

32nd Session of the FAO Regional Conference for Europe (ERC)

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Written Correspondence Procedure – inputs from Members – Original language compiled

ERC/20/4 – Decentralized Offices Network

Country	ERC Document reference	Statement
Switzerland (received 25 Oct 20:00)	ERC/20/4	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Switzerland welcomes document ERC/20/4 “Decentralized Offices Network” providing an overview regarding the status of the country offices network in the region• We appreciate the steps to improve the structure and functioning of the decentralized office network and acknowledge the progress made by the organization in the region to strengthen partnerships with all stakeholders, including the private sector and civil society;• However, within the process of FAO’s efforts to consolidate decentralization and, we are slightly concerned about losing significant technical knowledge and experience at headquarters. For us it is important that FAO’s normative work at regional and global level is not diminished through the decentralization process. FAO’s normative, science-based and evidence-based competence should be maintained and further strengthened.• Switzerland is counting on FAO’s normative competences to support all countries and our region in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (e.g. through Guidelines, Assessments).• Thank you, Chair
The EU (received 25 Oct 20:02)	ERC/20/4	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. The European Union and its 27 Member States welcome FAO Management's efforts towards further empowering decentralised offices, with due regard for transparency and accountability. We also support the proposed further shift towards a fully programmatic approach at decentralised level, so as to better align regional and subregional activities with the 2030 Agenda. At the same time, we would stress the importance of maintaining adequate technical capacity at FAO Headquarters.2. With regard to the repositioning of the UN development system (UNDS), we would like to see the potential of the decentralised offices network being used to the full, in particular for them to adequately contribute to the single action plan under the responsibility of the Resident Coordinator. We also see further potential for strengthening RBA collaboration at regional and country level.

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| | | <p>3. Moreover, we would like to highlight the role of the Liaison Offices in enhancing FAO's visibility on the ground and in strengthening relations with Members, including those that are not represented in Rome. Liaison offices also have an important part to play in outreach to intergovernmental and other international organisations, and in contacts with a wide range of stakeholders, including with a view to resource mobilisation from private sector partners.</p> <p>4. 4. Lastly, when it comes to the opening or closing of decentralised offices, we would underline the importance of adequately involving FAO's governance bodies in the evaluation and decision-making process, including with regard to the signature of the related international treaties - as provided for in FAO's basic texts.</p> |
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