

Report of the CoC-IEE to the FAO Conference on the Immediate Plan of Action for FAO Renewal

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CHAIRPERSON'S FOREWORD

1. As Chairperson of the Conference Committee, I must express my appreciation for all the support received from the Committee and the FAO management and staff in implementing the Immediate Plan of Action for FAO Renewal (IPA) agreed by the FAO Conference at its special session in November 2008.
2. It can only be with a sense of humility that we bring this report to the Conference. The number of hungry people now stands, totally unacceptably, at over one billion people with the same rights and aspirations to respect and dignity as the rest of us. The short-term challenges and choices the world faces have ameliorated as we start to hesitantly emerge from the financial and economic crisis, but not so the medium and long-term. As the world population climbs inexorably from 6.8 billion towards over nine billion projected for 2050, government budgets are constrained by record deficits in much of the developed world, food prices remain above their more recent averages, and the implications of climate change for the livelihoods of the poor and hungry are becoming ever more evident.
3. As evidenced by the recent G8 Summit, the world has not forgotten the needs of the poor and hungry, but neither is it doing enough. The forthcoming World Summit on Food Security will provide an opportunity to reinforce that commitment, and to re-order priorities where they really matter.
4. Remembering the conclusion of the Independent External Evaluation that 'the world faces continuously emerging challenges that only a global organization with the mandate and experience of FAO can address with legitimacy and authority', we must ask ourselves if we have done enough to enable FAO to play its essential part in the world community. With the adoption of the Immediate Plan of Action for FAO Renewal, Members, supported by FAO management, demonstrated their commitment to a reform agenda. Now it is with much gratitude, pleasure and pride that I present the Committee's Final Report to the FAO Conference.
5. The achievements are telling:
 - results-based management has been introduced and change towards a results-based culture has begun;
 - decentralization is moving ahead, as is delegation of responsibility;
 - organizational streamlining has been initiated;
 - attention is being given to improved human resource management; and
 - more effective governance is being introduced.
6. Above all, we have created a mutual trust and unity of purpose within the membership and between the membership and management. Reform cannot be a static process and the Director-General, under the supervision of the Governing Bodies, leads that process. The challenges are immense, and the response must be proportionate.
7. While progress to date has been considerable, more could have been achieved. There has been a shortfall in resources for the supporting IPA trust fund, resulting in a sequencing of actions initially foreseen as a comprehensive package. The momentum can easily be lost dependent, as it is, on culture change both in the secretariat and in the Governing Bodies. With our hearts and minds always focused on making FAO a more effective contributor to the global effort to overcome hunger and poverty, we must nurture this fragile plant. All of us

must now redouble our efforts: securing the necessary financial resources; optimising the results in Governing Bodies; and providing the essential oversight and support to management and staff for continued implementation of the IPA towards a more effective FAO, which plays a major role in the elimination of hunger and the realization of the right to food in the context of national food security across the global community.

Mohammad Saeid Noori-Naeini
Chairperson of the Conference Committee for the
Follow-up to the IEE (CoC-IEE)

MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL

1. In the first year of implementation of the Immediate Plan of Action for FAO Renewal, the Organization and its Member States have moved decisively forward with reform, setting solid foundations for long-lasting change. The Conference Committee for the Follow-up to the Independent External Evaluation of FAO (CoC-IEE) has shown exemplary leadership and provided encouragement in guiding Members and the Secretariat through implementation. FAO staff and management have on their part provided extraordinary enthusiasm, commitment and determination to support the reform efforts. On my part, FAO reform and the implementation of the IPA remains at the top of my agenda, as the world needs a strengthened FAO to play its part in defeating hunger.
2. The new Strategic Framework formulated by Members and management provides the broad principles and the long-range guidance on our future programmes of work. It builds on a firm conceptual base – an enhanced results-based approach – as agreed in the IPA. The proposed Medium Term Plan (MTP) 2010-13 and Programme of Work and Budget (PWB) 2010-11 direct all resources at the disposal of a restructured Organization with revamped working arrangements to achievement of measurable results, clearly distinguishing between technical and administrative work. Indeed, every section of the MTP and PWB is a reform programme in itself.
3. The CoC-IEE's approach of monitoring progress through member-led working groups was innovative and fruitful, creating the conditions for a meaningful dialogue among Members and with management. Members were kept abreast of the achievements and gave feedback to shape policy and planning in the areas of results-based management, human resources reforms, culture change, administrative systems reform and functioning as one. The dialogue contributed significantly to building the partnership among Members and between Members and management that is necessary for undertaking broad, deep and long-lasting reforms.
4. It is clear that there is much to do in spite of having completed 56 percent of the IPA actions in the first year. Many challenges remain ahead of us to successfully complete a number of large, complex and interdependent initiatives. Members may rest assured that I am determined not to lose momentum on the IPA, and that FAO staff will maintain their dedication and discharge their obligation to implement the reforms. I look forward to the continued engagement of Members to FAO Renewal, through your financial support, encouragement and effective oversight.
5. I am grateful to Professor Noori and to the entire CoC-IEE for guiding the most comprehensive package of reforms ever to be launched in the entire United Nations, combining vision and practicality in an exemplary way.

In presenting its report to the Conference, the CoC- IEE wishes to express its appreciation for the strong support provided by FAO Management and the Director-General throughout the process. The CoC-IEE also gratefully acknowledges the unfailing commitment of FAO staff to the reform of the Organization. Moreover, the leadership, dedication and hard work of the Chair of the CoC-IEE, Prof. Mohammad Saeid Noori Naeini, of the Vice-Chairs, Ambassador Agnes van Ardenne-van der Hoeven and Ambassador Wilfred Joseph Ngirwa, as well as the Chairs, Co-Chairs, Vice-Chairs and Members of the Working Groups were crucial in bringing the work of the CoC-IEE to a successful conclusion.

INTRODUCTION

1. In 2008, the Special Session of the Conference adopted the Immediate Plan of Action (IPA) for FAO Renewal to be implemented between 2009 and 2011. The Conference also established “*a time-bound Conference Committee (CoC-IEE) for the duration of 2009 under Article VI of the FAO Constitution for continued follow-up to the Independent External Evaluation of FAO, completing outstanding work within the Immediate Plan of Action.*”¹
2. The functions of the CoC-IEE were to recommend to the Conference in 2009:
 - “(1) *the new Strategic Framework, Medium Term Plan 2010-13 and the Programme of Work and Budget 2010-11 on the new integrated results-based framework;*
 - (2) *any changes found desirable in the size and regional representation in the Membership of the Council;*
 - (3) *further reforms of systems, culture change and organizational restructuring, including:*
 - (a) *Dynamic follow-up to the reports of the Root and Branch Review by management, including early actions,*
 - (b) *Initiation and review of the report of the study for an Organizational Risk Assessment and Management Framework,*
 - (c) *Plans for increased effectiveness of the decentralized offices,*
 - (d) *Detailed proposals for strengthened Human Resource management.*”
3. The CoC-IEE was also requested “*to recommend to the Conference in 2009 necessary changes in the Basic Texts as provided for in the Immediate Plan of Action*” and to monitor the implementation of the IPA during 2009, in close consultation with the FAO Governing Bodies.
4. The CoC-IEE was additionally requested “*to analyse the concept of “Reform with Growth” and submit proposals to the 2009 Conference*”.
5. The working arrangements for the CoC-IEE, its Bureau and Working Groups were similar to those adopted in 2008. The Working Groups were renamed to reflect the nature of the work to be carried out in 2009 as follows²:

¹ Resolution 1/2008: Adoption of the Immediate Plan of Action for FAO Renewal – the full text of the Resolution is reproduced as Annex 1 to this report.

² Details of membership and officers of the CoC-IEE, its Working Groups and Bureau are provided in Annex 2 to this report.

