

168th Session of the Council

Item 12: Progress Report on Rome-based Agencies collaboration

1. The Secretariat expresses its appreciation for the comments from Members on Item 12, *Progress Report on Rome-based Agencies collaboration*. The Secretariat takes note of all comments and suggestions and is pleased to acknowledge Members' recognition of the importance of strategic partnerships with other UN agencies within the context of the UNDS reform. As stated in the Report, collaboration with WFP and IFAD has increased over the past year at the global, regional and country levels which is especially relevant given the increased numbers of global hunger and food insecurity.
2. The RBAs recognize the importance of building collaboration on synergies and complementarities in order to reduce overlap, competition and duplication of work, and have a strong belief in working together. The RBAs are looking forward to further strengthening their engagement in the strategic direction of agri-food systems transformation for meaningful and concrete impact, particularly at country level. To achieve a common understanding about roles and relationships between the three agencies' mandates and technical competencies, the RBAs will update their Memorandum of Understanding in light of their new strategic frameworks and the comparative advantage of each agency, as recommended in the Joint Evaluation on RBA Collaboration.
3. FAO agrees that the Hand-in-Hand Initiative offers important opportunities for collaboration among the RBAs. This is particularly true in the area of investment, where discussions with IFAD are advancing in several countries, and is an emerging topic in food crisis countries where FAO and WFP are working together to strengthen the humanitarian-development-peace nexus.
4. Regarding the feasibility assessment on strengthening collaboration in administrative services, the RBAs are currently in the recruitment process for an external firm who will carry out the study. The assessment will take into consideration the findings of the Joint Evaluation on RBA Collaboration and will be shared with Members once available.
5. Regarding the flagship *Joint Programme for the Sahel in Response to the Challenges of COVID-19, Conflict and Climate Change (SD3C)*, the Agencies are in the process of developing a common results measurement framework to monitor progress and measure results. The regional Project Management team has set up a working group on monitoring and evaluation (M&E) composed of focal points from the RBAs, G5 Sahel, and host project M&E specialists. IFAD is leading this working group which is scheduled to finalize the results frameworks, manuals and guidelines by year-end 2021.
6. The RBAs are pleased that the Joint Evaluation conducted in 2021 confirms the importance and relevance of RBA partnership for the advancement of the common

objectives to achieve the SDGs by 2030, while also providing an opportunity to redefine and strategically reset collaboration amongst the RBAs. The Joint Evaluation will be discussed in the Spring Sessions of the relevant Governing Bodies.