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منظمة الأغذية  
والزراعة  
للأمم المتحدة

联合国  
粮食及  
农业组织

Food  
and  
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Organization  
of  
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Organisation  
des  
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pour  
l'alimentation  
et  
l'agriculture

Organización  
de las  
Naciones  
Unidas  
para la  
Agricultura  
y la  
Alimentación

# COUNCIL

## Hundred and Thirty-first Session

Rome, 20-25 November 2006

### IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECISIONS TAKEN AT THE HUNDRED AND TWENTY-NINTH AND HUNDRED AND THIRTIETH SESSIONS OF THE COUNCIL

1. The Approved Methods of Work of the Council require that an information document be prepared for each Council session reporting on the implementation of the decisions taken at the preceding session (CL 60/REP, Appendix G, paragraph 7.8).
2. Listed hereunder are the decisions taken by the Hundred and Twenty-ninth and Hundred and Thirtieth Sessions of the Council and their implementation up to the date of going to press.
3. The text in the decision column includes the Agenda Item title underlined, the text of the Council decisions and a reference in brackets to the paragraph in the Council Reports.

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**DECISION****IMPLEMENTATION****HUNDRED AND TWENTY-NINTH  
SESSION OF THE COUNCIL  
(Rome, 16-18 November 2005)****PROGRAMME, BUDGETARY,  
FINANCIAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE  
MATTERS****PROGRAMME OF WORK AND BUDGET  
(PWB) 2006-2007***Elements for Decision by the Membership*

Have Membership take key decisions on both the budget level and the proposed reforms (para. 13)

Action taken. See Resolutions 6/2005 and 7/2005 included in C 2005/REP.

*Views on the reforms*

Enhance the Organization's ability to fulfil its mandate through its normative and operational activities including through concrete contributions to the well-recognized challenges such as assisting Members in implementing the MDGs (para. 16)

Action being taken. See documents PC 95/3 - FC 113/14 and CL 131/18.

Respond to the renewed commitment to rural investment in agriculture and rural development by all interested partners, and the ever growing opportunities for harnessing knowledge for agriculture (para. 16)

World Bank lending for agriculture has increased by US\$0.8 billion, from US\$1.3 billion in FY 2003 to US\$2.1 billion in FY 2006.

FAO assistance to investment in agriculture increased substantially between the 2002-03 and 2004-05 biennia with project formulations increasing from 73 to 105, and total cost of projects assisted increasing from US\$5.1 billion to US\$6.2 billion.

An International Conference on Rural Development was organized in January 2006 to discuss rural development, as well as and the implications for opportunities and threats to the development of rural populations in alleviating rural poverty.

**DECISION****IMPLEMENTATION**

Make the Independent External Evaluation of FAO and the reform proposals mutually supportive. (para. 19)

**REPORT OF THE JOINT MEETING OF THE NINETY-FOURTH SESSION OF THE PROGRAMME COMMITTEE AND THE HUNDRED AND TENTH SESSION OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE (ROME, SEPTEMBER 2005)**

Prepare a document on a streamlined and improved planning process based on an inventory of relevant practices and experiences in other international organizations (para. 27)

Noted that an assessment of alternative arrangements for the meetings of the CCP and COAG with a view to possible merger or retention to current arrangements would be presented to the Joint Meeting of the Programme Committee and Finance Committee (para. 28)

Have such governance issues also addressed by the Independent External Evaluation of FAO (para. 29)

A project was also launched to strengthen linkages and partnerships between the Organization and academic-research institutions. FAO is also conducting studies to assess the potential for rural areas to engage in newly-emerging markets for environmental services and in providing support to NEPAD and to African Union (AU) to monitor national government expenditures on agriculture.

FAO is also a major contributor to World Bank's 2008 World Development Report focussing on agriculture. Official Development Assistance (ODA) data for agriculture and rural development, as well as other non-concessional donor loans is kept, and a database on Agricultural Capital Stock Formation is being created.

Action is being taken.

See document CL 131/11 on Progress Report on the Follow-up to Past Programme Committee Recommendations.

The Joint Meeting of the Programme and Finance Committees in May 2006 reviewed a new paper prepared by the Secretariat on the scope for merging CCP and COAG and the implications for logistics and for policy work, especially of CCP. It concluded that the back-to-back arrangements adopted in 2005 had worked well and should be continued, and that no further efficiency savings would be made from a merger. However, it was recognized that this decision should not preclude further consideration of other arrangements in light of the outcome of the Independent External Evaluation on the subject.

Action is being taken by the Independent External Evaluation Team. See document CL 131/3.

**DECISION****IMPLEMENTATION****REPORT OF THE NINETY-FOURTH  
SESSION OF THE PROGRAMME  
COMMITTEE  
(ROME, 19 – 23 SEPTEMBER 2005)**

Address follow-up action regarding the implementation of the recommendations of the Independent Evaluation of FAO's Decentralization falling within the Director-General's authority (para. 32)

See documents CL 131/3, CL 131/18, CL 131/11 and CL 131/12.