- Working Group I: Strategic Framework, Medium Term Plan and Programme of Work and Budget;
- Working Group II: Basic Texts and Membership of the Council;
- Working Group III: Reform of Systems, Culture Change and Organizational Restructuring.

6. At its first meeting on 21st January 2009, the CoC-IEE agreed its work plan. Efforts were made, through careful planning, to ensure that the programmes of work of the CoC-IEE and of the Management were fully consistent and, at the same time, well coordinated with the meetings of the Governing Bodies in 2009. In total, 28 sessions were initially scheduled, which were later increased to 36.

7. Additionally, a number of informal seminars were organized on IPA-related matters. They were arranged in response to requests made by Members, who wished to exchange views informally and interactively among themselves and with the Management on issues of particular interest. Although not part of the formal deliberations, the seminars proved to be useful in improving communication and understanding, thus helping to make progress on various issues in such areas as culture change, restructuring at Headquarters and in decentralized offices, results based management, streamlining of administrative processes, management of human resources, staff involvement and expectations, etc.

8. **Implementation of the IPA:** During 2009, progress on the implementation of the IPA has been reported regularly by FAO Management to the CoC-IEE and its Working Groups, as well as to the FAO Council. As called for in Resolution 1/2008, a Trust Fund was established for the implementation of the IPA. By the end of September 2009, 31 Members had made pledges totalling USD 8.3 million, while 23 had made payments to the Trust Fund totalling USD 5 million. The Resolution urged all Members to contribute extra- budgetary resources of a provisional amount of USD 21.8 million (exclusive of 7% PSC) for 2009. While the funding requirement for 2009 was subsequently revised down to USD 14.3 million (exclusive of PSC), with USD 9.8 million (or USD 10.5 million with PSC) considered essential to initiate the implementation of inter-dependent actions, the total pledges fall short of this amount.

9. Implementation of the IPA has proceeded based on 14 projects, each one grouping a number of closely related actions, under the responsibility of project leaders and teams established by Management. While much has been achieved already under many projects, depending on their scope and length, some important parts remain to be done. Implementation of the IPA is in fact only closing the first year of a longer period of time during which this complex process is expected to unfold. Therefore, as was the case in 2009, the continued execution leading to the completion of the IPA will represent a major feature of the forthcoming 2010-11 biennium.

10. In April 2009, the consulting firm Ernst and Young released their report at the conclusion of the IEE-recommended Root and Branch Review (RBR) of mainly administrative processes. To facilitate understanding of the varied and often interlocking reform measures and actions underlying both the IPA and the accepted recommendations from the RBR, an integrated approach has been adopted, as agreed by the CoC-IEE and the Council, by placing RBR-related actions under relevant IPA projects. Annex 5 indicates the progress achieved in 2009 across all the IPA actions and provides an overview of all IPA actions over the period 2009 through 2011 and beyond.

11. The structure of the report follows the content of Resolution 1/2008 and reflects the main areas of work of the CoC-IEE in 2009. The first section provides an overview of the planning documentation prepared by Management in response to the requirements for a new results-based framework set out in the IPA. It also provides the CoC-IEE's analysis of the concept of "Reform with Growth". The second section of the report covers the area of Governance reform outlining the process that has led to drafting of the amendments to the Basic Texts necessary to the implementation of the IPA and the outcome of deliberations concerning the membership of the Council. Finally, the third section presents what has been achieved in the area of Reform of Systems, Culture Change and Organizational Restructuring while section IV lists the areas of outstanding work in relation to the IPA and the mechanisms which will be established in 2010 to ensure their completion.

I. STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK, MEDIUM TERM PLAN AND PROGRAMME OF WORK AND BUDGET

12. This section outlines the new FAO results framework, providing an overview of the programming and budgeting documentation. It also covers the concept of “Reform with Growth”, as requested by the Conference in 2008. The planning documents represent a major effort to link means to ends, to define results based on contribution to objectives and resource requirements. They present a unified programme of work in the results frameworks for assessed and estimated voluntary contributions across all locations, starting the move from supply-driven to a demand-driven results and resource allocations. They also provide a basis for management accountability, internally and to the Members, through indicators in the results frameworks.

13. As called for by the IPA, and in order to make a clear link between the results that need to be delivered and the required resources, the Medium Term Plan (MTP) 2010-13 and the Programme of Work and Budget (PWB) 2010-11 have been, for the first time, presented by Management in a combined document. Based on the Strategic Framework, the four-year MTP presents a result-based programmatic approach to the work of the Organization under all sources of funds. The approach adopted in the MTP will help to focus and prioritize the work of the Organization, a process which will continue into the 2010-11 biennium.

14. The PWB, on other hand, sets out the resources, both from assessed and voluntary contributions, to be managed in a unified work programme over the first two years of the results frameworks in the MTP. The formulation process was particularly complex, as the PWB 2010-11 is in effect an all-inclusive package of reform and programme of work.

a) Strategic Framework

15. The new Strategic Framework is a forward looking document with a ten-year horizon, subject to review every four years, setting forth the agreed Vision for FAO and Global Goals of Members, and outlining the results-based approach for programme planning, implementation, monitoring and reporting, within a means-to-ends hierarchy covering all the work of the Organization (Annex 4).

16. In line with the format set out in the IPA (action 3.2), the Strategic Framework includes (see box):

- an analysis of the challenges facing food, agriculture and rural development (Section I);
- the agreed Vision for FAO and Global Goals of Members (Section II);
- the results-based approach for programme planning, implementation, monitoring and reporting, within a means-to-ends hierarchy covering all work of the Organization (Section III);
- the Strategic Objectives to be achieved by Member Countries with support from FAO (Section IV); and
- the eight Core Functions identified in the IPA, and representing the comparative advantages of FAO, across the Objectives (Section V).

FAO's results-based framework

FAO's Vision

A world free of hunger and malnutrition where food and agriculture contributes to improving the living standards of all, especially the poorest, in an economically, socially and environmentally sustainable manner.

The three Global Goals of Members

- reduction of the absolute number of people suffering from hunger, progressively ensuring a world in which all people at all times have sufficient safe and nutritious food that meets their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life;
- elimination of poverty and the driving forward of economic and social progress for all, with increased food production, enhanced rural development and sustainable livelihoods;
- sustainable management and utilisation of natural resources, including land, water, air, climate and genetic resources, for the benefit of present and future generations.

Strategic Objectives

- A. Sustainable intensification of crop production.
- B. Increased sustainable livestock production.
- C. Sustainable management and use of fisheries and aquaculture resources.
- D. Improved quality and safety of foods at all stages of the food chain.
- E. Sustainable management of forests and trees.
- F. Sustainable management of land, water and genetic resources and improved responses to global environmental challenges affecting food and agriculture.
- G. Enabling environment for markets to improve livelihoods and rural development.
- H. Improved food security and better nutrition.
- I. Improved preparedness for, and effective response to, food and agricultural threats and emergencies.
- K. Gender equity in access to resources, goods, services and decision-making in the rural areas.
- L. Increased and more effective public and private investment in agriculture and rural development.

Functional Objectives

- X. Effective collaboration with Member States and stakeholders.
- Y. Efficient and effective administration.

Core Functions

- a. Monitoring and assessment of long-term and medium-term trends and perspectives.
- b. Assembly and provision of information, knowledge and statistics.
- c. Development of international instruments, norms and standards.
- d. Policy and strategy options and advice.
- e. Technical support to promote technology transfer and build capacity.
- f. Advocacy and communication.
- g. Interdisciplinarity and innovation.
- h. Partnerships and alliances.

