

## Chair's Aide-Mémoire

### Joint meeting of Working Groups I, II and III of the Conference Committee for IEE Follow-up (CoC-IEE)

Tuesday 8 September 2009  
14:00-17:00

Chaired by Noel de Luna, Chair WG III

#### Governance oversight arrangements for the Immediate Plan of Action in 2010-11

1. The Working Groups reviewed the secretariat document entitled *Governance oversight arrangements for the Immediate Plan of Action in 2010-11 - Discussion note* ([www.fao.org/uploads/media/governanceoversightarrangementsforipain201011e.pdf](http://www.fao.org/uploads/media/governanceoversightarrangementsforipain201011e.pdf)), which put forward two possible options for governance follow-up in the course of 2010-11, namely: (i) establishment of a Conference Committee, broadly modelled after the current CoC-IEE; (ii) more intensive use of the existing Governing Bodies. The two options would be complementary and could be implemented concurrently.

2. Option 1 would entail the creation of a time-bound Committee of the Conference for the duration of 2010-11, which would be similar in nature to the 2009 CoC-IEE, but would be different in terms of mandate and structure. Its mandate would be focused on providing overall monitoring and follow-up of the implementation of the IPA, in addition to guidance for any required improvement in this regard. Its structure would be simpler: no distinct working groups would be required to address specific issues, and no dedicated secretariat would be needed to service the Committee on a regular basis. For continuity, such Committee would be given the same name and acronym (CoC-IEE) as the current Conference Committee, and would operate pursuant to similar modalities of work:

- it would be open to full participation by all Members, conduct its work in all languages of the Organization, and take its decisions through consensus to the extent possible;
- its meetings would be scheduled taking into account related sessions of the Governing Bodies to ensure proper sequencing of complementary meetings, and would not be held in parallel with major meetings of the Rome-based UN Organizations;
- it would appoint a Bureau consisting of the Chairperson and the two Vice-Chairpersons of the Committee and one representative of Member Nations per region, which would exclusively address administrative and organizational matters;
- it would be proactively supported by Management, which would provide secretariat services and the required documents for its meetings.

3. Option 2 would imply the use, with a greater intensity of work, of the existing Governing Bodies, specifically the Council, Finance Committee, Programme Committee and Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters:

- the Council would continue to monitor the overall progress in implementation of the IPA and report to the Conference in 2011, receiving from Management progress reports on IPA implementation for review and guidance;
- the Programme Committee, Finance Committee and Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters would, as appropriate, provide specific inputs to the Council in their respective areas of mandate;
- the Independent Chairperson of the Council would, within his/her strengthened function, play a proactive facilitating role in the performance of this oversight function.

4. Members discussed at length the merits of both options and eventually concurred that, not being exclusive, they should be implemented together. Thus, they agreed to put in place governance oversight arrangements combining the two options, as set out in the draft Conference Resolution on the IPA appended as Annex 2, on the understanding that the proposed CoC-IEE for 2010-11 would be chaired by the Independent Chairperson of the FAO Council.

#### **Draft Resolution on the Immediate Plan of Action for FAO Renewal**

1. The Working Groups reviewed the *Draft Resolution on the Immediate Plan of Action for FAO Renewal* prepared by the secretariat. Members were generally satisfied with the format and content of the draft Resolution and provided inputs for its improvement.

2. A revised version of the draft Resolution, reflecting the guidance provided by the Working Groups, is attached as Annex 2, for further consideration and endorsement by the CoC-IEE.

#### **Review of the draft Report of the CoC-IEE to the FAO Conference**

1. The Working Groups reviewed the *Draft Report of the CoC-IEE to the FAO Conference* ([www.fao.org/uploads/media/CoC-IEEReportto3SeptE\\_1.pdf](http://www.fao.org/uploads/media/CoC-IEEReportto3SeptE_1.pdf)), noting that while structured in accordance with the indicative outline agreed by the CoC-IEE in July 2009, it was still work in progress, with some outstanding items requiring updating, adjustments or new inputs, in particular the section on the “Way Forward”.

2. Members made comments and suggestions with a view to: (i) fine-tuning some paragraphs in the sections already drafted; and (ii) developing the last section of the report with regard to the areas where further work will need to be carried out as part of the reform process in the next biennium and beyond.

3. It was agreed that the Draft Report will be revised and updated by the secretariat based on the guidance provided by the Working Groups, and reflecting the governance oversight arrangements discussed earlier (see above), for further consideration at the forthcoming meetings of 17 and 25 September 2009.

