

166th Session of the Council

Report of the 73rd (Extraordinary) (22 January and 19 February 2021) and 74th (10-12 March 2021) Sessions of the Committee on Commodity Problems

Secretariat response to written inputs from the Council

The Secretariat expresses its appreciation for Members' feedback and the support expressed to FAO's work under the mandate of the Committee, and takes note of all the comments.

The Secretariat welcomes the appreciation of the importance of FAO's work on markets and trade. FAO will continue to support Members in these areas, through the provision of timely and reliable data and information, conducting and publication of analyses and studies, supporting country capacity development efforts, and facilitating and organising policy dialogue events.

Regarding the point by the Dominican Republic and Argentina on the importance of raising the profile of FAO's work on trade and the need to give greater visibility to the Organization's mandate and work in relation to trade and commodity markets, the Secretariat notes that the Programme Priority Area on transparent markets and trade under the new Strategic Framework should contribute to this. Furthermore, consultations are taking place within the Committee on Commodity Problems (CCP) Bureau to explore ways to raise the visibility of the CCP's work, including through inter-sessional activities.

On the point by Australia regarding the importance of FAO supporting continued strengthening of statistical capacity and delivery of data, particularly in the Pacific Small Island Developing States (SIDS), FAO stands ready to provide the required support to these countries, including through training and capacity development.

Concerning the comment by the European Union on the importance that the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic are kept under review, FAO would like to confirm that it will continue to monitor the impacts of the pandemic, including through the assessment of scenarios in the context of the follow-up to the UN Food Systems Summit.

The Secretariat acknowledges the comment by the European Union that FAO should ensure that it remains strictly within its mandate on trade issues without pre-empting decisions to be taken at the World Trade Organization (WTO), and reassures Members that FAO is fully mindful of this and that its work on trade is technical and conducted within its mandate, including in collaboration with the WTO.

In relation to the European Union's request to follow up on the Committee's call to review its working arrangements, with the objective of improving the efficiency and effectiveness of sessions, the Secretariat is pleased to inform that consultations on the subject have already started within the CCP Bureau.

FAO thanks Japan for the valued comments, which were carefully noted. The suggestions were considered, together with those of the other Members, in finalizing the Vision and Strategy for FAO's Work in Nutrition. Japan's continuous engagement in the consultative process and contribution to the improvement of the language and concepts in the draft Nutrition Strategy are greatly appreciated. The Secretariat also takes note of the importance of local production and regional supply chains, in parallel with global food trade.