17. In addressing the overall trends and challenges facing food, agriculture and rural development, FAO's new results-based approach provides a structured means for focusing on the opportunities where FAO is best placed to intervene, leveraging its comparative strengths vis-à-vis other development partners. This promotes a demand-driven definition of focused interventions that are directly linked to the achievement of Members' Goals and Objectives. These interventions are the basis for FAO's four-year results frameworks and two-year programme of work presented in the Medium Term Plan and Programme of Work and Budget.

b) Medium Term Plan

18. The IPA established the format for the presentation of the Strategic and Functional Objectives and underlying Organizational Results in the MTP (IPA action 3.3).

19. The MTP has a four-year time horizon, to be reviewed each biennium, covering:
- a) Strategic Objectives for achievement with support from FAO by Member Countries and the international community, as per the Strategic Framework;
 - b) Functional Objectives that ensure organizational processes and administration work towards improvements in a results-based framework;
 - c) Organizational Results, being the outcomes expected to be achieved over a four-year period under all sources of funds, contributing to the Strategic Objectives;
 - d) Core Functions of FAO; and
 - e) Impact Focus Areas (IFAs) that provide a communication and advocacy tool to orient resource mobilization and partnering efforts toward priority groups of results.

The Working Groups welcomed the MTP and commended the more limited number of Organizational Results (56) in the new results framework in line with the earlier trend of reduction in Programme Entities (183).

20. **Indicators.** As foreseen in the IPA (action 3.3), the formulation of specific, measurable, achievable, realistic and time-bound (SMART) indicators of outcome is at the heart of the new FAO planning framework, and will be one of the critical success factors for an effective results-based management system. In this regard, the CoC-IEE Working Groups provided the following guidance: (i) indicators should measure outcome rather than output level results; (ii) the ability to effectively benchmark, measure and monitor the indicators on an ongoing basis through baselines and data sources should be ensured; and (iii) efforts should be made to limit the number of indicators for each outcome, so as to permit monitoring within foreseeable resource levels.

21. As set out in the IPA (action 3.12), the Organization is to put in place a resource mobilization and management strategy starting in the next biennium, comprising Impact Focus Areas, National Medium Term Priority Frameworks, and regional and subregional areas of priority action. The strategy will be part of the medium-term planning process to ensure the focus of voluntary contributions on the results frameworks and improve governing body monitoring and oversight.

22. **Impact Focus Areas.** As set out in the IPA (action 1.5), Impact Focus Areas (IFAs) have been established to:

- a) help mobilise resources for priority groups of results which could benefit from additional funding, acting as “flagships”, providing a communication and advocacy tool to better attract voluntary extra-budgetary resources and partnerships to supplement assessed contributions;
- b) progressively enable pooled, less rigidly tied and less earmarked, funding of voluntary extra-budgetary contributions;
- c) primarily address issues of priority to developing countries with emphasis on capacity building and getting policy frameworks right; and

- d) facilitate governing body oversight of the use of extra-budgetary resources in line with agreed priorities under the new budgeting model.

It was also recognized that the full utilization of IFAs is still work in progress and the issue should be regularly considered by the Finance and Programme Committees during 2010-11.

23. Seven Impact Focus Areas have been endorsed by the CoC-IEE, which will help to mobilize extra-budgetary support for 45 of the 49 Organizational Results under the Strategic Objectives.

FAO's Impact Focus Areas

- a) Support to the implementation of the Comprehensive Framework of Action (CFA) – smallholder farmer food production and global information and monitoring systems (IFA-CFA);
- b) Transboundary threats to production, health and environment (IFA-EMPRES);
- c) Strengthening the base for sustainable forest management (IFA-SFM);
- d) Capacity building in support of implementation of the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries (IFA-CCRF);
- e) Coping with scarcity of water and land resources (IFA-WALS);
- f) Capacity building to strengthen information and statistics for decision making for the sustainable management of agriculture, natural resources, food security and poverty alleviation (IFA-CBIS);
- g) Global standard setting and implementation into national policies and legislation (IFA-SNL).

c) Programme of Work and Budget

24. As set out in the IPA (action 3.4), for the first time, the PWB 2010-11 presents an integrated view of the total resource requirements to carry out the Programme of Work, in the form of assessed contributions and voluntary contributions handled as a unified work programme. Through the results-based approach, these resources will be subject to the same planning and oversight arrangements, with encouragement to donors to reduce earmarking and increase pool funding of voluntary contributions. In the new planning cycle, as foreseen in the IPA, the Council will propose the Programme of Work, the level of assessed budget and provide an estimate of extra-budgetary funding to the Conference for further consideration and approval.

25. The CoC-IEE endorsed the application of the new budgeting model, as mandated by the IPA, noting that the integrated budget provided a more holistic view of resources at the disposal of the Organization, which is intended to improve governance, oversight and application to the agreed results frameworks while also highlighting the important role of voluntary contributions. While the uncertainty and earmarking of voluntary contributions could affect the achievement of planned results in the unified work programme, it was noted that the mobilization and provision of voluntary contributions need to be fully aligned with the Strategic Objectives. The voluntary contributions will be regularly monitored by the Programme and Finance Committees and the Council, driven by results frameworks, and with less earmarking. This oversight will be facilitated by the introduction of a results-based implementation performance monitoring and reporting system in 2010-11.

26. The Programme of Work is based on the requirements to achieve the two-year targets under the results frameworks presented in the MTP for the Strategic Objectives and Functional Objectives, along with associated requirements for country offices, the Technical Cooperation Programme, and Capital and Security Expenditure.

27. The PWB is to cover a single biennium, with the budget divided between an administrative budget and a programme budget from assessed contributions and estimated extra-budgetary resources presented in a results-based framework and providing:

- the Organizational Results, including the organizational responsibility for each result to be achieved in the biennium;
- the quantification of costs for all Organizational Results and all obligations;
- a calculation of cost increases and planned efficiency savings;
- the provision for long-term liabilities, under-funded obligations and reserve funds; and
- the draft Appropriations Resolution for approval by the Conference.

d) Results Frameworks

28. As foreseen in the IPA (action 3.3) and agreed by the CoC-IEE and Council, the combined MTP/PWB provides the full elaboration of the results frameworks and the planned 2010-11 resource allocation for each Strategic Objective and Functional Objective, which includes:

- the objective title, being the benefits or changes expected to be achieved in a ten-year timeframe in country institutions, the international community or development partners;
- the statement of issues and challenges, being the problem(s) to be addressed, including significant demographic, environmental and macro-economic factors and trends; it highlights key development intervention needs focusing on opportunities for intervention by FAO, through targeted Organizational Results and Primary Tools;
- assumptions and risks associated with the achievement of the objective, assuming the Organizational Results are achieved. Assumptions are hypotheses about risks that could affect the progress or success of a development intervention;
- checklist of the application of the core functions to the achievement of each of the organizational results;
- organizational results, being the outcome, or effects, that are expected to be achieved over a four-year time horizon from the uptake and use of FAO's products and services;
- indicators, being the quantitative or qualitative factor or variable that provides a simple and reliable means to measure achievement, to reflect the changes connected to an intervention, or to help assess the performance of a development actor;
- baseline, being the value of the indicator measured at the beginning of the period – in this case the beginning of 2010;
- targets, being the value of the same indicator at the end of the two-year PWB and four-year MTP, hence reflecting what is expected to be achieved during those periods; and

- the level of resources (assessed and voluntary) planned for each Organizational Result across the Organization for the 2010-11 biennium.

It should be noted that the FAOR programme and the TCP at present are not fully integrated into the results based framework. Recognizing that this matter is work in progress, it will be further considered by management and the relevant Governing Bodies during the 2010-11 biennium aiming at implementation in 2012 to the extent possible.

