

170th Session of the Council

Written Correspondence Procedure – inputs from Members - English version

Item 16 - Status of implementation of decisions taken at the 168th Session of the Council (29 November-4 December 2021)

Member Name	Comments
Indonesia (Monday, 30 May 2022, 16:55)	Indonesia appreciates the completed status of implementation of decisions taken at the 168th Session of the FAO Council and notes the information contained in document CL 170/LIM/3. We welcome the updates on the follow-up of the UN Food Systems Summit and the progress of its Coordination Hub and would appreciate being kept informed of future updates in this regard.
Spain (Monday, 30 May 2022, 20:27)	<p>Mr Chair, Spain fully supports the statements delivered on behalf of the European Union and its 27 Member States. We stress the importance of the role of the Committee on World Food Security (CFS) and its High-Level Panel of Experts (HLPE) in the follow-up to the UN Food Systems Summit.</p> <p>We would appreciate more information on the CFS’s participation and any related outcomes.</p> <p>We would also like to underscore the progress made within the Committee, notably through the joint event planned with the Hub during the High-Level Political Forum of July 2022, as well as the special Summit follow-up event due to take place during the October 2022 CFS plenary, all in full cooperation with the Hub.</p> <p>Thank you.</p>
EU (Monday, 30 May 2022, 20:50)	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. I am honoured to write to you on behalf of the European Union and its 27 Member States regarding the above-mentioned agenda item for the 170th Session of the FAO Council.2. We thank FAO for updating Members on the status of implementation of decisions taken at the 168th Session of the Council.3. First of all, the 168th Council emphasized the need to consider all approaches to sustainable agriculture production in the results framework. In response to this request, it is indicated in document CL 170/LIM/3 that “the results framework refers to integrated and innovative approaches throughout”. However, the EU and its Member States regret that the Programme of Work and Budget puts emphasis on special innovations such as technologies and climate smart agriculture, while the Strategic Framework 2022-31 itself refers, for example, to agroecological approaches,

	<p>conservation agriculture, integrated agriculture or agro-forestry. Therefore, we ask FAO to follow up further on this request, making sure that the full range of approaches is well reflected in the results framework.</p> <p>4. Secondly, we thank FAO for the information provided concerning the follow-up to the United Nations Food Systems Summit. However, we regret that comments remain silent on the cooperation of the Coordination Hub with the Committee on World Food Security (CFS) and its High Level Panel of Experts (HLPE), which are key elements of the international governance of food systems and are both mentioned as components of the follow-up system in the Secretary-General’s Statement of Action. We ask FAO to update Members about the engagement of the CFS and of its HLPE in the follow-up system coordinated by the Hub. We indeed strongly believe in CFS’s added value to promote food security and nutrition and sustainable food systems through its useful products, by providing independent scientific advice and analysis, and its convening power as being already well advanced on multi-stakeholder engagement and providing an inclusive platform.</p> <p>5. We take note with appreciation of the information provided by FAO regarding the status of implementation of the other decisions of the 168th Council. In particular, we appreciate FAO’s efforts to promote the policy recommendations on “Agroecological and Other Innovative Approaches”, including in the context of its participation in the Coalition for Agroecology. We invite FAO to continue its efforts in this regard, as well as to promote all CFS policy products.</p>
<p>Japan (Thursday, 09 June 2022, 3:20)</p>	<p>The Hand-in-Hand Initiative</p> <p>Japan would like to reiterate the necessity of regular updates of all the factual information of the Hand-in-Hand Initiative (HiHi), including outcomes, all public and private entities concerned, and the financial state of each project. Current publicized information on the HiHi projects is insufficient to ensure transparency and for sharing good practices through the HiH Initiative and the geospatial platform.</p> <p>Especially, Japan requests disclosure of financial revenues and expenditures, including the use of regular budget and voluntary contributions for all related projects of HiH Initiatives.</p> <p>Outcomes of the United Nations Food Systems Summit (FSS)</p> <p>The follow-up framework of the UN Food Systems Summit is very important.</p> <p>While various coalition and activities are moving forward, the Coordination Hub should have the function of grasping each stakeholder’s action and offering the necessary information and supports in a timely manner so that Member countries and various stakeholders can implement their activities smoothly.</p> <p>The Coordination Hub’s activities and working schedule are still unclear, as explained in the document submitted to the 133rd Session of the Programme Committee. Japan would like to request FAO to offer more details, such as the overall budget for the Coordination Hub’s operation, the surplus and budgetary plan of FSS, the surplus transferred from the</p>

World Food Programme (WFP) to FAO, and to promote effective communication and coordination amongst each countries' activities as well as coalitions and alliances launched by various leading organizations.

With a view that an FSS stocktaking meeting is scheduled in the coming year, Japan expects FAO to provide all Members with the information on the schedule as early as possible on what actions FAO intends to undertake for the global food systems and the roadmap if involvements of the Members will be required.

FAO Framework on the Protection of Data and Intellectual Property Rights

The Framework for the Protection of Data and Intellectual Property Rights, currently being drafted, is very important as it will function as one umbrella for full control overall data management related to FAO's mandate.

Japan expects that the framework will explicitly protect the privacy and intellectual property rights when data is utilized as open information. These points are what Japan would like to highlight.

The Report of the 168th Session of the Council stressed the need for the Framework to be updated regularly by the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters (CCLM). However, there should be a mechanism to update the Framework in a prompt and ad-hoc manner instead of discussing it at the regular CCLM meetings. Japan highlights this need if the Members or FAO staff recognize any problem in the internal coordination (governance) of data and statistics at FAO.

Committee on World Food Security (CFS)

Global food security is badly affected by the Russian aggression against Ukraine. Japan would like the CFS to report its current concrete action and plan on how to deal with this matter now and in the future. For instance, Japan requests that the CFS considers an evidence-based policy proposal on public assistance backed by the Members and private sector investments to the Ukrainian agriculture sector to restore production and strengthen the supply chain for global supply distribution with clear demarcation of scopes.

Code of Conduct for Voting

Japan expresses full and sincere respect to the Independent Chairperson of the Council and his leadership, keeping an open, inclusive, and transparent consultation process in drafting a code of conduct for voting. Japan reiterates that it is essential that at least concrete and substantive measures to secure the secret ballot are referred to in FAO's code of conduct to ensure trust in FAO's fair and transparent governance through the implementation of the Code. Under the continued leadership of the Independent Chairperson of the Council, Japan also expects that Members would participate in serious discussions in each Regional Group to develop a meaningful draft of a code of conduct so that it will be concluded in time for the Conference in the coming year.

Japan requests FAO to present a roadmap for the next Conference with a summary covering the issues discussed among the Members so far to ensure sufficient time for Members to prepare for a discussion.