## **Annex 1**

### **Agenda for the meeting**

1. Chair's introduction
2. Review of draft Resolution on the IPA
3. Review of CoC-IEE draft Final Report

## Annex 2

### Draft Resolution \_\_/2009 Immediate Plan of Action for FAO Renewal

#### THE CONFERENCE:

**Mindful** of FAO's unique overall mandate for food and agriculture, **cognisant** of its vision of a world free of hunger and malnutrition where the food and agriculture sectors contribute to improving the living standards of all in an economically, socially and environmentally sustainable manner, and **aware** of the global goals set out by the Members to foster the achievement of this vision as formulated in the Organization's Strategic Framework 2010-19;

**Recalling** its Resolution 1/2008 whereby it approved the Immediate Plan of Action (IPA) for FAO Renewal for implementation over a three-year period from 2009 to 2011 – a vital pathway of Reform with Growth for a strengthened, efficient, effective and responsive Organization;

**Having considered** the Report of the Conference Committee on Follow-up to the Independent External Evaluation of FAO (CoC-IEE) on the work completed in 2009 in the framework of the IPA, and the remaining work to be undertaken for the implementation of the IPA;

**Noting with appreciation** that major progress has been achieved in implementing many IPA actions in the course of 2009, along with related recommendations from the Root and Branch Review of administrative processes;

**Recognizing** that FAO renewal will continue to entail considerable efforts to carry out large and complex IPA projects in 2010-11, and to ensure long-term integration of culture change in the overall reform of the Organization;

**Acknowledging** the spirit of collaboration and trust that has prevailed between the Membership and the Management of FAO in conducting the reform process as a joint endeavour, with full engagement and interactive participation of the Members, constant support of the Director-General, and committed involvement of the Staff across the Organization;

**Cognisant** of the need to ensure the sustainability of the reform process in the future years:

1. **Endorses** the Report of CoC-IEE on the Immediate Plan of Action for FAO Renewal[, as given in *Appendix \_\_ (of the Conference report)*], including the recommended amendments to the Basic Texts of the Organization for the implementation of the IPA, contained in Annex 3].
2. **Decides** that the Council will continue to monitor the overall progress in implementation of the IPA and report to the Conference in 2011, receiving from Management, at its regular sessions, progress reports on IPA implementation for review and guidance. In performing this oversight function, the Council will also receive, as appropriate, specific inputs from the Programme Committee, the Finance Committee and the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters in their respective areas of mandate. In this context, the Independent Chairperson of the Council will play a proactive facilitating role.
3. **Decides** to establish, under Article VI of the FAO Constitution, a Conference Committee on Follow-up to the Independent External Evaluation of FAO (CoC-IEE) for the duration of 2010-11, to ensure continuity of oversight, guidance and follow-up for the implementation of the IPA, supporting the Council in its monitoring responsibility. To this end, the CoC-IEE will:

- a) provide overall monitoring and follow-up of the implementation of the IPA by Management in 2010-11, as well as guidance for any required improvement in this regard, without prejudice to the statutory functions of the Council and its Committees;
  - b) complete a report on the results of its work by April 2011 for presentation to the Conference in June 2011, formulating any recommendations stemming from the implementation of the IPA;
  - c) be open to full participation by all Members with speaking rights, conduct its work in all languages of the Organization, and collectively formulate its recommendations and decisions through consensus to the maximum extent possible. Each region will designate up to three representatives of Member Nations as its spokespersons;
  - d) hold three meetings per year at appropriate periods of time, taking into account related sessions of the Governing Bodies to ensure proper sequencing of complementary meetings, and which will not be held in parallel with major meetings of the Rome-based UN Organizations to allow the fullest participation of Members;
  - e) appoint a Bureau consisting of the Chairperson and the two Vice-Chairpersons of the CoC-IEE and one representative of Member Nations per region, which will address exclusively administrative and organizational matters, and be open to non-speaking observers from the Membership;
  - f) be proactively supported by Management, which will provide secretariat services and the required documents for its meetings.
4. **Decides** that the Independent Chairperson of the FAO Council will be the Chairperson of the CoC-IEE.
5. **Decides** to appoint as Vice-Chairpersons of the CoC-IEE:
- \_\_\_\_\_; and
  - \_\_\_\_\_.

(Adopted on \_\_ November 2009)