29. Although an initial attempt has been made in the MTP at expressing the substantive priorities of the Organization, it is recognised that prioritization is a long-term exercise dependant on the availability of adequate complementary information from the Technical Committees and Regional Conferences, which should be provided in the first full cycle of results-based planning in 2010-11. In this context, the development of regional and subregional areas of priority action is foreseen for consideration by the Regional Conferences in 2010.

e) Concept of “Reform with Growth”

30. Resolution 1/2008 tasked the CoC-IEE with analysing the concept of “Reform with Growth” and submitting proposals to the 2009 Conference. In fact, while the expression of “Reform with Growth” was a central message of the IEE, it was not firmly defined by the evaluators.

31. On the basis of consultations with the Programme and Finance Committees, the Working Groups agreed that while there could be a range of perceptions about the implications of the concept, the notion of “Reform with Growth” entailed, inter alia, an adequately resourced Organization with stronger comparative advantage, improved governance and reinforced technical, administrative and managerial competencies, at Headquarters as well as in Decentralized Offices. The main conclusions are reproduced in the following box.

“Reform with Growth”³

“The Committees submitted to the CoC-IEE the following initial elements related to the concept of “reform with growth” for its consideration. The growth should be real, considering the following points:

- a) a primary consideration of ensuring efficient and effective delivery of services to member countries;*
- b) the need to guarantee sustainability of the reforms presently carried out in the Organization;*
- c) the imperative of ensuring that highly qualified and sufficient human resources are at the disposal of FAO;*
- d) growth requirements not to be defined by pre-determined figures but be assessed in the first instance against the Strategic and Functional Objectives and MTP approved by the governing bodies; and*
- e) the expected full integration of Regular Budget and extra-budgetary resources in the MTP and PWB.”*

³ Paragraph 17 of the report of the Joint Meeting of the Programme and Finance Committees (CL 136/10, 13 May 2009).

32. Members also stressed the need to consider options for a long-term approach to “Reform with Growth”, including combining increase in resources with greater accountability and effectiveness of a reformed Organization. In an attempt to further clarify the concept, the following aspects were emphasized:

- the inclusion of the impact on food security as one possible element of the definition of Reform with Growth;
- concern on the predictability of extra-budgetary resources;
- maintaining adequate levels in the Organization’s Human Resources;
- ensuring adequate monitoring of the process of Reform with Growth.

II. GOVERNANCE REFORM

33. The 2008 Conference requested follow-up work in two areas of Governance: (i) the amendments to the Basic Texts of the Organization necessary for the implementation of the Immediate Plan of Action; and (ii) the issue of the Membership of the Council, which had been left open in 2008. The amendments to the Basic Texts recommended by the CoC-IEE, which are fully addressed in Annex 3, are only briefly outlined in this section.

a) Amendments to the FAO Basic Texts for the implementation of the IPA

34. The Special Session of the Conference determined (Resolution 1/2008) that the CoC-IEE should recommend to the Conference in 2009 necessary changes in the Basic Texts for the implementation of the Immediate Plan of Action (IPA). It further determined that this work be carried out on the basis of the recommendations of the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters (CCLM), and would be reviewed by the Council as appropriate.

35. The CCLM held five sessions in 2009, all open to silent observers. The CCLM recommended a number of amendments to the Basic Texts, covering all the areas in which they were mandated by the IPA.

36. Working Group II of the CoC-IEE met three times in 2009 to review the proposed amendments to the Basic Texts of the Organization. It also provided guidance to the CCLM on two specific matters, namely: (i) the harmonization of the status of the CCLM and the Programme and Finance Committees so that the CCLM, in addition to its seven elected members, would have a Chairperson elected by the Council, on the basis of individual qualifications, who would not represent a country or region and would not have the right to vote; and (ii) the possibility of replacing a Member during a session of the Programme and Finance Committees and the related procedure.

37. The CoC-IEE endorsed in June 2009 all the proposed amendments that had been recommended by the CCLM and reviewed by Working Group II at that time. This allowed to meet the July 2009 deadline required to inform FAO Members of the proposed amendments to the Constitution⁴. The CoC-IEE also noted that the CCLM should consider additional IPA-related amendments to the Basic Texts at a subsequent session in 2009.

38. In the *Report of the CoC-IEE on Amendments to the Basic Texts for the Implementation of the Immediate Plan of Action*, included as Annex 3 to this report, changes to the Basic Texts are recommended in the following areas:

- Conference;
- Council;
- Independent Chairperson of the Council;
- Programme and Finance Committees;
- Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters;
- Technical Committees;

⁴ The deadline for informing the Membership of proposed amendments to the Constitution is 120 days before the Conference session at which such proposals are to be put to the vote (Article XX, paragraph 4 of the Constitution).

- Regional Conferences;
- Ministerial Meetings;
- Appointment and term of office of the Director-General;
- Reform of Programming, Budgeting and Results-Based Monitoring;
- Delegation of authority of the Director-General.

39. In line with the CCLM recommendations, the proposed amendments are to be made to the Constitution, the General Rules of the Organization (GRO) and the Financial Regulations, as well as to the Rules of Procedure of individual Committees of the Council. In addition, some IPA actions are to be addressed through resolutions of the Conference. All the proposed amendments are fully addressed in Annex 3 of this report.

b) Membership of the FAO Council

40. Resolution 1/2008 provided that the CoC-IEE should recommend to the Conference in 2009 “any changes found desirable in the size and regional representation in the Membership of the Council.”

41. The issue of the membership of the Council was discussed extensively in 2008, following the conclusion by Working Group II that the representational basis of Council membership was unbalanced and in need of review. In 2009, the various options for the membership of Council which had emerged from previous discussions were placed before Working Group II for further consideration, noting that an effective and efficient Council was considered important by all Members.

42. Working Group II agreed that: (i) the option of redistribution of seats among regions while maintaining the present size of Council was unacceptable; and (ii) the reconstitution of the Council on an executive board model with reduced membership (as recommended by the IEE) was not feasible at this point in time.

43. The possible options of leaving the Council membership unchanged or increasing the number of Council seats and the distribution of additional seats among Regional Groups were further discussed in Working Group II, as well as through consultations among the Regional Groups.

44. By the end of September 2009, while agreement on a possible change in the number of Council seats had not been arrived at, efforts were still being made with a view to reaching a consensus on this issue preferably by the Thirty-sixth Session of the Conference.

III. REFORM OF SYSTEMS, CULTURE CHANGE AND ORGANIZATIONAL RESTRUCTURING

45. This section covers items in the area of administration, culture change and organizational restructuring. It also addresses the outcome of the Root and Branch Review (RBR) and the study for an Organizational Risk Assessment and Management Framework, as requested by the 2008 Conference.

a) Headquarters Organizational Structure

46. The IPA called for a comprehensive restructuring of FAO headquarters, to be initiated in 2009 and pursued in 2010-11 for completion by 2012 (IPA actions 3.91 through 3.103). It included a tentative revised organizational structure at Headquarters, with broad agreement in principle on the “apex” features of a new organigramme. More detailed elaboration of the structure remained to be carried out, based on consultations between Members and Management. The CoC-IEE endorses the comprehensive restructuring of FAO Headquarters (Figure 1) for implementation. As foreseen in the IPA, the organizational structure will be refined through 2012 based on consultation between Management and the Governing Bodies, including the alignment between cross-cutting issues such as rural development and food security and the structure.

47. Management submitted two analytical documents to the joint meetings of Working Groups I and III, with functional statements for the major units as well as clarifications in response to queries from Members. This work was undertaken with the understanding that consolidated proposals would be included in the PWB 2010-11.

48. This work was guided by the principles for restructuring, as outlined in paragraph 46 of the IPA, namely: ensuring manageable spans of control; consolidation of units and reducing silos; integration and representation of decentralized offices in senior management decision-making processes; flexible, layered structures; effective development and use of human resources; management by results, delegation and accountability; cost-effective decisions on locations, and where possible sharing services with other UN agencies and outsourcing.

