

Chair's Aide-Mémoire

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

Thursday 4 June 2009

Chaired by Noel de Luna, Chair WG III

Headquarters Organizational Structure

1. The Working Groups welcomed the progress report on the Headquarters Organizational Structure presented by Management (www.fao.org/uploads/media/WG-4June-HQE_3.pdf), appreciating that, as part of the ongoing preparation of the Programme of Work and Budget (PWB) 2010-11, Management was refining the Headquarters structure and the mandates of Departments and Offices. The corresponding budgetary proposals would be presented in the draft PWB 2010-11, which would be reviewed by the Working Groups and the Programme and Finance Committees in late July 2009.

2. As requested by the Working Groups at their 23 March meeting, Management presented, as “work-in-progress”, the proposed Headquarters organigramme and a snapshot of preliminary and tentative post distributions across Departments and Offices arising from the PWB planning process as of late May, along with clarifications on the functions and structure of several offices. Members noted that further changes to the proposed Headquarters structure could arise from the recommendations of the Root and Branch Review, as well as the forthcoming reviews of the Office of the Director-General and of the Shared Services Centre.

3. Members looked forward to seeing further clarifications on the Headquarters structure in the draft PWB 2010-11. Questions were raised in the course of the discussions, specifically in the following areas, where additional clarifications or reactions from Management would be welcomed:

- the structure and functions of the Corporate Services and Finance Department, including with regard to the Human Resources Management Division, whose position in the proposed structure should more visibly reflect its importance;
- the organization and role of the Office of Knowledge Exchange, Research and Extension, including how its functions would be linked to the work of the technical departments and decentralized offices;
- the range of responsibilities of the CIO Division;
- the impact of delayering on streamlining management arrangements, on strengthening technical work and on support staff.

4. The Working Groups were informed of the withdrawal of the notice of termination of the Joint FAO/IAEA Division (AGE). They also received clarifications on the integration of its work in the new Results Framework.

5. The progress reported by Management on the recruitment of the Director of Evaluation and the Ethics Officer was noted by Members, as was the publication of the vacancy announcement for the post of Deputy Director-General Operations, and its planned advertisement in appropriate periodicals.

Annex

Agenda for the meeting

1. Chair's introduction
2. Consideration of Headquarters organizational structure