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Food and Agriculture  
Organization of the  
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Organisation des Nations  
Unies pour l'alimentation  
et l'agriculture

Продовольственная и  
сельскохозяйственная организация  
Объединенных Наций

Organización de las  
Naciones Unidas para la  
Alimentación y la Agricultura

منظمة  
الأغذية والزراعة  
للأمم المتحدة

# COUNCIL

## Hundred and Fifty-sixth Session

Rome, 24-28 April 2017

### Report of the 121<sup>st</sup> Session of the Programme Committee (Rome, 27 - 31 March 2017)

#### Executive Summary

The Programme Committee examined a number of matters relating to programme planning and evaluation, in particular with regards to:

- a) Reviewed Strategic Framework (paragraph 3)
- b) Medium Term Plan 2018-21 and Programme of Work and Budget 2018-19 (paragraph 4)
- c) Strategy for FAO's work on climate change (paragraph 5)
- d) Mid-term Review Synthesis Report - 2016 (paragraph 6)
- e) Progress report on the implementation of the Pest des Petits Ruminants Global Eradication Programme (paragraph 7)
- f) Evaluation of FAO's contribution to reduction in rural poverty (SO 3) (paragraphs 8-9)
- g) Office of Evaluation - Strategy and Action Plan 2017-18 (paragraph 10)
- h) Proposal for evaluation of thematic strategies (paragraph 11)

The Committee brings its findings and recommendations on these matters to the attention of the Council.

#### Suggested action by the Council

The Council is requested to endorse the findings of the Programme Committee, as well as its recommendations on matters within its mandate.

*Queries on the content of this document may be addressed to:*

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## REPORT OF THE HUNDRED AND TWENTY-FIRST SESSION OF THE PROGRAMME COMMITTEE

Rome, 27-31 March 2017

### Introduction

1. The Committee submitted to the Council the following report of its Hundred and Twenty-first session.
2. In addition to the Chairperson, His Excellency Serge Tomasi (France), the following representatives of Members were present:

H.E. C.J. Rozenwaig (Argentina)	Mr O. Kubota (Japan)
Mr E. Robinson (Canada)	Mr F.R. Salamh Al Argan (Jordan)
Mr M. Mankoussou (Congo)	Mr M. Hooper (New Zealand)
Mr J.A. Carranza Barona (Ecuador)	H.E. I. Nordang (Norway)
Mr M.N. Camara (Guinea)	Mr A. Hałasiewicz (Poland)
H.E. A. Wadhwa (India)	H.E. Asmahan A. Al-Toqi (Yemen)

### Reviewed Strategic Framework<sup>1</sup>

3. The Committee welcomed the reviewed Strategic Framework and:
  - a) noted that the document provides a clear understanding of the main challenges expected to be faced by countries in food and agriculture in the coming years;
  - b) reconfirmed the soundness and coherence of FAO's Vision, Global Goals and Objectives;
  - c) appreciated the close alignment of FAO's Strategic Objectives with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs);
  - d) recommended that Council endorse the reviewed Strategic Framework for approval by the Conference.

### Medium Term Plan 2018-21 and Programme of Work and Budget 2018-19<sup>2</sup>

4. The Committee:
  - a) supported the continuation of the five Strategic Objectives and their reformulated Outcomes and results frameworks, as well as the sixth Objective, noting that Strategic Objective Output indicators and targets would be presented in the Adjustments to the PWB in November 2017, taking into account the comments of the Committee;
  - b) supported the priorities, areas of de-emphasis and resources allocations for the Strategic Objectives and Objective 6;
  - c) supported the increase of the share of the Technical Cooperation Programme to 14% of the net budgetary appropriation;
  - d) supported the proposed flat nominal budget level to carry out the Programme of Work as being realistic in view of global macro-economic conditions;

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<sup>1</sup> C 2017/7

<sup>2</sup> C 2017/3

- e) encouraged the continued use of partnerships to enable the Organization to leverage its comparative advantages, including through South-South and Triangular Cooperation;
- f) concerning the definition of the priorities and the reallocation of the resources presented in paragraphs 52 to 63, requested the following reformulations:
  - i. 52.b) USD 3.1 million to support sustainable agriculture production, including agroecology, biodiversity and biotechnologies in particular at the country level;
  - ii. 52.g) USD 1.2 million to support conflict-affected rural livelihoods in link with food security, conflict analysis and partnerships;
- g) requested that Information Notes providing additional details on areas of de-emphasis, and setting out areas of priority for voluntary contributions, be prepared by the Secretariat prior to Council.

### **Strategy for FAO's work on climate change<sup>3</sup>**

5. The Committee reviewed the Strategy for FAO's work on climate change and Action Plan, and:

- a) noted that the final Strategy has been completed, reflecting the recommendations made by Council at its 155<sup>th</sup> session;
- b) agreed to review outputs and indicators at a future session in the context of the Programme of Work and Budget.

