

## 165<sup>th</sup> Session of the Council

### Written Correspondence Procedure – inputs from Members - English version

#### Item 15 - Council Multi-year Programme of Work 2021-24

| Member Name  | Comments  |
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| <p>Indonesia – Member<br/>(Thursday<br/>26/11/2020 14:08)</p>  | <p>Indonesia thanks the Independent Chairperson of the Council (ICC) and the FAO Secretariat for providing the opportunity to review the Multi-year Programme of Work (MYPOW) for the Council for 2021-2024. We welcome that the Programme of Work has considered emerging issues such as the impact of pandemic so that the Council can adjust its working methods as necessary and appropriate. We underline the importance that the adjustment shall be fully in line with the FAO Basic Texts, in particular those related to the work of Council and its Committee. We appreciate that Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) have been included in the Strategy and priority setting of the Council’s Programme of Work. Indeed, our focus should be directed to the intensification of efforts to achieve the Goals, including Goal 2. In this regard, we propose to include SDGs in the Outputs of the section II.A of the draft of Council MYPOW 2021-2024.</p> <p>With regard to work planning and working methods, we support the activity to conduct study and comparison of the governance of other international organizations in view of introducing potential improvements in the operating of Council and the implementation of its MYPOW. In this regard, we are of the view that the Council may consider to empower its drafting committee. We also support the work of ICC in consulting this issue with Chairpersons and Vice Chairpersons of regional groups, including by the possibility of holding separate informal consultations with each regional group. We would like to kindly request that these comments are reflected in the conclusion of this agenda item.</p> |
| <p>European Union – Member (Thursday<br/>26/11/2020 15:55)</p> | <p>We welcome the Council Multi-Year Programme of Work (MYPOW) for 2021-2024. It reflects the Council’s objective as well as the expected results and serves as a good planning tool for the complex work of the Council. We expect the Council to continuously improve and adapt the MYPOW where this is deemed necessary.</p> <p>In this regard, we welcome the additions made to the Council working methods in paragraph 29 as regards to innovative and adjusted procedures and instruments for the optimal conduct of sessions under special circumstances, in particular the COVID-19 pandemic.</p> <p>However, we notice that the section on ‘Substantive issues which shall be regularly addressed at Council sessions’ has been deleted. This section was added to the Council MYPOW in 2015, implementing Recommendation 13 of the Independent Review of FAO Governance Reforms (C 2015/25) which was supported by the 39<sup>th</sup> Session of the FAO Conference (June 2015) (FAO Conference Resolution 7/2015). We would like to receive a further explanation from FAO Management regarding the deletion of this section.</p> <p>In section E on “Work planning and working methods”, we would like to see a clearer commitment by FAO to multilingualism as a crucial pillar to ensure FAO’s inclusivity. We therefore suggest to specify in point 26f), that documents should be issued in all official languages.</p> <p>With these comments, we endorse the Multi-Year Programme of Work for 2021-2024.</p>  |

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| <p>Argentina – Member<br/>(Thursday<br/>26/11/2020 18:47)</p> | <p>Argentina appreciates that the document stresses the importance of the Council developing its work in an efficient and effective manner while addressing emerging issues.</p> <p>The COVID-19 pandemic has brought out the importance of the Organization being able to show resilience in addressing urgent issues and new challenges. In this regard, Argentina appreciates the rapid response capacity shown by the Organization in assisting the membership in this area and the help and information provided for better decision-making in the face of the new challenges posed by COVID-19.</p> <p>In particular, it wishes to stress the importance of the contents of section 7 of document CL 165/15, about Council decisions and recommendations reflecting membership priorities. The members are most aware of the specificities of agricultural development in their countries and are best able to identify the needs and potential of their agricultural sectors. This bottom-up approach is facilitated by the work of FAO's country and regional offices, whose work within the overall framework of the Organization is recognized. We highly value the active involvement of the country and regional offices in our work and projects, as well as in the assessment of their implementation, as they are uniquely well-placed to ensure that FAO's actions have a real impact in the field.</p> <p>In line with the views stated in the above point, we therefore encourage FAO to continue to work actively in coordination with offices in the regions and countries, as well as to draw on the contributions of the Regional Conferences in order to ensure that the Organization's actions achieve significant impacts and address the specific conditions in which agricultural activity takes place in each country.</p> <p>Lastly, with regard to point 26 in the section on the Council's working methods, Argentina stresses that making documents available for meetings four weeks in advance is of vital importance, as is the possibility of having them translated. We emphasize the cross-cutting nature of multilingualism in FAO as a defining characteristic of the Organization, and one that allows all Members to participate in activities and governance on an equal footing. Having translated versions of documents allows relevant areas of Governments to make a thorough analysis and better prepare delegations for discussions taking place within the Council (and other bodies), feeding into discussions and allowing for better informed and therefore more efficient decisions.</p> <p>In this regard, and as resolved by the 129th session of the Programme Committee, Argentina requests that documents that have not been published in all official languages by the established time limit should not be considered at Council meetings.</p> |
| <p>Spain – Member<br/>(Monday 30/11/2020<br/>11:29)</p>       | <p>With regard to the Council Multi-year Programme of Work 2021–2024, we would like to highlight the following:</p> <p>We express our full support for the involvement of the EU and its Member States, insofar as this document includes the Council's objectives and expected results, making it a useful tool for planning the work in the years to come, which we do not expect to be easy and which will demand excellent coordination and every effort between the FAO and its Members.</p> <p>However, we would like to stress the need for a more detailed explanation from the management of FAO regarding the removal of the section on "substantive issues which shall be regularly addressed at Council Sessions".</p>  |