

164th Session of the Council

Written Correspondence Procedure – inputs from Members – Original language

Item 11, Status of Implementation of Decisions taken at the 163rd Session of the Council (2-6 December 2019)

Member Name	Comments
United States (Wed 01/07/2020 13:23)	Notified that it does not have any written feedback regarding this item.
Australia (SWP representative) (Thu 02/07/2020 17:09)	<p>We welcome the update on the status of implementation of decisions taken at the 163rd Session of the Council and offer the following comments:</p> <p><i>Item 1:</i> In addition to this update, we welcome confirmation from Management that the additional resources allocated to FAO's work on the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) and the Joint FAO/WHO Food Safety Scientific Advice Programme have been incorporated into the ongoing programme of work as requested by the 163rd Session of Council (CL 164/7 para 18 refers). We look forward to continuing to working with FAO Management as well as the IPPC and Codex Secretariats to ensure that the benefits of this valuable resource is maximised and adequately sustains the execution of the important work these programmes undertake.</p> <p><i>Item 2:</i> In addition to this update, we welcome the information provided in CL 164/3 - Information Note 2 regarding sustainable funding for the Office of the Inspector General and we look forward to continuing to work with FAO Management and the Office of the Director General to ensure adequate resources for the Office to complete its important work programme going forward.</p> <p><i>Item 7:</i> We have appreciated the information provided to date on the Hand-in-Hand Initiative, including the most recent information presented in CL 163/3 - Information Note 3 and look forward to ongoing transparency and accountability about the Initiative. We also look forward to continuing to work with the FAO through the Hand-in-Hand Initiative to advance the needs of the most vulnerable countries, including those in the Indo-Pacific region.</p> <p><i>Item 8:</i> We welcome the FAO's engagement in the preparation of this important Summit and look forward to ongoing and active engagement, including through the GOFFSS. We emphasise the importance of engaging with all countries in the lead up to the Summit and to making sure everyone has a voice in the preparatory processes as well at the Summit itself. This is particularly true for the Pacific SIDS who, due to their proximity to places like Rome and New York, are often constrained in their ability to physically attend meetings and ensure their needs are both heard and addressed. In this regard we welcome the confirmation that Fiji has a place on the Advisory Group.</p> <p><i>Item 11:</i> We welcome the inclusion of an outcome and output level indicator for AMR in the PWB document. In light of technical questions and suggestions made in the Programme Committee and Joint Committee to improve the indicator we look forward to further consultation with members on the indicator before it is finalised.</p> <p><i>Item 19:</i> We welcome the update provided to Council and stress the importance of any solution addressing:</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How members will be involved in developing the selection documentation. • Whether all members will be able to see the applications that would then allow members to caucus on preferred candidates. • How members will be involved in the shortlisting of candidates. • How the panel will have regional balance. • How the process promotes/contributes to gender equality. <p>We look forward to contributing to the discussion via the Chairpersons of the respective Article XIV Bodies.</p>
United Kingdom (Fri 03/07/2020 16:25)	<p>The completed status of the decisions reflected in lines 2, 5 and 17 is incorrect. Please, would you revise these to ongoing and provide an update on progress with them at the 165th Session of FAO Council.</p> <p>Line 2 is “<i>The Council (...) looked forward to adequate funding for the Office of the Inspector General from within existing resources</i>”. The recent joint meeting did not consider that funding for the Office of the Inspector General was sustainable</p> <p>Line 5 is “<i>The Council (...) looked forward to: a strengthened Key Performance Indicator (KPI) in the 2020-21 results framework; a related staff satisfaction survey for all employees of FAO; and an analysis regarding the potential added value of making available for all three Rome-based Agencies (RBAs) a common specialised expertise on investigative functions related to allegations of sexual harassment, sexual exploitation and sexual abuse; (para 9. b)</i>”. <u>Please can management provide an update on when the analysis regarding a common specialised expertise will be completed and shared with Council.</u></p> <p>Line 17 is “<i>The Council (...) looked forward to receiving regular information on TCP implementation and performance in future reports on the financial position of the Organization to the Finance Committee</i>”. The recent joint meeting requested that more information be provided on the Technical Cooperation Programme (TCP).</p>
Peru (Fri 03/07/2020 17:23)	<p>En relación al punto 1 sobre Ajustes al Programa de Trabajo y Presupuesto 2020-21, “el Consejo acogió con beneplácito la asignación de recursos adicionales a la Convención Internacional de Protección Fitosanitaria – CIPF....que permitan hacer frente al trabajo atrasado en esas áreas...”. Esta Representación espera que el incremento de recursos a la CIPF y a la CODEX, permitan una labor más eficiente en ambas Comisiones, lo que contribuirá enormemente en el logro de los Objetivos de Desarrollo Sostenible.</p>
Argentina (Fri 03/07/2020 17:48)	<p>La Argentina agradece a la Secretaría la elaboración del documento CL 164/LIM/3, en el que se exponen con claridad los progresos alcanzados en materia de cada una de las decisiones del 163° período de sesiones del Consejo.</p> <p>Al respecto, la Delegación Argentina realiza las siguientes observaciones:</p> <p>Con relación a la Iniciativa Mano de la Mano (pág. 5/párr. 7 del documento) y los avances relativos al párrafo 9.d del Informe del 163° Consejo, la Argentina desearía obtener una aclaración respecto a los recursos destinados a la Iniciativa. En nuestro entendimiento, la Iniciativa Mano de la Mano se financiaría con recursos extrapresupuestarios; sin embargo, en las observaciones presentadas en el documento CL 164/LIM/3, se señala que “la Organización se compromete a apoyar, con sus propios recursos, solo a los 44 países de ingresos bajos y países con crisis prolongadas”.</p>

