

CoC-IEE Working Group 1 – FAO Vision and Programme Priorities

Proposed schedule of early action deliverables being undertaken by the Director-General

Overall Context

This paper responds to the request of the Committee at its first meeting on 14 December 2007:

13) Recalling that the Director-General had undertaken to implement an early series of quick wins and other actions in follow-up to the IEE and that the CoC-IEE was required by Conference Resolution 5/2007 to “provide ongoing review and feedback on the implementation of all actions, including inter alia quick wins, being undertaken by the Director-General, on those areas of the IEE follow-up lying essentially within his authority, recognizing that some actions are subject to the provision of the requisite budgetary resources”, **FAO management was requested to make available a schedule of the deliverables intended by the Secretariat in time for consideration by the working groups beginning on 14 January.** This should include expected costs and their timing from both Regular Programme and extra-budgetary resources. It would provide a basis for the CoC-IEE to provide its views on the intended actions as well as a basis for monitoring which, as proposed by the Director-General, should be facilitated by regular management reporting on progress against the schedule.

The schedule of early action deliverables being undertaken within the Director-General’s authority has been prepared based on the early actions in the Management Response “In-Principle” and additional actions identified since then by the Director-General and departments. The early actions are presented at the level of recommendation or actionable-sub-component, derived from IEE Report Annex 1, with the following information:

- summary of the deliverable (product, service or change to be produced), with key milestones and dependencies where appropriate;
- the planned start and finish date;
- whether the action is funded within the approved PWB 2008-09 and, if not funded, the estimated one-time extra-budgetary resources required for 2008;
- whether the early action was indicated in the Management Response “In-Principle” or has been subsequently identified;
- whether the action will be fully or substantially implemented in 2008, or whether it is a preparatory action pending other major deliverables or a decision by the Members.

The information presented in this document and the attached schedule is work-in-progress. The information was by necessity developed over the end-2007 holiday period with limited opportunity for consultation and analysis within the secretariat. In addition, there was no opportunity to take into account the preliminary suggestions prepared by the CoC-IEE Secretariat for a schedule of work and specification of deliverables for the CoC-IEE, which is also before the Working Group. Therefore, the views of the Working Group on the intended actions would be of value in helping Management to update and finalize the plans for early actions.

The proposed schedule of early action deliverables relating to Working Group 1 are summarized below.

Summary

The IEE cluster on strategy – rekindling an FAO vision – has 38 recommendations and 123 actionable subcomponents. Of the actionable subcomponents, the IEE suggested that Management take lead responsibility on 77, Management and Governing Bodies on 43, and Governing Bodies on 3.

The Director-General intends to take early action on 59 recommendations or sub-components, of which 39 were identified in the Management Response “In-Principle” and 20 have been subsequently identified.

In order to facilitate consideration of the contents of the schedule, the thrust of the proposed early actions is summarized below by IEE theme.

New corporate Strategic Framework

The main elements of, and policy choices inherent in the new Strategic Framework are to be developed jointly with Members (firstly in draft form for consideration by the special session of the Conference in November 2008). Concurrently, the Secretariat is to pursue actively the formulation of the major ancillary strategies called for by the IEE (for some of them, with the possibility to build on analytical work already completed, for others entailing required research and consultations) covering:

- resource mobilization (with anticipated closer integration of Regular Budget and extra-budgetary resources);
- partnerships (including taking stock of lessons learned so far);
- knowledge management (with an associated operational plan);
- advocacy and communication (including joint approaches with IFAD and WFP);
- capacity building (with updated assessment of needs);
- collaboration with CSOs/NGOs and the private sector (with emphasis on clear operational guidelines).

In addition, as a first step towards the major shift in resources recommended by the IEE and to promote multi-disciplinary work, ADGs are to be encouraged to reallocate 1 to 2% of 2008 allotments for cross-cutting priority work (also covered by Working Group 3).

Preliminary strategic choices for the Technical Programme

In relation to the IEE recommendations regarding a number of substantive areas:

- reinvigoration of FAOSTAT based on review of totality of FAO’s statistical activities;
- more systematic approach to language management on the website;
- exploration of new directions for FAO’s support to investment (including new arrangements for cooperation with IFIs, preferential treatment to IFAD and AfDB, review of required in-house expertise);
- comprehensive strategy to enhance support to emergencies (including evaluation of FAO’s operational capacities to be reviewed by PC in September 2008);
- reviews and practical actions towards repositioning of work along the lines suggested by the IEE on: livestock, institutional support to agricultural development, nutrition, gender mainstreaming and women’s empowerment, environment and natural resources (in the latter case with due emphasis on climate change, biodiversity and partnerships with UNEP and GEF);

- cessation of pilot projects under the SPFS and move of the latter exclusively on national and regional food security programmes;
- further enhancements of FAO's policy advisory work;
- identification of new cooperative modalities with the IAEA;
- comprehensive strategies for fisheries and forestry.

Specific external partnerships

- particular importance to be given to the Rome-based agencies (including in the IT and administrative areas);
- closer contacts and collaboration with the CGIAR.

Technical cooperation at country and regional level

- speeding up of NMTPFs preparation for LDCs in Africa;
- continued active cooperation with UN pilot initiatives;
- a number of concrete actions towards decentralization of TCP project approvals.