Continue implementing recommendations aimed at improved modalities and a strengthened programme (para. 33)

See documents CL 131/3, CL 131/18, CL 131/11 and CL 131/12.

Have universality of access remain a basic principle of the TCP in the achievement of the MDGs, and give special attention to the allocation of resources to the neediest countries (para. 34)

New criteria on country eligibility have been applied to all requests since January 2006, ensuring that all FAO Members have access to TCP assistance for emergency and regional requests. In addition, a Working Group was established to identify/propose mechanisms for full cost-recovery for high-income developing and developed countries and the new procedures were finalised in September 2006.

The group of 115 neediest countries (consisting of LIFDCs, Least Developed Countries (LDCs); Land-locked Developing Countries (LLDCs) and Small Island Developing States (SIDS)) have received approximately 75 percent of approved resources for national non-emergency TCP assistance.

Use the earmarking of 15 percent of the TCP appropriation for emergency projects as an indicative figure only, and have access by high-income developing countries and developed countries to technical assistance through the TCP modality only on a full cost-recovery basis and maintain the multilateral nature of TCP (para. 34)

In budget terms, between January and July 2006, 15.4 percent of TCP resources were allocated to emergency TCP assistance, in line with Council decision, as opposed to 2004-05 when 28 percent were allocated to emergency TCP projects.

As indicated above, new procedures for ensuring full cost-recovery in the context of the TCP for high-income developing and developed countries have been developed and will be communicated to all high-income Members of FAO forthwith.

**DECISION**

Further delegate TCP-related responsibilities to FAORs, especially for approval of commitments under the TCP Facility for up to US\$ 200 000 per biennium and per country (para. 34)

Implement the modified criteria for the appraisal of requests for TCP assistance, the increase of the ceiling for all TCP projects, with the exception of the TCP Facility, to US\$ 500 000; and the possible extension of TCP project duration to 36 months (from the established 24 months) when justified (para. 34)

Further review the Evaluation of the Cross-organizational Strategy on Communicating FAO's Messages by having the Programme Committee consider the evaluation of both the fund-raising and advocacy dimensions of TeleFood and by having a time-bound implementation plan from management in response to the above-noted evaluation and that of TeleFood (para. 35)

**IMPLEMENTATION**

A revised Field Programme Circular, FPC 2006/02, was issued in May 2006 describing the new procedures for the TCP Facility. These include a complete delegation of approval authority to FAORs for up to US\$200 000 per biennium per country.

Between 1 January and 30 June 2006, new TCP Facility activities were established in 26 countries, as compared to 40 countries throughout the entire previous biennium (1 Jan 2004-31 Dec 2005).

The new criteria have been applied to all new project requests and ongoing projects, in the case of Budget Revisions since the beginning of 2006.

A new Field Programme Circular, 2006/01, issued in April 2006 gives greater flexibility and authority to FAORs and other Budget Holders to revise TCP projects, in line with the new maximum duration and budget ceiling.

The new TCP criteria are now part of the revised TCP Guidelines that have been prepared to communicate FAO Council decisions to all key FAO TCP stakeholders.

The evaluation of TeleFood was considered by the Programme Committee at its September 2006 session. See document CL 131/12 on "Evaluation of Telefood" and "Evaluation of Telefood Management Response".

**DECISION****IMPLEMENTATION****REPORTS OF THE HUNDRED AND TENTH (ROME, SEPTEMBER 2005) AND HUNDRED AND ELEVENTH (ROME, OCTOBER 2005) SESSIONS OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE***Status of Contributions and Arrears*

Urge all Member Nations to pay their contributions in full to enable the Organization to continue to fulfill its mandate and have the Finance Committee further review options available to improve the timely receipt of Assessed Contributions (para. 37)

Action taken. See documents FC 113/3, FC 113/11 and CL 131/9.

Propose that the Conference agree to the proposal to exclude charges to the Special Reserve Account due to variances on Headquarters staff costs arising from differences between the budget rate and the UN operational rate of exchange, with effect from the 2004-05 biennium (para. 41)

Action taken. See document C 2005/REP (para. 101).

*After Service Medical Coverage Liability*

Continue the ASMC funding for the 2006-07 biennium at the current level of US\$14.1 million in light of the Finance Committee's intention to further address the funding issue and recommend funding at the level prescribed in the latest actuarial valuations for future biennia (para. 44)

Action taken. See documents C 2005/REP (Resolution 7/2005 on Budgetary Appropriations 2006-07) and CL 131/9.

Have ASMC funding made in both US dollars and euro in the proportions recommended in the Asset and Liability study, i.e. 60 percent in euro and 40 in US dollars, at the agreed budget rate for the 2006-07 biennium. (para. 44)

Action taken. See document C 2005/REP (Resolution 7/2005 on Budgetary Appropriations 2006-07).

Further examine ways of contributing to ASMC funding (para. 44)

Action is being taken. See documents FC 113/9 and CL 131/9.