	<p>Si la Iniciativa Mano de la Mano se financiará con recursos de la Organización, la Argentina desearía llamar la atención sobre la importancia de que, observando el principio de universalidad, todos los países puedan ser considerados como beneficiarios y no ser incluidos como “países beneficiarios” o “países de apoyo” en función de sus ingresos. Fue en este espíritu que se acordó el párrafo 9.d del Informe del 163° Consejo.</p> <p>Asimismo, la Argentina desea reiterar la voluntad expresada por el Consejo de que la lista de 44 países no sea una lista cerrada –como podría interpretarse del documento– y pueda ser ampliada a todas las categorías de países.</p> <p>En otro orden, en la Nota Informativa 1 del documento CL 163/3 (pág. 13 del documento), se informó que la FAO se encontraba examinando caso por caso solicitudes de otros países que habían requerido ser incorporados a la Iniciativa, incluyendo países de nuestra región que, a pesar de ser clasificados como países de renta media o alta, aún enfrentan niveles importantes de pobreza extremas y malnutrición. Al respecto, la Argentina desearía conocer el resultado de dichas evaluaciones.</p>
European Union (Fri 03/07/2020 18:43)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The European Union and its 27 Member States welcome the overview of the status of implementation of the Decisions taken at the 163rd Council session set out in document CL 164/LIM/3. We would like to make three specific comments and one general comment on this document. 2. The first specific comment is on point 2. We believe that the implementation of this decision is not completed but ongoing. The Council approved an additional amount of USD 400.000 for OIG in December 2019. Nonetheless, in the 2019 Annual Report of the Inspector General it is clearly stated that OIG needs two additional investigator positions as a minimum requirement. We understand that the additional funds approved in December 2019 will be used to fund one position while the other needed position remains unfinanced. Therefore, the implementation status should read "ongoing". 3. Another specific comment concerns point 5. We note that no information is provided on the follow-up to the Council's request for an analysis of the potential added value of making available for all three Rome-based Agencies (RBAs) a common specialised expertise on investigative functions related to allegations of sexual harassment, sexual exploitation and sexual abuse. This analysis seems to be still 'ongoing' and therefore the whole of paragraph 9.b of the Council report cannot be considered as 'completed'. 4. The last specific comment is on point 19. According to the information provided on this point, <i>the recommendations of the External Audit were reduced from 45 to 9. Hence, there are still 9 open issues. Therefore, the status of this point has to be considered 'ongoing'</i> 5. The general comment concerns the overall high number of actions which are marked as 'ongoing' as compared to the ones marked as 'completed' (14 against 11 - or even 17 against 8 if the above points are taken into account). We also note that some of the ongoing actions concern topics that have been on the table for quite some time already. This situation gives rise to concern, especially taking into account that the Organisation may undergo significant organisational changes in the near future. We would welcome a strong commitment from FAO management to ensure that the ongoing actions will be concluded as soon as possible.

Japan (Sat 04/07/2020 13:34)	While we will not block consensus on this matter, we think it is important to reflect the decisions and views of the respective Governing Bodies of the organizations under Article 14 as much as possible, in the selection of the respective Executive Secretaries, to ensure accountability to the respective Memberships of those Bodies.
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