



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
Alimentación y la Agricultura

منظمة
الأغذية والزراعة
للأمم المتحدة

COUNCIL

Hundred and Fifty-sixth Session

Rome, 24-28 April 2017

Report of the Joint Meeting of the 121st Session of the Programme Committee and 166th Session of the Finance Committee (27 and 30 March 2017)

Executive Summary

The Joint Meeting of the Programme and Finance Committees brings to the attention of the Council its findings and recommendations on:

- a) Medium Term Plan 2018-21 and Programme of Work and Budget 2018-19 (paragraphs 3-4)
- b) Independent Assessment of the Technical Capacity of the Organization (paragraphs 5-8)

Suggested action by the Council

The Council is requested to endorse the findings and recommendations of the Joint Meeting.

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

Rakesh Muthoo
Secretary, Programme Committee
Tel. +3906 5705 5987



**REPORT OF THE JOINT MEETING OF THE
HUNDRED AND TWENTY-FIRST SESSION OF THE
PROGRAMME COMMITTEE AND HUNDRED AND SIXTY-SIXTH SESSION OF
THE FINANCE COMMITTEE**

Rome, 27 and 30 March 2017

INTRODUCTION

1. The Joint Meeting submitted its Report to the Council.
2. In addition to the Chairperson, Mr Khalid Mehboob (Pakistan), and His Excellency Serge Tomasi (France), Chairperson of the Programme Committee, the following representatives of Members were present:

Ms M. Esperança Pires dos Santos (Angola)	H.E. A. Wadhwa (India)
H.E. C.J. Rozenywaig (Argentina)	Mr O. Kubota (Japan)
Ms C. Stephenson (Australia)	Mr F.R. Salamh Al Argan (Jordan)
Mr A.O. Sá Ricarte (Brazil)	Mr B.S. Jiménez Sauma (Mexico)
Mr E. Robinson (Canada)	Mr M. Hooper (New Zealand)
Mr Xie Jianmin (China)	H.E. I. Nordang (Norway)
Mr M. Mankoussou (Congo)	Mr L. Jr. Lazaro (Philippines)
Mr J.A. Carranza Barona (Ecuador)	Mr A. Hałasiewicz (Poland)
Mr K. M.S.H. El Taweel (Egypt)	Mr V.V. Kuznetsov (Russian Federation)
Mr M. Nsogo Nguere Micue (Equatorial Guinea)	Mr S.A. M. Alamain Hamid Alamain (Sudan)
Mr H. Thofern (Germany)	Mr T.M. Duffy (USA)
Mr M. Nassir Camara (Guinea)	H.E. Asmahan A. Al-Toqi (Yemen)

Medium Term Plan 2018-21 and Programme of Work and Budget 2018-19¹

3. The Joint Meeting welcomed the Medium Term Plan 2018-2021 and Programme of Work of Budget 2018-19, and:
 - a) noted that the Programme and Finance Committees would review the document separately according to their respective mandates, and provide recommendations to the Council;
 - b) supported continuity in the strategic direction of the Organization in the Medium Term Plan and underlying Programme of Work, with alignment to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;
 - c) welcomed the proposal of resource reallocations to meet priorities within a flat nominal budget level as realistic and innovative, especially in view of prevailing global macro-economic conditions;
 - d) appreciated the furnishing of priorities and areas of de-emphasis, in line with the Strategic Objectives;

¹ C 2017/3

- e) encouraged Members to provide voluntary contributions to facilitate achievement of Strategic Objectives and implementation of the integrated Programme of Work under the results framework;
 - f) welcomed the proposed increase in the TCP appropriation.
4. Accordingly, the Joint Meeting supported the budget level of USD 1,005.6 million at a budget rate of exchange of EUR 1 = USD 1.22, and recommended endorsement by the Council.

Independent Assessment of the Technical Capacity of the Organization²

5. The Joint Meeting regretted the late publication of the report and related management observations, which had hindered timely, informed review of the documents; and though the documents were considered on this occasion, the Joint Meeting resolved that this would not set a precedent for reviewing late documents in the future.
6. The Joint Meeting welcomed the main findings contained in the report, namely:
- a) an increase in technical capacity of the Organization from 2012 to 2016, both at headquarters and in the decentralized locations;
 - b) the alignment of this technical capacity to FAO's Strategic Framework;
 - c) the background of the flat nominal budget level and overall decline in the number of positions in the period under review; and the use of non-staff resources to provide flexibility;
 - d) that the report's conclusions are consistent with those of other, recent independent and external assessments of FAO, including by the Multilateral Organization Performance Assessment Network (MOPAN), the United Kingdom's Department for International Development (DfID), and Germany's Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ).
7. Furthermore, the Joint Meeting appreciated the external consultants had followed the agreed roadmap, scope and terms of reference in finalizing the assessment, and noted:
- a) that the report contained updated data and content with respect to the draft report which was reviewed by Permanent Representatives at the informal briefing on 9 February 2017;
 - b) that the report presented primarily a quantitative analysis of technical capacity at FAO, consistent with the agreed terms of reference; and
 - c) the challenges of inconsistent and uneven data available to the consultants in undertaking their analysis, although available information was adequate to assess trends in technical capacity.
8. Taking into account the next steps proposed in the report, the Joint Meeting:
- a) agreed that in future there be regular monitoring by the Secretariat of the technical capacity of the Organization, including in conjunction with workforce planning exercises;
 - b) recommended future assessments include qualitative analysis, and exposition of disaggregated data;
 - c) agreed that such exercises should be institutionalized, with involvement of the Office of Evaluation, to monitor and report on technical capacity to Members on a regular basis.

² C 2017/26; C 2017/26 Sup. 1