***Programme and Budgetary Transfers in the 2004-2005 Biennium***

Noted that the Director-General would report the precise amounts transferred between budgetary chapters in the 2004-2005 biennium to the first session of the Programme Committee in 2006 (para. 47)

Action taken. See documents FC 113/2 and CL 131/11 and see also document CL 131/18 for more recent transfers.

**DECISION****IMPLEMENTATION*****Report on Support Costs Expenditure and Recoveries***

Implement a change in the FAO Support Cost Policy to ensure that the Organization recovers all indirect variable support costs incurred from administering and operating emergency assistance projects (para. 50)

Action taken. See document FC 115/14.

Increase the PSC rate ceiling for emergency assistance projects from 6.5 percent to 10 percent. (para. 51)

Action taken. See document FC 115/14.

***Equitable Geographic Distribution***

Further efforts to redress the geographical representation issue, in particular for one Region (para. 52)

FAO has already launched recruitment missions in some non-represented and severely under-represented Member Nations with a focus on the Asia Region (Indonesia, Japan, Republic of Korea and Thailand). As a consequence of these recruitment missions, FAO has succeeded in raising the Organization's profile in the local recruitment market, obtaining information on the recruitment market and establishing contacts with recruitment sources.

With the implementation of the PWB 2006-2007, there has been an overall reduction in the level of vacancies and hence a significant curtailment of external recruitment activity. Despite this, FAO is still pursuing the pro-active recruitment strategies set out in the Human Resources Action Plan (FC 107/16).

**INDEPENDENT EXTERNAL  
EVALUATION OF FAO**

Have the final report of the IEE considered by the FAO Council in November 2007, together with the response of the Director-General (para. 55)

Action to this effect is being taken. See document CL 131/3.

Initiate the Independent External Evaluation (IEE) of FAO as soon as possible with an indicative budget of US\$ 4.3 million funded entirely from extra-budgetary contributions (para. 56)

Action is underway. See document CL 131/3.

**DECISION****IMPLEMENTATION**

Have the start of the IEE recruitments and contracting subject to availability of sufficient initial funds and assure that adequate funds are available at all stages of the evaluation process (para. 56)

Action is underway. See document CL 131/3.

Have all Members urgently contribute to the IEE Multilateral Trust Fund in order to make the Evaluation a true product of the Membership as a whole. (para. 56)

Action to this effect is being taken.

**CONSTITUTIONAL AND LEGAL  
MATTERS**

**REPORT OF THE SEVENTY-NINTH  
SESSION OF THE COMMITTEE ON  
CONSTITUTIONAL AND LEGAL  
MATTERS (ROME, 11-12 OCTOBER 2005)**

*Amendments to the Statutes of the Codex  
Alimentarius Commission*

Forward the Amendments to the Statutes of the Codex Alimentarius Commission to the Conference for approval (para. 58)

Action taken. See para 104 and Appendix F of C 2005/REP.

*Personal Status for Purposes of Staff  
Entitlements*

CCLM to further review some aspects regarding Personal Status for Purposes of Staff Entitlements, and report to the November 2006 Session of the Council (para. 59)

See document CL 131/5.

*Security Expenditure Facility – Amendments to  
Financial Regulations*

Transmit a draft Resolution on the Amendment to Financial Regulation VI (Security Expenditure Facility) to the Conference for consideration and adoption (para. 60)

Action taken. See Resolution 5/2005 in C 2005/REP.

*Restriction of Attendance by the “General  
Public” to Meetings of the Organization*

Transmit a draft Resolution on the Amendment to Rule V, paragraph 3 and Rule XXV, paragraph 9(a) of the General Rules of the Organization to the Conference for consideration and adoption (para. 61)

Action taken. See Resolution 8/2005 in C 2005/REP.



**DECISION****IMPLEMENTATION**

*Agreement between the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO)*

Forward the Agreement between the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) (*Appendix D of CL 129/REP*) to the Conference for confirmation (para. 62)

Action taken. See para. 103 and Appendix E of C 2005/REP.

**OTHER CONSTITUTIONAL AND LEGAL MATTERS**

*Representation of the Near East Region in the Finance Committee*

Have the Regional Groups hold informal consultations in order to allow the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters to consider the matter and make a recommendation to the Council at its session of November 2006 (para. 66)

Action taken. See document CL 131/5.

**OTHER MATTERS****REVISED CALENDAR OF FAO GOVERNING BODIES AND OTHER MAIN SESSIONS 2005-2006**

Convene the Hundred and Thirtieth Session of the Council in Rome on 28 November 2005 (para. 67)

Action taken.

**THE INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF THE POTATO**

Submit to the Conference a draft Resolution on the designation of the year 2008 as the International Year of the Potato (para. 69)

Action taken. See Resolution 4/2005 in C 2005/REP.

**DECISION****IMPLEMENTATION**

**HUNDRED AND THIRTIETH SESSION OF  
THE COUNCIL  
(ROME, 28 NOVEMBER 2005)**

**DATE AND PLACE OF THE HUNDRED  
AND THIRTY-FIRST SESSION OF THE  
COUNCIL**

Convene the Hundred and Thirty-first Session  
from 20 to 25 November 2006 (para. 13)

Action taken.