members stressed the need to use a simple logical framework approach with a consistent hierarchy linking goals, objectives and results. For the elements of the Medium-Term Plan (MTP), it probably would not be possible to develop details of targets and indicators in 2008. This would however be essential for the full MTP to be presented in 2009. The full strategies for finalisation in the MTP 2009 should be considered by the Technical Committees. The 14 strategy notes listed below were planned for review in the Working Group including those considered in this session. Other important areas will be covered and discussed by the Working Group in the elements of the Strategic Framework and Medium-Term Plan:

- Advocacy and communication
- Assistance to policy & strategy, & Economic, social and food and nutrition policy
- Capacity building
- Knowledge management
- Partnerships
- Gender mainstreaming and women's empowerment
- Basic data and statistics
- Emergencies and rehabilitation
- Investment Support
- Environment, Climate Change & Natural resources management
- Fisheries
- Forestry

- Livestock
- Crops

4) **Fisheries** is an area where FAO has a well established comparative advantage. Members generally welcomed the strategy note but some considered that it remained too fish focused and did not adequately address the IEE recommendations. Members appreciated the attention given to aquaculture in the strategy, but noted that this area of FAO's work had not been independently evaluated and that such an evaluation would be important. The Working Group considered that poverty and the economic and social dimensions were inadequately emphasised in the strategy, which needed to give more attention to the total value chain, including processing and its potential in providing jobs, livelihoods and safe food for the poor. Members also noted the importance of artisanal and freshwater fisheries. The WG stressed the unique value of FAO fisheries data and the importance of ensuring its quality. Members considered that further improving governance of capture fisheries had been given inadequate attention in the strategy note, in view of climate change and declining fish stocks. There is a need for an evaluation of regional fisheries bodies to determine their performance and in what ways their capacity might be strengthened and what needs to be taken up by FAO.

5) **Forestry:** Members welcomed the strategy. There was agreement that the strategy should give more attention to the economic and social dimensions of forestry. Members noted the importance of fuel wood, multiple environmental dimensions of forests in addition to carbon sequestration and the role of communities in forest management and conservation. Partnership was emphasised, including the importance of FAO's role in support of the UN Forum on Forests.

6) **Support to development of investment:** The WG emphasised that FAO's work in investment must be demand driven and focus on direct support to developing countries, including in the policy framework for investment. Members welcomed that the Strategy Note focused on the overall role of FAO and not on that of the Investment Centre *per se*. The optimal organizational arrangements for investment work remained to be determined and would be the subject, along with other aspects of the Organizational structure, at a joint meeting with WG III.

7) **Emergencies and rehabilitation:** FAO's comparative advantage needs to be more sharply defined, including in coordination and establishing both UN wide and country level responses to emergencies as part of "One UN". Overlaps and potential for synergies, especially with WFP should be addressed as a matter of urgency. FAO should strengthen capacities in the continuum from preparedness, early warning and strengthened coping strategies, to rapid livelihood restoration. FAO's contribution to enhancing the capacity of countries to handle emergencies was a key element. FAO had not demonstrated its effectiveness in addressing small, isolated emergencies through projects at country level. There should be a clear relationship between FAO's work in emergencies and the other strategic objectives of the Organization.

8) **Development of Strategic Objectives:** Members had an initial, general discussion on development of Strategic Objectives and agreed that it would further address their development on the basis of a WG I Chair's paper presenting considerations for the development of Strategic Objectives and their relationship to results. This discussion would enable the Working Group to better formulate a request to management for the development of its proposals to the CoC-IEE on Strategic Objectives and Priority Themes.