



منظمة الأغذية  
والزراعة  
للأمم المتحدة

联合国  
粮食及  
农业组织

Food  
and  
Agriculture  
Organization  
of  
the  
United  
Nations

Organisation  
des  
Nations  
Unies  
pour  
l'alimentation  
et  
l'agriculture

Продовольственная и  
сельскохозяйственная  
организация  
Объединенных  
Наций

Organización  
de las  
Naciones  
Unidas  
para la  
Agricultura  
y la  
Alimentación

## TWENTY-SIXTH FAO REGIONAL CONFERENCE FOR EUROPE

Innsbruck, Austria, 26-27 June 2008

### Agenda Item 6

#### Main conclusions and list of recommendations stemming from the debate in the 35<sup>th</sup> session of the ECA on item: FAO's Engagement in the United Nations System Reform

#### I. Main Conclusions of the discussion

1. The list of recommendations as outlined in paragraphs 41 and 42 of the document ECA/08/3 were endorsed by the Commission to be forwarded to the ERC.
2. The United Nations system of operational activities is seen as unique in its mandate that includes poverty and hunger eradication, sustainable development, conflict prevention, post conflict rehabilitation and peace building.
3. The active role of FAO in the UN reform process together with the ongoing reform process based on findings of the Independent External Evaluation is welcomed and considered essential in order to strengthen the role of food security and agriculture in the multilateral system.
4. FAO has a strong comparative advantage in key areas of its activities, particularly provision of basic global data, and statistics; support to define policies, adapted to the situation of each country; work in emergencies and rehabilitation and defining standards; and support for global conventions on agriculture issues and food safety.
5. FAO is envisaged as a key partner and the reference point in the UN system in the field of sustainable agriculture, livestock, fisheries and forestry.
6. The UN reform process is also considered as an opportunity to further increase the cooperation of the three Rome based UN agencies including Bioversity International and to combine their respective comparative advantages and complementarities, wherever possible.
7. The progress made in identifying areas of collaboration among the three agencies is recognized although further efforts should be made in light of new emerging needs i.e. with increasing food prices in poor rural areas.

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## II. List of Recommendations

8. The Commission endorsed the following recommendations from the document:

a) The ongoing Delivering as One, United Nations reform process is fully in line with the recommendations of the Independent External Evaluation and is reinforcing the reforms already introduced by the Director-General and endorsed by the Governing Bodies of FAO.

- i. FAO is encouraged to continue to participate in the Delivering as One Pilot initiative and develop the necessary programming and operational/administrative tools enabling it to provide more efficient and cost-effective assistance to member countries.
- ii. The Regional Office for Europe and Central Asia, the Subregional Office for Central and Eastern Europe and the Subregional Office for Central Asia are requested to:
  - Participate in the joint work and common efforts of the United Nations Country Team in Albania to finalize the setting-up of the new delivery mechanism of the United Nations System in the country, ensuring that through the NMTPF the key strategic programme elements of sector programmes such as: regional and rural development; regional economic integration; fisheries and sustainable management of plant and animal genetic resources for conservation of biodiversity and others, are fully reflected in the joint United Nations country programme; that the necessary funding resources are mobilized and allocated, and that the programmes are efficiently implemented, taking into account FAO's status as an NRA;
  - Ensure that the experiences gained and the lessons learned in Albania are properly assessed to be used in the coherence frameworks of other member countries of the Region;
  - Carry out consultations with member countries in order to identify those countries where FAO should assist in the formulation of the NMTPF and in the preparation of the new UNDAF cycle beginning in 2010, and
  - Intensify cooperation with sister United Nations agencies, especially those which are involved in addressing crucial development issues in the region, such as UNCTAD, UNIDO, ILO and the other two Rome-based United Nation agencies, IFAD and WFP, in order to develop joint cluster approaches to the assistance needs arising in the Region.

b) FAO's collaboration with WFP and IFAD in the European Region is still quite limited. The mentioned strategic documents will provide a framework for further strengthening this cooperation. However, the European and Central Asia Region is significant for the NRA status of all three agencies. Based on this situation, the following steps should be undertaken:

- i. The Regional Office for Europe and Central Asia, together with WFP and IFAD regional units, should make efforts to identify possibilities to further strengthen the joint analysis of investment possibilities. This is particularly related to the issue of credit provisions to small-scale farmers in the Region.
- ii. Establishment of a virtual working group with the regional units in all three agencies to identify area for joint policy formulation, capacity-building, knowledge management and advocacy.

9. Further recommendations stemming from the discussion were:

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- a) A joint strategy aiming at the realization of the best possible use of human and financial resources of the three agencies should be developed; based on the four pillars identified by the organizations, which should also include other agencies;
- i. Efforts should be implemented within the more general “UN Delivery as One” operating model and continue in three directions
  - ii. Harmonization of business procedures and strengthening of cooperation in administrative domains.
  - iii. Elaboration of a joint mechanism of resource mobilization
  - iv. Focus on capacity building for beneficiary countries to enable them to implement programmes themselves, improve alignment and make use of national systems

