

42nd Session of the Conference
Written Correspondence Procedure – inputs from Members - English version

Item 13 - Progress report on the Quadrennial Comprehensive Policy Review of Operational Activities for Development of the United Nations System

Member Name	Comments
<p style="text-align: center;">Switzerland (Fri 21/05/2021 3:45 PM)</p>	<p>Switzerland thanks the Secretariat for the interim report highlighting FAO’s follow-up to the United Nations General Assembly resolutions on operational activities for development of the United Nations System. FAO’s new Strategic Framework 2022-2031 takes account of the recommendations contained in the <i>Quadrennial Comprehensive Policy Review</i> (QCPR) approved by the United Nations General Assembly in December 2020 (A/RES/75/233). We encourage FAO to continue to align its strategic planning and results framework with the QCPR cycle and to submit this agenda item to the Organization’s governing bodies on a regular basis. Switzerland supports the strengthening of the effectiveness, coherence and transparency of the United Nations Development System at the global, regional and local levels. We therefore encourage FAO to put clear indicators in place to reflect its contribution to joint initiatives undertaken with various partners, as well as specific indicators reflecting its specific contribution to implementation of the QCPR. Switzerland encourages FAO to continue reporting on its contribution to the United Nations System-wide Action Plan on Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women. Switzerland also stresses the need to improve the availability of gender-specific statistics on agriculture and rural development. Switzerland is in favour of the 1 percent levy to be applied to strictly earmarked, non-core contributions within the funding formula for the Resident Coordinator system and calls upon FAO to implement this measure in full.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Canada (Mon 24/05/2021 11:04 PM)</p>	<p>The Quadrennial Comprehensive Policy Review (QCPR) reaffirms the importance of implementing key UN Reform initiatives. These reforms are critical for improving efficiency and effectiveness of the UN development system. We thank FAO for its update and encourage FAO to continue its efforts to fully support the reinvigorated Resident Coordinator System. The new cycle of the Strategic Plans of UN Agencies will have to anchor their work to the pillars of the Reform. In this context, we urge FAO to define system-wide coherence as a priority objective in its new Strategic Framework and ensure that implementation of these reforms is central to the system-wide results’ framework. Canada notes that the new QCPR text includes, for the first time, an explicit reference to biodiversity. This should be mentioned in the “Emerging Trends” of this document. Canada believes an explicit reference to biodiversity could facilitate future reporting. We also note that the QCPR text also includes for the first time, strategic direction on digital technologies, and we encourage FAO to continue its work in this area, including on digital inclusion. The QCPR reflects the need for inclusion with a focus on the poorest and most vulnerable, to ensure no one is left</p>

	<p>behind. We welcome this emphasis in FAO's new Strategic Framework and wish to additionally highlight the importance of accelerating gender mainstreaming and ensuring gender equality expertise is accessible throughout the system.</p> <p>The QCPR resolution calls upon all Development System entities to enhance coordination with humanitarian and peace and security entities, reinforcing the importance of the nexus for sustainable development and sustaining peace. We encourage FAO to continue, in collaboration with other partners, to engage in early, joint, risk-informed analysis and planning to prevent and reduce food crises.</p>
<p>Chile (Tue 25/05/2021 5:41 PM)</p>	<p>Chile requests that Resolution 75/233 should be considered when discussing this item, particularly with regard to paragraph 49 of the Report, with parallel processes being promoted by the UN System to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, such as the Food Systems Summit 2021. Regarding paragraph 50 of the Report, we believe that it would be desirable to include girls, boys and adolescents (not only young people), as well as other groups, women and the elderly.</p>
<p>European Union (Thu 27/05//2021 5:13 PM)</p>	<p>The European Union and its 27 Member States welcome FAO's renewed commitment to continue working in the context of the United Nations development system (UNDS), consistent with the Quadrennial Comprehensive Policy Review (QCPR) General Assembly Resolutions 71/243 and 75/233, as well as fully aligned with the UN development system reforms set out in General Assembly Resolution 72/279.</p> <p>We also welcome the information on the 2020 voluntary resource mobilization and encourage FAO to continue to closely coordinate its work with other relevant agencies at all levels and to build on the assets of the UN Country Teams under the supervision of the Resident Coordinators and the new developments of the 'Cooperation Framework Companion Package' issued in 2020.</p> <p>We welcome the strong involvement of FAO in UN joint programmes. In the context of strengthening joint programming processes, we would like to know what are the sources and budget lines that provide the so-called "non-core resources for development" that are allocated by FAO to joint activities.</p> <p>We welcome the steps that FAO has achieved in implementing the UNDS Reform during the reporting period. We look forward to seeing progress on this in next year's Report and to see this reflected in the ambitions and concrete targets in the upcoming Medium Term Plan (MTP) 2022-2025. In this context, we also look forward to the outcome of the Rome-based Agencies (RBA) cooperation and related evaluations.</p> <p>We also note that further work is needed for raising the ambitions of FAO's work at country level, through the Resident Coordinator System and its tools, namely the Common Country Analysis (CCA), and the Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF), as well as for achieving efficiency gains through the simplification and harmonization of business practices.</p> <p>We welcome the strengthening of country-level data and statistics by establishing an array of partnerships and joint initiatives in agricultural and rural statistics, also stressing the importance of maintaining the long series of statistical data, in particular on crops, of which FAO is a long-time custodian.</p>

	<p>In the context of the joint actions with other organizations, we stress the importance of the three United Nations Rome Based Agencies (RBAs), including in the framework of the complementarity between humanitarian and development activities. In this regard, we welcome FAO's work, in collaboration with the World Food Programme (WFP), on the Global Network against Food Crises that was launched in 2016 by the European Union, as well as the work undertaken by FAO to support Members in addressing the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic.</p> <p>With these comments we take note of FAO's progress in the implementation of the QCPR Resolution 75/233.</p>
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