

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
9:30-12:30

Chaired by Noel de Luna, Chair WG III

Consideration of the draft Programme of Work and Budget

1. The Working Groups welcomed the Director-General's proposals for the Programme of Work and Budget (PWB) 2010-11 (www.fao.org/uploads/media/K5831MTPPWBEEnglishK5831.pdf), which had been updated by Management following on the July meetings of the Working Groups and the Programme and Finance Committees. It was agreed to focus the discussion on the treatment of the Immediate Plan of Action (IPA) under the PWB, noting that a wider consideration of the Strategic Framework, Medium Term Plan 2010-13 and PWB 2010-11 could take place at the forthcoming meeting of 16 September 2009.

2. The Working Groups were informed that, in treating the implementation of the IPA under the PWB 2010-11, Management had reviewed the cost assumptions and had sought to reduce the dependence on voluntary funding, while staying within the proposed Net Appropriation of USD 995.9 million and protecting the proposed programme of work. They took note that the IPA cost estimates for 2010-11 assumed that USD 10.5 million in voluntary contributions would have been received and committed for IPA actions in 2009, and that USD 8.3 million of this amount had been pledged to date.

3. The Working Groups noted with appreciation that the overall net estimated cost of implementing the IPA in 2010-11 had been reduced from USD 59.9 million to USD 38.6 million. They also took note of the changes made to a number of the IPA actions to arrive at this reduced cost estimate, including the reduction in the scope or volume of some activities and the extension of the timeframe for some actions into 2012-13.

4. Members acknowledged that the revised funding mechanism proposed for implementing the IPA in 2010-11 (51% from assessed contributions and 49% from voluntary contributions) represented a move in the right direction. They recognized that the PWB 2010-11 represented a complex package of major ongoing reforms, and that Management had prioritized and sequenced the IPA actions to be implemented in the biennium. Some doubts were expressed, however, on whether this would go far enough in guaranteeing the availability of the resources needed to deliver the activities planned under the IPA. In this context, the Regional Groups were invited to consider the option of increasing the Net Appropriation in order to absorb the entire cost of the implementation of the IPA under the assessed contributions, without decreasing the resources allocated to carry out the programme of work of the Organization.

Annex

Agenda for the meeting

1. Chair's introduction
2. Consideration of the draft Programme of Work and Budget