49. The new structure reduces to seven the number of direct reporting lines to the Director-General. A new executive management team will be led by the Director-General as chief executive officer and include the two Deputy Directors-General, representing the knowledge base of the Organization and the operational aspects of its work. This team will be more flexible, while having the responsibility, authority and functional scope to ensure that decisions on all aspects of the Organization’s work are enacted in a timely and effective manner.

50. The departmental structure under the apex takes account of functional analyses undertaken in 2009 and will be further informed by ongoing analyses and implementation of the IPA actions and RBR recommendations. The changes in the proposed departmental structure compared with the current organizational structure can be summarised as follows:

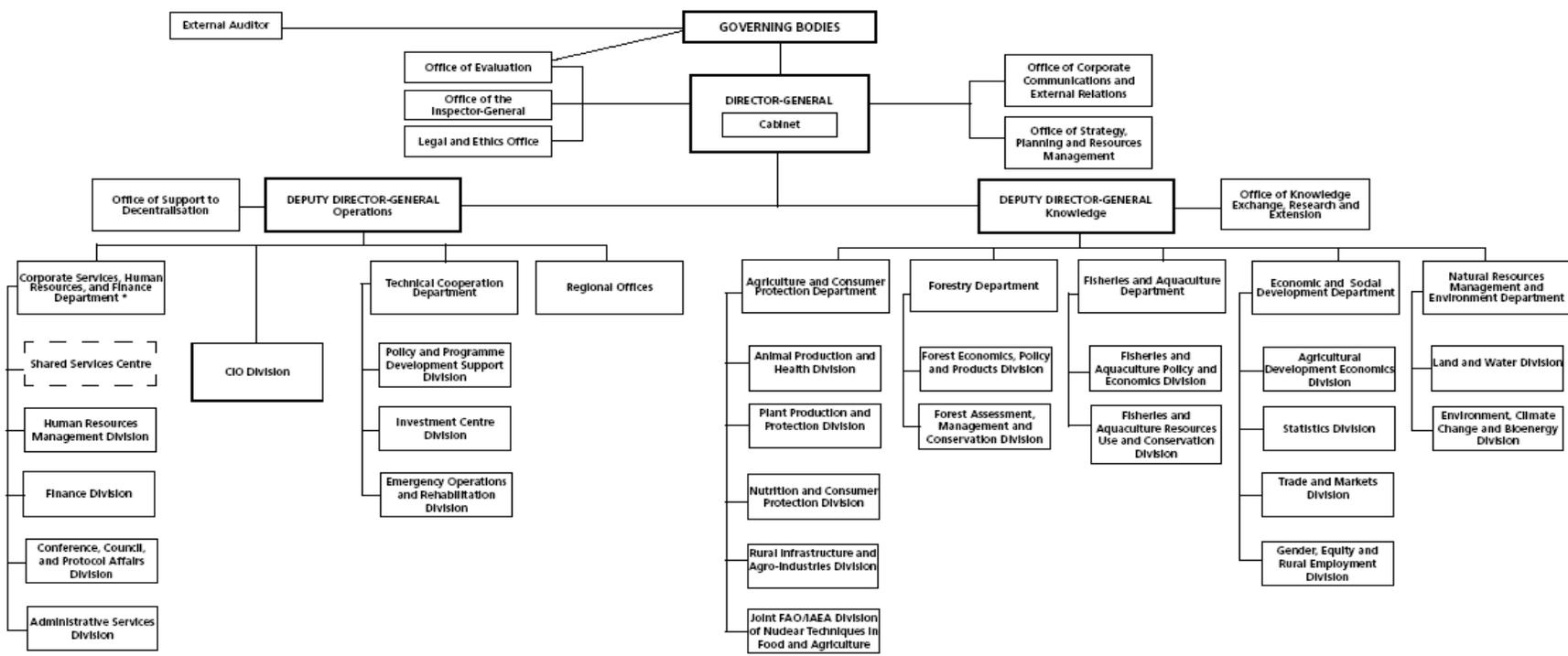
- a) The Knowledge and Communication Department and the Department of Human, Financial and Physical Resources will be abolished.

- b) A new Corporate Services, Human Resources and Finance Department will be established and progressively built over the biennium from: most of the Department of Human, Financial and Physical Resources Department (AF); parts of the Programme and Budget Service (PBEP), specifically functions related to financial forecasting and expenditure performance against budget; and the Conference, Council and Protocol Affairs Division (KCC).
- c) The Technical Cooperation Department will eliminate the Field Operations Division (TCO). Some of the latter division's activities will be absorbed into a new Unit for Monitoring and Coordination of Field Activities, attached to the Office of the ADG and others will be carried out by an expanded Policy and Programme Development Support Division (replacing the former TCA).
- d) The Natural Resources Management and Environment Department will continue to focus on the sustainable use of natural resources, coordination of genetic resources for food and agriculture and environmental aspects, including climate change and the challenges and opportunities of bioenergy. The Research and Extension Division will be eliminated and its functions transferred to the Office of Knowledge Exchange, Research and Extension.
- e) The Agriculture and Consumer Protection Department, and the Economic and Social Development Department will retain their current divisional structures, while significant changes will be implemented below the divisional level by adopting more flexible modalities, facilitated by delayering.
- f) The Fisheries and Aquaculture Department and the Forestry Department will reduce the number of divisions from three to two, while keeping to their existing mandates.
- g) In response to a RBR recommendation aimed at reducing fragmentation and duplication, a single Chief Information Officer (CIO) Division, reporting directly to the Deputy Director-General Operations, will be responsible for delivery of Information Systems and Information Communications and Technology services.

51. Moreover, as recommended by the RBR, a separate follow-on external review of the role of the Office of the Director-General with regard to administrative activities has started in July 2009, the results of which will be available in late October.

52. The proposed Headquarters structure is illustrated in Figure 1, while details of posts and resources allocated to individual departments can be found in the PWB 2010-11.

Figure 1: Headquarters Organigramme



* Structure and functions of Corporate Services, Human Resources, and Finance Department subject to further adjustments.

 Service

b) Decentralized Structure (decentralized offices staffing, location and coverage)

53. The CoC-IEE reiterated the importance of strengthening FAO's decentralized structure, recognizing that the success of the Organization depends on its ability to extend the knowledge it produces to the field to help countries address the challenges they face. In this context, it was decided to include resources for Member visits to Decentralized Offices (DOs) in the PWB 2010-11. In 2009, field visits by FAO Permanent Representatives have proved to be extremely useful in allowing Members and Governing Bodies to familiarize themselves with the work of the DOs. Such visits enable them to get a first-hand impression of the challenges these offices are facing to support countries in their developmental and humanitarian efforts, as well as understand the options and issues for improving the functioning of these offices.

54. As provided for in the IPA (actions 3.76 through 3.90), over the 2010-11 biennium a strong emphasis will be put on improving the coherence, performance and integration of the current Decentralized Offices (DOs) network and ensuring that the Organization functions as one.

55. The regional offices (ROs), working as appropriate with subregional offices (SROs), will progressively take on new responsibilities for which they will be accountable, for: (i) overseeing the country offices, including the management of resources of the FAO Representations (FAOR) network; (ii) managing the non-emergency TCP programme in the respective regions; (iii) leading the strategic planning, programming and budgeting process for the region; (iv) supervising regional technical officers; (v) organizing and servicing the strengthened Regional Conferences; (vi) leading partnerships, particularly with regional organizations; and (vii) supporting country offices on matters dealing with UN reforms. The funding of Regional Offices must be commensurate with their new responsibilities.