### **Mid-term Review Synthesis Report - 2016<sup>4</sup>**

6. The Committee welcomed the Mid-term Review Synthesis Report 2016, and:

- a) commended its quality, the well structured results framework and the increased involvement of decentralized offices in reporting on results;
- b) welcomed the good progress and results achieved in implementation of the Programme of Work and Budget 2016-17 so far, noting that delivery in the biennium was on track, with 86% of the 50 Output targets for the year 2016 fully achieved;
- c) appreciated that accelerated performance in 2016 has resulted from the new measures to improve delivery and better information at country level and encouraged the Organization to continue to closely follow and increase efforts on areas rated as partially achieved, especially where results achieved were less than 50%;
- d) reiterated the importance of reporting on progress on the Regional Initiatives and the identification of priority areas to be considered for new Regional Initiatives in the next biennium;
- e) appreciated the good delivery rate of resources under all sources of funds;
- f) welcomed the achievements being on track for delivering technical quality and services, including for the cross-cutting themes contributing to the Strategic Objectives, in particular for meeting 12 minimum standards of the FAO gender mainstreaming policy, and 12 performance standards of the UN System-Wide Action Plan on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment (UN-SWAP);
- g) suggested that the Secretariat refine the target setting process for 2018-19, taking account of experience gained in 2016-17, in order to set more appropriate FAO Output targets to be presented in the Adjustments to the PWB 2018-19 for consideration at the Committee's session in November 2017.

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<sup>3</sup> PC 121/2

<sup>4</sup> PC 121/3 - FC 166/6

## **Progress report on the implementation of the Peste des Petits Ruminants Global Eradication Programme<sup>5</sup>**

7. The Committee reviewed the progress report on the Implementation of the Peste des Petits Ruminants Global Eradication Programme, and:
- a) welcomed the cooperation between FAO and the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE);
  - b) called the attention of the Council to the importance of seeking to eradicate the peste des petits ruminants which can have devastating effects on the livestock of poor rural populations and severely affect their economies;
  - c) looked forward to the pledging conference to announce the contributions achieved at the end of 2017 toward the goal of eradicating this disease within a decade;
  - d) requested the Secretariat to provide a progress report to the Committee at its first session in 2018, including targets and emphasising the link between resources and results.

### **Evaluation of FAO's contribution to reduction in rural poverty (SO 3)<sup>6</sup>**

8. The Committee welcomed this evaluation and Management Response, and agreed with the conclusions proposed to improve implementation of SO 3. The Committee:
- a) welcomed the quality of the report, while cognizant of the fact that Strategic Programme 3 is a relatively new area of work and at an early stage to fully assess its impact;
  - b) considered Strategic Programme 3 as a major contributor to the Sustainable Development Goals, in particular for SDGs 1 and 2;
  - c) appreciated the inclusion of the gender dimension in the evaluation.
9. The Committee furthermore:
- a) supported the prioritization of a limited number of countries on the basis of an analysis of poverty and its structural causes, as well as the engagement of authorities, beneficiaries and national institutions, while still attending to other countries as well;
  - b) encouraged focusing on FAO's comparative advantages and work in complementarity with national entities and public institutions and other actors through partnerships, including with other UN agencies, particularly with the Rome-based agencies;
  - c) stressed the importance of attention to the most vulnerable populations, including women;
  - d) supported the inclusion of a value-chain approach for rural areas;
  - e) underlined the need to strengthen FAO's capacity in decentralized offices;
  - f) stressed the importance of capacity building of national institutions;
  - g) requested that special consideration be given to countries affected by conflict, natural disasters and humanitarian crises in close coordination with Strategic Programme 5.

### **Office of Evaluation - Strategy and Action Plan 2017-18<sup>7</sup>**

10. The Committee:
- a) welcomed the Strategy and Action Plan 2017-2018 for the Office of Evaluation (OED);
  - b) underlined the importance of filling vacant positions in OED, and requested information on this issue to be presented at its next session;

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<sup>5</sup> PC 121/4

<sup>6</sup> PC 121/5; PC 121/5 Sup.1

<sup>7</sup> PC 121/6

- c) looked forward to reviewing an Annex on gender for the Evaluation of FAO's Contribution to Strategic Objective 5;
- d) requested the Secretariat to present to the Committee during 2018, a progress report on actions agreed for recommendations accepted in the Management Observations to the Evaluation of FAO's Evaluation Function;
- e) endorsed the proposed OED's Strategy and Action Plan 2017-2018.

### **Proposal for evaluation of thematic strategies<sup>8</sup>**

11. The Committee endorsed the proposal for evaluation of FAO's thematic strategies and requested that the evaluations of the strategies for partnerships with civil society organizations and with the private sector remain separate, and be submitted to the Committee for review by 2020-2021.

### **Date and place of the Hundred and Twenty-second Session**

12. The Committee was informed that its 122<sup>nd</sup> session would take place in Rome from 6 – 10 November 2017.

### **Any other business**

13. The Committee:
- a) considered the possibility of additional sessions dedicated to evaluation matters only, mindful of timing and cost constraints;
  - b) agreed evaluation documentation to be made available in English language as soon as available, to allow more efficient time management during its deliberations in sessions.

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<sup>8</sup> PC 121/7