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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-eighth Session

Rome, 4-8 December 2017

Report of the Joint Meeting of the 122nd Session of the Programme Committee and 169th Session of the Finance Committee (6 and 9 November 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) Adjustments to the Programme of Work and Budget 2018-19 (paragraph 3)
- b) Use of unspent balance of the 2016-17 appropriations (paragraphs 4-6)
- c) Progress report on Rome-based Agencies collaboration (paragraph 7)

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:

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**REPORT OF THE JOINT MEETING OF THE
HUNDRED AND TWENTY-SECOND SESSION OF THE
PROGRAMME COMMITTEE AND HUNDRED AND SIXTY-NINTH SESSION
OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE**

Rome, 6 November 2017

INTRODUCTION

1. The Joint Meeting submitted its Report to the Council.
2. In addition to the Chairperson, His Excellency Johannes Petrus Hoogeveen (Netherlands), and Mr Lupino jr. Lazaro (Philippines), Chairperson of the Finance Committee, the following representatives of Members were present:

Mr Carlos Alberto Amaral (Angola)	Mr Shahin Ghorashizadeh (Islamic Republic of Iran)
H.E. Maria Cristina Boldorini (Argentina)	Mr Toru Hisazome (Japan)
Mr Ryan Wilson (Australia) ¹	Mr Fiesal Rasheed Salamh Al Argan (Jordan)
Mr Mafizur Rahman (Bangladesh)	Mr Muhammad Rudy Khairudin Mohd Nor (Malaysia)
Mr Antonio Otávio Sá Ricarte (Brazil)	Mr Benito Santiago Jiménez Sauma (Mexico)
Ms Jennifer Fellows (Canada)	Ms Claudia Elizabeth Guevara de la Jara (Peru)
Mr Xie Jianmin (China)	Mr Vladimir V. Kuznetsov (Russian Federation)
Mr Marc Mankoussou (Congo)	Mr Sid Ahmed M. Alamain Hamid Alamain (Sudan)
Mr Kanga Kouamé (Côte d'Ivoire)	H.E. François Pythoud (Switzerland)
Mr Khaled M.S.H. El Taweel (Egypt) ²	H.E. Marie-Therese Sarch (United Kingdom)
Mr Mateo Nsogo Nguere Micue (Equatorial Guinea)	Mr Thomas Duffy (United States of America)
Mr Heiner Thofern (Germany)	

Adjustments to the Programme of Work and Budget 2018-19³

3. The Joint Meeting:
 - a) took note that the guidance and decisions of the Conference have been implemented;
 - b) noted the updated results framework (*Web Annex 1*), Output targets and indicators for the Strategic Objectives (*Web Annex 2*);
 - c) supported the measures introduced for strengthening of programme delivery, in particular of the organizational arrangements for the Strategic Programme teams;
 - d) supported the revised distribution of the net appropriation by budgetary chapter as reflected in *Table 2*;
 - e) noted the updated organizational structure (*Web Annex 3*) and the revised budgeted post establishment (*Web Annex 4*);

¹ Mr Ryan Wilson had been designated to replace Ms Cathrine Stephenson as representative of Australia for the Joint Meeting.

² Mr Khaled M.S.H. El Taweel was replaced by Mr Haitham Abdelhady for the Joint Meeting on 9 November.

³ CL 158/3

- f) appreciated the efforts designed to seek efficiencies and savings, including in the area of administration and travel costs, and welcomed Management commitment to continue to pursue such savings;
- g) took note of the updated estimates for extrabudgetary resources (*Table 3*) and encouraged Members to provide voluntary contributions to facilitate achievement of the Strategic Objectives and implementation of the integrated Programme of Work; and
- h) welcomed the proposal for a high-level event dedicated to FAO's role in food security matters, to be funded by extrabudgetary resources, to be held in conjunction with the 2018 World Food Day events, and agreed to review its modalities and funding at its next meeting.

Use of unspent balance of the 2016-17 appropriations⁴

4. The Joint Meeting noted:
 - a) the guidance provided by the Conference on use of any unspent balance of the 2016-17 appropriations;
 - b) the need for a more systematic approach, including *inter alia* modalities and criteria, and broader informal consultations with Members in future biennia on the use of any unspent balances of the biennial appropriations prior to the Conference in 2019;
 - c) the establishment of the Special Fund for Development Finance Activities (SFDFA) with an agreed level of USD 10 million and the fact that this Fund had not yet received any voluntary contributions from donors;
 - d) the Special Fund could accelerate FAO's technical and programmatic support to Members through advance financing to provide technical assistance and investment programming for development finance;
 - e) the need for sustainable funding solutions for high-priorities areas of work of the Organization, specifically the scientific advice for food safety and Codex Alimentarius;
 - f) the need to invite the World Health Organization to increase its contribution to the Joint FAO/WHO Codex Alimentarius; and
 - g) the support for the establishment of a Blind Trust Fund designed to enhance contribution from state and non-state actors, aimed at supporting a sustainable funding solution to FAO's work and activities related to scientific advice for food safety and the Codex Alimentarius as indicated in the Open Ended Working Group of COAG, with an initial level of USD 1.5 million.
5. Therefore, the Joint Meeting recommended the Council:
 - a) approve allocation of the unspent balance of the 2016-17 appropriations through replenishment of the SFDFA;
 - b) approve allocation, with agreement from resource partners, of 10 percent of the unspent balances of the MAFAP/FMM Trust Funds, up to a maximum of USD 0.5 million, for the Blind Trust Fund aimed at supporting a sustainable funding solution to the FAO's work and activities relating to scientific advice for food safety and the Codex Alimentarius; and
 - c) in addition to point 5.a) above, approve allocation of fifty percent of unspent balance of the 2016-17 appropriations above a threshold of USD 5 million, up to a maximum of USD 1 million, towards the Blind Trust Fund.
6. The Joint Meeting noted that its recommendations should not constitute a precedent for the future use of unspent balances, and also recommended the Council agree for the Secretariat to submit, for review by the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters (CCLM) and the Joint Meeting of

⁴ JM 2017.2/2

the Programme and Finance Committees, a proposal for procedures and decision for a systematic use of unspent of biennial appropriations in future biennia.

Progress report on Rome-based Agencies collaboration⁵

7. The Joint Meeting:
- a) welcomed the report on Rome-based Agencies collaboration;
 - b) appreciated the full commitment of FAO, WFP and IFAD to strengthening partnerships and collaboration focusing on the synergies and complementarity of RBA and encouraged to continue this strong collaboration, including via joined messages, in support of the implementation of the Agenda 2030;
 - c) looked forward to further reporting on updates of ongoing initiatives related to programmatic work in relation to the strategic objectives of the RBAs, through more analytical approach to the information presented to Member States reflecting both achievements and challenges, and also through the joint Web site which would be launched shortly;
 - d) appreciated efforts to improve annual progress reports, and to report on lessons learned, challenges faced, and realized financial benefits, whenever possible;
 - e) encouraged the improvement of annual joint informal meetings of Governing Bodies of Rome-based Agencies, within existing resources, and their timely preparation, with the involvement of the membership of the Organizations, in particular giving Members sufficient time for discussion; and
 - f) encouraged cooperation in the field of cross-cutting issues, such as climate change, governance and gender.

Progress on the implementation of the Strategies for partnerships with the private sector and civil society organizations⁶

8. The Joint Meeting noted the information contained in the progress report on FAO Strategies for partnerships with the private sector and with civil society organizations, and welcomed their implementation and continued review as an integral part of the Organization's work.

⁵ CL 158/9

⁶ JM 2017.2/3