56. DOs will assume their new role in strategic planning and priority-setting at corporate and decentralized level. They will support the development of National Medium-term Priority Frameworks (NMTPFs) and (sub)regional priority areas. They will also take active part in the progressive formulation and introduction of Impact Focus Areas, including implementation of the associated resource mobilization strategy. Staff in DOs will be trained on results-based management concepts and a new system of operational planning, monitoring and reporting; and benchmarking will be developed and rolled out.

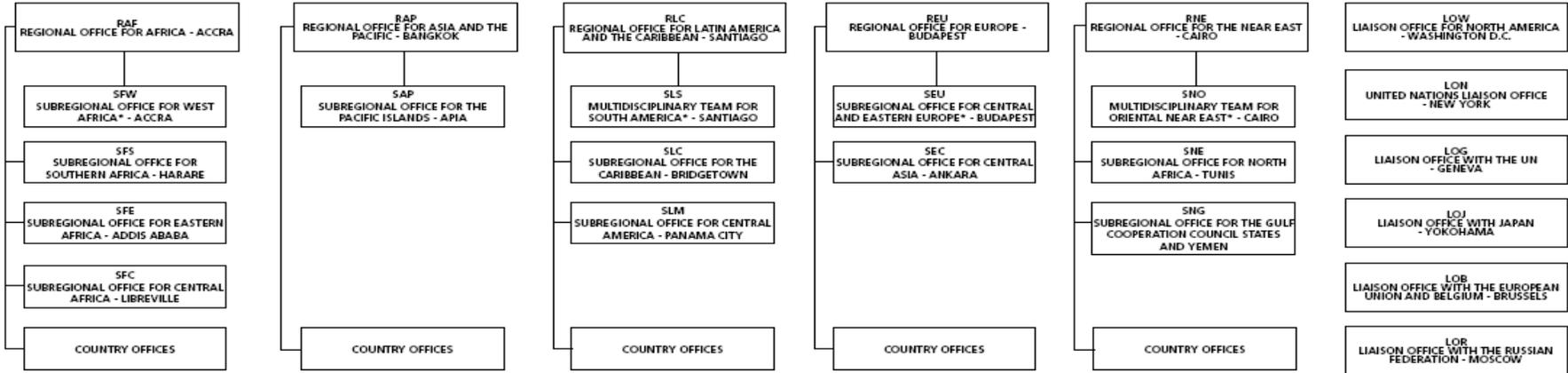
57. The initiatives taken by Management, within the authority of the Director-General, to address in the short term the structural deficit in the budget of the Country Offices network were endorsed by the CoC-IEE. In line with the recommendations of the IEE, it was agreed to abolish the Lapse Factor for posts in the FAORs network. This will allow greater provision of resources for the FAORs budget and entail a reduction of the structural deficit. The remainder of the FAOR network deficit during 2010-11 will be covered through interim measures such as appointing Emergency Coordinators as Officers-in-Charge of FAO Representations where feasible and with the prior consent of the concerned donors and, on a case by case basis, placing current FAO Representatives against vacant posts in the Regional and subregional offices. Efforts to obtain timely and full payment of Government Counterpart Cash Contributions (GCCC) will also be pursued, taking into consideration special conditions facing countries.

58. **Decentralization of OCD functions and the TCP.** As called for by the IPA, in the new PWB, TCP resources have been allocated to regions under the authority of the Regional

Representatives (IPA action 3.22). Moreover, OCD's support functions vis-à-vis country offices have been transferred to the regional and subregional offices concerned (IPA action 3.95). The provisional resource allocations in the PWB 2010-11 resulting from these new arrangements may have to be adjusted during implementation.

59. As may be noted in Figure 2, which illustrates the decentralized structure, ROs will oversee the country offices in their respective regions, and the Regional Representatives will report to the Deputy Director-General (Operations). Subject to any amendments that may arise from the external review of the Office of the Director-General, the Liaison Offices with the United Nations in Geneva and New York will report to the Office of Corporate Communications and External Relations, while the remaining Liaison Offices will report to the Deputy Director-General (Operations).

Figure 2: Decentralized Organigrammes



* Co-located in Regional Office

c) Human Resources Management

60. The IPA stated that “FAO’s human resources are the main asset of the Organization, providing the totality of its technical support to Member Countries” and outlined a series of actions to be undertaken in this area (IPA actions 3.59 through 3.75). In 2009, the CoC-IEE confirmed Human Resources (HR) as a key area for a successful reform of the Organization, urging Management to continue considering it as a priority.

61. Management developed, in consultation with Members, a Human Resources Management Strategy and Policy Framework⁵ which embodies three consolidated key HR goals, namely:

- (a) to enable a workforce of excellence and high performance;
- (b) to establish HR as a strategic partner in corporate management; and
- (c) to provide efficient and effective HR services in support of programme delivery.

62. Within these goals, six central HR initiatives underpinning the effective delivery of the goals have been identified. They consist of: Performance Evaluation; Management/Leadership training; Management Information Reporting; new HR Policies; support to restructuring; and streamlining initiatives.

63. The RBR in its final report made a series of recommendations on human resources management, which included: (i) a major shift in the HR function towards a “business partner” approach; (ii) a new accountability framework for the HR function; (iii) streamlining existing HR processes with a view to deriving greater efficiencies in the delivery of these processes; (iv) establishing new HR processes (such as HR strategy, HR communication and HR staffing) that would strengthen the HR function and transform it into a more strategic function; (v) realigning the skill-mix and competencies of the professional staff in the HR function; and (vi) reinforcing managerial competencies.

64. The proposed integration of the accepted RBR recommendations into the HR Framework was endorsed by CoC-IEE, which noted that the three HR goals embodied in the Strategy Framework were consistent with Functional Objective Y (entitled “efficient and effective administration”) and its associated Organizational Results. The contribution of the underlying matrices of indicators and targets to enhancing Results-based Management was acknowledged. The CoC-IEE also recognized that the HR Management Strategy Framework was a ‘living’ document which would be revised and updated as necessary to reflect new, emerging HR initiatives and improvements.

65. The business partner approach envisaged with a view to transforming the HR function into a more strategic and advisory function was welcomed as well as the measures being undertaken to develop supporting tools such as the HR management information reporting system. Moreover, the importance of providing streamlined and effective HR services to improve operational efficiency and client satisfaction was stressed.

66. Given the fundamental role of the HR function in the effective management and renewal of the Organization, the Finance Committee, at its 128th session held in July 2009, called for strengthened collaboration with other organizations of the UN common system in

⁵ *Progress Report on Implementation of Human Resources Management Strategy and Policy Framework* (FC 128/9).

developing appropriate HR management policies, welcoming in this regard FAO's active participation in the UN Chief Executive Board's (CEB) Human Resources Network.

67. The modernisation of the HR function will be an intensive and continuous process over the next two biennia. Reform will take place in a phased approach with detailed results-based work plans with indicators of achievement and targets that enable measurement of progress and oversight, and which dovetail with other areas of IEE follow-up, including the Root and Branch Review and culture change in the Organization. Adequate attention should also be given to ensuring a balanced gender and geographical representation amongst the staff of the Organization.

