

**Chair's Aide Mémoire - Fifth Meeting of the Conference Committee
for IEE Follow-up (CoC-IEE)**

Wednesday 30 July 2008

Mohammad Saeid Noori-Naeini Chair

Status of Work of the CoC-IEE

1) Members restated their commitment and support for the reform process, noting that the reforms were crucial in order for FAO to be able to fully execute its mandate. Many Members reaffirmed that Reform must be accompanied by Growth, noting that "Reform with Growth" had been a main message of the IEE. The Committee appreciated the statement by the FAO Deputy Director-General, the summary of the status of work by its Chair, and the commitment being displayed by management. Members generally considered that the texts completed by the Working Groups and the management proposals on elements of the strategic framework and medium-term plan provided a firm basis on which the CoC-IEE could complete the proposals for the Immediate Plan of Action to the Special Session of the Conference. It was emphasised that flexibility would be needed by all to arrive at solutions satisfactory to the great majority of Members and that discussions should continue with both urgency and a constructive spirit of compromise. There should be no delay following the decisions of the Conference in moving forward.

2) Among the points made by Members, were:

- a) Human resources management, financial administration and business practices, and strengthening partnerships, especially with the Rome Based agencies, were areas where some reforms could be undertaken without awaiting the Special Session of the Conference or the outcome of the Root and Branch Review; and
- b) There should be no diversion of resources from the technical work of the Organization to finance reform. There would thus be a need for extra-budgetary resources to ensure early implementation in 2009.

3) Some Members referred to points on which they considered further deliberations were needed in the Working Groups. These points were referred back to the Working Groups for further consideration, prior to the presentation of the draft sections of the Immediate Plan of Action to the CoC-IEE for its further consideration.

4) Management agreed that in early September, it would provide the Working Groups with:

- a) updated cost estimates for implementation of the Immediate Plan of Action; and
- b) an update of progress on management early actions.

There would also be an opportunity for interaction with Ernst and Young, the consultancy firm undertaking the Root and Branch Review.

5) It was noted that the Bureau was further discussing the format of the Special Session of the Conference and that it was generally agreed that its duration should be shortened.

6) In addition to the already approved schedule of meetings for September and October, the Committee approved an additional Working Group meeting on Wednesday 3 September.