68. Progress will be monitored by the Council through the Finance Committee which, in recognition of the importance of the HR function within the Organization, has reaffirmed that the review of the implementation of the HR strategy framework should continue to be a standing item on the agenda of its future regular sessions. With a view to strengthening its oversight of the implementation of the principal HR initiatives, the Committee also requested that the framework be complemented by regular progress reports on the implementation of each of the initiatives, and an assessment of the impact of completed activities, where appropriate.

d) Culture Change

69. The IPA stressed that "culture change is fundamental to the successful reform of FAO" and welcomed the establishment by Management of a Culture Change Team in a process led by the Deputy Director-General. In 2009, significant progress has been achieved in this crucial area. The CoC-IEE recognized the intensive work undertaken by the Culture Change Team which has led, through active participation of FAO staff, to the development of an internal vision, as called for in IPA action 3.31. Throughout the year, seminars with staff were organized at Headquarters and in the Decentralized Offices allowing the Culture Change Team to benefit from inputs from over 1000 staff. Thirty proposals for action were developed under the umbrella of *Recognition and Rewards*, *Career Development* and *Creating an Inclusive Work Environment*. In 2010, culture change activities will focus on the approval and implementation of these proposals, seeking close alignment and synergies with the Human Resources Management Division. Efforts to ensure the integration of culture change in the overall reform process as well as its long-term sustainability need to be actively continued across the Organization.

e) Organizational Risk Assessment and Management Framework

70. A strategy for improving FAO's approach to risk management was presented to the Working Groups by the Deloitte consultants and by the Office of the Inspector General. The proposed approach calls for an internally-led project supported by specialized risk management consultants as needed, rather than a consultant-led approach as included under the IPA (actions 3.49 through 3.54). The Finance Committee put particular emphasis on the importance of proper financial prudence throughout the Organization in line with recommendations of the IEE and the IPA and expressed satisfaction with Management's commitment to implementing Enterprise Risk Management, including mainstreaming risk management in the future performance evaluation system.

IV. THE WAY FORWARD

71. This section describes the next steps in the reform process, indicating areas where further work will need to be carried out as well as the follow-up mechanisms envisaged to ensure adequate monitoring of the implementation of the IPA.

a) Areas of Outstanding Work

72. By the end of 2009, 56 percent of the total number of IPA actions mandated in Conference Resolution 1/2008 are projected for completion. In the course of 2010-11 and beyond, a number of very complex projects will be carried out with the aim of introducing new ways of managing, new work processes, new administrative services, new HR policies, and new monitoring, reporting and evaluation systems which will significantly change the way the Organization works (see Annex 5). Management will present a revised time-plan for the continued implementation of the reform agenda. During the next biennium, IPA actions will predominantly fall into the five following areas:

- *Focus on Member needs through results-based programming, monitoring, reporting and resource mobilization:* the Organization will develop monitoring and reporting systems to provide key performance information to Members and further enhance the new planning and budgeting model with inter alia the activities mentioned in paras 22, 25 and 28 regarding the utilization of the IFAs and the full implementation of the results-based management framework. An organization-wide rollout of the staff appraisal system (PEMS) will be undertaken in 2010-11 to complete the “accountability link” between FAO Strategic Objectives and individual staff performance. Emphasis will be given to prioritization of the technical work of the Organization, which is an ongoing exercise that needs to be actively pursued throughout the first full cycle of results-based planning in 2010-11. A resource mobilization and management strategy, comprising Impact Focus Areas, national Medium Term Priority Frameworks, and regional and subregional areas of priority action, will be implemented with a view to ensuring that voluntary contributions focus on the agreed results frameworks and improve Governing Body monitoring and oversight.
- *Functioning as one Organization by aligning its structures, roles and responsibilities to the results framework:* the Headquarters structure will continue to be refined, and the Organization will invest in the essential infrastructure to enable staff in the Decentralized Offices to be able to use the same corporate tools and facilities as their colleagues in Headquarters. The Organization will also double the number of staff rotating between Headquarters and/or the Decentralized Offices to ensure the flow of knowledge and expertise between the offices, and enrich the experiences and knowledge of the staff. Further clarifications of the functions of some units will be required to ensure that the Organization functions as one. Management will prepare a medium to long-term vision related to the structure and functioning of the Decentralized Offices network, taking account of the IPA actions on decentralization. After receiving inputs from the Regional Conferences, Management will formulate and present in 2010 proposals to the relevant Governing Bodies for review, approval and implementation. The whole process will take place with active participation and guidance of the CoC-IEE. FAO’s partnerships will be enhanced and renewed pursuing the possibilities for further joint activities and collaborative arrangements with the

Rome-based agencies and the United Nations system, as well as the private sector and civil society organizations.

- *Optimizing human resources through **HR policy, practice and culture change***: the Organization will fully develop a joined up and consistent system for the recruitment and development of young professionals, and invest in additional professional staff in the Human Resources Management Division to support their role as strategic business partners to the Organization. Important initiatives such as the staff rotation policy and the roll out of the Performance Evaluation and Management System will be carried out. Culture change activities will focus on monitoring the implementation of the internal vision and ensuring the integration of culture change in the overall reform process.
- *Efficient use of Member contributions through **reform of administrative and management systems***: the functioning of the Shared Services Centres will be enhanced and the review and further automation of the registry function will commence. The new printing and distribution unit will be established and a range of improvements to headquarters and field procurement processes will be introduced. Administrative processes will continue to be streamlined, also taking into consideration the results of the ongoing external review of the administrative activities of the Office of the Director-General. A pilot enterprise risk management project will be completed, which will assess FAO's current risk management structure/framework, identify gaps and inform the development of an Organization-wide Enterprise Risk Management Framework, which will contain the necessary elements to continuously improve the Organization's risk management capabilities.
- *Improved articulation of Member needs through **effective governance and oversight***: the evaluation function will be further strengthened, including in its advisory role on results based management, programming and budgeting. Multi-year programmes of work for the Council, the Council Committees and the Regional Conferences will be further defined and prepared. The functions and Terms of Reference for the proposed Ethics Committee will remain under review of the relevant Governing Bodies.

b) Governing Body Follow-up Arrangements

73. The CoC-IEE considered two possible options for governance follow-up in the course of 2010-11 and agreed to put in place oversight arrangements as set out below, on the explicit understanding that the proposed CoC-IEE for 2010-11 would be chaired by the Independent Chairperson of the FAO Council.

74. A time-bound Committee of the Conference will be created for the duration of 2010-11, which will report to the Conference in 2011, and will be similar in nature to the 2009 CoC-IEE. For continuity, such Committee will be given the same name and acronym (CoC-IEE) as the current Conference Committee. However, it will be different in terms of mandate and structure. Its mandate will 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. It will meet less frequently (up to three times a year) and its structure will be simpler: no distinct working groups will be required to address specific issues, and no dedicated secretariat will be needed to service the Committee on a regular basis, while in other respects it will operate pursuant to similar modalities of work:

- it will 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 will be scheduled taking into account related sessions of the Governing Bodies to ensure proper sequencing of complementary meetings, and will not be held in parallel with major meetings of the Rome-based UN Organizations;
- it will appoint a Bureau consisting of the Chairperson and the two Vice-Chairpersons of the Committee and one representative of Member Nations per region, which will exclusively address administrative and organizational matters;
- it will be proactively supported by Management, which will provide secretariat services and the required documents for its meetings.

75. At the same time, use will be made of the existing Governing Bodies, specifically the Council, Finance Committee, Programme Committee and Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters:

- the Council will 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 will, as appropriate, provide specific inputs to the Council in their respective areas of mandate;
- the Independent Chairperson of the Council will, within his/her strengthened function, play a proactive facilitating and coordination role in the performance of this oversight function.

Annex 1

RESOLUTION 1/2008 - ADOPTION OF THE IMMEDIATE PLAN OF ACTION FOR FAO RENEWAL (2009-11)

THE CONFERENCE:

Reaffirming FAO's unique global mandate for food and agriculture and the Membership's continued commitment to achieving the World Food Summit objectives and the Millennium Development Goals;

Reaffirming the contribution FAO must make to this and in addressing hunger and poverty reduction, the expansion of agriculture and food production, high food prices, climate change, and the expected impact of the recent financial crisis on the investment in agriculture, as well as the challenges and opportunities of bioenergy.

Reaffirming in this context the necessity of FAO "**Reform with Growth**".

Welcoming the report of the Conference Committee on Follow-up to the Independent External Evaluation of FAO (CoC-IEE), including the Immediate Plan of Action (IPA), which provides a firm and realistic basis for FAO to significantly enhance its global relevance, efficiency and effectiveness in the service of all its Members.

Recognising the active participation of all Members and the unfailing support of the Director-General and management in the process, and **stressing** the need for the same spirit of partnership to prevail in the implementation and completion of the reform:

- 1) **DECIDES to approve**, for implementation, the Immediate Plan of Action for FAO Renewal (2009-11), including its annex, which forms in its entirety an integral part of this Resolution, which is given in Appendix E.
- 2) **DECIDES that amendments to the Basic Texts should be developed**, for approval at its 36th session in 2009, to give effect to the provisions of the Immediate Plan of Action, and having noted the report of the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters at its 83rd Session (September 2008), further decides that pending such amendments to the Basic Texts:
 - a) the Technical Committees of the Council will report to the Conference on global policy and regulatory matters and to the Council on programme and budgetary matters; and
 - b) the Strategic Framework, Medium Term Plan and Programme of Work and Budget 2010-11 will be developed as specified in the Immediate Plan of Action, with no requirement for a Summary Programme of Work and Budget.
- 3) **DECIDES** that implementation of the Immediate Plan of Action in 2009 requires funding by extra-budgetary contributions, and that its funding for 2010-2011 will be treated under the Programme of Work and Budget. In this connection, **URGES all Member Countries** to contribute extra-budgetary resources of a provisional amount of US\$ 21.8 million for 2009 to a special Trust Fund established for this purpose. For transparency, the Trust Fund accounts will be publicly available and oversight will be provided by the Council supported by the Finance Committee.
- 4) **DECIDES to establish** a time-bound **Conference Committee (CoC-IEE)** for the duration of 2009 under Article VI of the FAO Constitution for continued follow-up to the Independent External Evaluation of FAO, completing outstanding work within the Immediate

Plan of Action. It will finalise its report on suggested Basic Text amendments in June 2009⁶ and complete its final report by September 2009 for presentation to the Conference in November 2009.

5) This Committee will be open to full participation by all Members of the Organization. It will strive for transparency and unity in its work and will collectively decide its final recommendations to the Conference, arriving at its decisions to the maximum extent possible through consensus. The Conference Committee will undertake its work with the direct support of Working Groups and advice from the Council, Programme Committee, Finance Committee and Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters as appropriate, without prejudice to the reporting of these Committees to the Council and their statutory functions. FAO management is expected to proactively support the Conference Committee and fully participate in its meetings and those of its Working Groups, providing timely documents for consideration.

a) The functions of the Committee, without prejudice to the statutory functions of the Council and its standing committees, will be:

i) to recommend to the Conference in 2009:

(1) the new Strategic Framework, Medium Term Plan 2010-13 and the Programme of Work and Budget 2010-11 proposed by management on the new integrated results-based framework;

(2) any changes found desirable in the size and regional representation in the Membership of the Council;

(3) further reforms of systems, culture change and organizational restructuring, including:

(a) Dynamic follow-up to the reports of the Root and Branch Review by management, including early actions,

(b) Initiation and review of the report of the study for an Organizational Risk Assessment and Management Framework,

(c) Plans for increased effectiveness of the decentralized offices,

(d) Detailed proposals for strengthened Human Resource management.

ii) to recommend to the Conference in 2009 necessary changes in the Basic Texts as provided for in the Immediate Plan of Action, providing policy oversight and guidance of the process of revision of the Basic Texts. This work will be carried out on the basis of the recommendations of the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters, which will be provided directly to the Committee, and will be reviewed by the Council as appropriate.

iii) to analyse the concept of “Reform with Growth” and submit proposals to the 2009 Conference.

b) The Conference Committee:

i) will establish three Working Groups to prepare inputs for its consideration on:

(1) the Strategic Framework, Medium Term Plan 2010-13 and the Programme of Work and Budget 2010-11,

(2) proposed amendments to the Basic Texts and any changes found desirable in the size and regional representation in the Membership of the Council, and

⁶ In order that proposals for changes to the Constitution may be despatched to the Membership 120 days prior to the Conference as specified in Article XX, paragraph 4 of the Constitution.

- (3) reform of systems, culture change and organizational restructuring;
- ii) may further establish additional time-bound working groups as required; and
 - iii) will appoint a Bureau consisting of the Chair and Vice-Chairs of the Conference Committee, one representative of Member countries per region and the Chairs and Vice-Chairs of the Working Groups, participating as speaking observers. The Bureau will address exclusively administrative and organizational matters.
- c) The Conference Committee modalities: the Working Groups will be made up of a Chair and Vice-Chair (or two Co-Chairs) appointed by the Conference Committee and will be open to all Members to fully participate with speaking rights. A maximum of three Member country representatives per region will be designated as spokespersons for their regions in each of the Working Groups. Meetings of the Bureau will be open to non-speaking observers from the FAO Membership as a whole. The work of the Conference Committee will be conducted in all languages of the Organization. Sessions of the Conference Committee, its Working Groups or Bureau will not be held in parallel with each other or in parallel with other major meetings of the Rome-based UN agencies, thus allowing the fullest participation of Members. The Chair of the Conference Committee and its Bureau and the Chairs of the Working Groups will ensure that aide-mémoires are available to the Members following each session.
- 6) **DECIDES to appoint as officers of the Conference Committee (CoC-IEE):** Prof. Mohammed Saeid Noori-Naeini as Chair and Ms Agnes van Ardenne-van der Hoeven and Mr Wilfred Joseph Ngirwa as Vice-Chairs of the Committee.
- 7) **DECIDES that the Council** will monitor the overall progress of follow-up in implementation of the Immediate Plan of Action and report to the Conference at its 36th Session in 2009 and its 37th Session in 2011. It will receive regular quarterly progress implementation reports from management for its consideration and advice. The Council will be supported in its monitoring during 2009 by the Conference Committee. It will also receive inputs from the Programme Committee, the Finance Committee and the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters in their respective areas of mandate, which may flexibly convene additional sessions as required.

(Adopted on 19 November 2008)

Annex 2

Bureau and Working Group Membership of the Conference Committee (CoC-IEE) in 2009

Chairperson: Professor Noori Naeini (Independent Chairperson of Council)

Vice-Chairpersons: Ambassador van Ardenne (Netherlands) and Ambassador Ngirwa (Tanzania)

	Strategic Framework, MTP and PWB	Basic Text s and Membership of Council	Reform of Systems, Culture Change and Organizational Restructuring	Bureau
	Working Group I	Working Group II	Working Group III	
Chairperson Co-Chairperson	Vic Heard (UK)	Lamya Al-Saqqaf (Kuwait) Natalie Feistritzer (Austria)	Noel de Luna (Philippines)	Professor Noori Naeini
Vice-Chairperson	Horacio Maltez (Panama)		Rita Mannella (Italy)	Ambassador van Ardenne Ambassador Ngirwa
Africa	Cameroon	Angola	Ethiopia	Eritrea
	Côte d'Ivoire	Congo (Rep)	Gabon	
	Zimbabwe	Nigeria	Egypt	
Asia	China	Sri Lanka	Malaysia	Pakistan
	India	Indonesia	Thailand	
	Japan	Pakistan	Bangladesh	
Europe	Germany	France	Belgium	Sweden
	Poland	Russian Federation	Finland	
	Switzerland	Spain	Turkey	
Latin America and the Caribbean	Colombia	Argentina	Brazil	Brazil
	Paraguay	Brazil	Mexico	
	Venezuela	Dominican Republic	Venezuela	
Near East	Egypt	Jordan	Oman	Afghanistan
	Iran	Syria	Sudan	
	Afghanistan	Egypt	Libya	
North America	Canada	Canada	Canada	USA
	USA	USA	USA	
South-West Pacific	Australia	Australia	Australia	Australia
	New Zealand			