



منظمة الأغذية
والزراعة
للأمم المتحدة

联合国
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Food
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Agriculture
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the
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des
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Unies
pour
l'alimentation
et
l'agriculture

Organización
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Agricultura
y la
Alimentación

COUNCIL

Hundred and Thirty-third Session

Rome, 14-16 November 2007

Report to the Council of the Independent Chairperson of the Council on the Recommendations of the Friends of the Chair on IEE Follow-up

I. Introduction

1. The 131st Session of the Council in November 2006 “invited its Independent Chairperson to informally convene, as he considered necessary between Council sessions, Friends of the Chair to discuss issues pertaining to follow-up to the IEE in preparation for Council sessions”¹. The Friends of the Chair met for the first time on 15 June and has since held a series of meetings to inform itself on the IEE findings and recommendations as contained in its report and the response of management as contained in the Management Response “In Principle”. This has deepened FAO Members’ understanding of the IEE proposals and enabled the Friends of the Chair to recommend to the Council a draft Resolution of the Conference. The proposals which it recommends that the Council transmit to the Conference are designed to facilitate adoption of a resolution on IEE follow-up.

2. This proposal provides a draft of the sections of the resolution which all Members of the Friends of the Chair adopted with full consensus, including the establishment of a time bound Committee of the Conference and the need for a special session of the Conference in the latter part of 2008.

3. Also provided separately is a paragraph submitted by one regional group and supported in principle by some other regional groups, which provides for the establishment of basic milestones for the work of the proposed Committee of the Conference. All members agreed that it was necessary to maintain momentum in arriving at agreement on the recommendations of the Committee of the Conference and there was a measure of agreement that this should be reflected in the Resolution. However, in the limited time available, it was not possible to arrive at wording

¹ Paragraph 73, Report of the 131st Session of the Council.

on a possible text. The original text as suggested by one regional group is thus provided separately as an annex for the information of the Council and possible further consideration.

4. The draft text of the Resolution provides for the Conference to appoint a Chair and Vice-Chair of the Conference Committee and this is also an area requiring the special attention of the Conference.

Agreed Friends of the Chair Proposed Text of Main Elements for Draft Conference Resolution Number: Follow-up to the Independent External Evaluation of FAO

The Conference,

- 1) Recalls its Resolution 6/2005 in 2005 to undertake the Independent External Evaluation of FAO, with a view to “chart the way forward” for FAO.
- 2) Welcomes the IEE report which will provide the basis for Members’ decision making on an integrated package of reform with growth for the Organization. Welcomes also the Director-General’s Management Response “in Principle”, which will further assist Members’ decision making.
- 3) Reaffirms the global mandate of FAO for food, agriculture and the related natural resource bases and welcomes the renewed global emphasis on the important role of agriculture for the present and future wellbeing of all, stressing the importance of the Millennium Declaration and the major contributions which the Organization has to make in supporting the three agreed Goals of Member Nations as stated in the Strategic Framework:
 - overcoming hunger and malnutrition;
 - agriculture’s contribution to sustainable economic and social development; and
 - conservation and sustainable use of the natural resource base.
- 4) Reaffirms its political will and determination to seize this opportunity and to undertake early and well considered action for a programme of FAO renewal, in the overall context of UN system reforms.

The Conference decides to:

- 5) Develop an immediate plan of action and a Strategic Framework for FAO renewal after a systematic review of the IEE report and its findings and recommendations and the management response. The plan of action will address:
 - a) an FAO vision and programme priorities:
 - i) priorities and programme adjustments for the period 2009-2011; and
 - ii) a draft covering the major elements of a long-term Strategic Framework and a draft Medium-Term Plan;
 - b) governance reform;
 - c) reform of systems, culture change and organizational restructuring:
 - i) institutional culture change and reform of administrative and management systems; and
 - ii) restructuring for effectiveness and efficiency.

In addressing each of the actions for reform, the immediate plan of action will specify: the financial implications; targets to be achieved; timetable for implementation; and implementation milestones over the period 2009-2011.

6) Convene a special session of the FAO Conference in the latter part of 2008, immediately preceded by a shortened session of the Council. This special session of the Conference will provide for the entirety of the membership to come together to discuss and decide upon proposals for an immediate plan of action and make decisions on the budgetary implications.

7) Establish a time-bound Conference Committee under Article VI of the FAO Constitution, mandated to complete its work with the presentation of proposals for an immediate plan of action to the Special Session of the Conference in 2008. This Committee will be open to full participation by all Members of the Organization. It will strive for transparency and unity in its work and will collectively decide the final recommendations of the Committee to the Conference, arriving at its decisions to the maximum extent possible through consensus. It will conduct its work in all the languages of the Organization. The functions of the Committee, without prejudice to the statutory functions of the standing committees of the Council, are to:

- a) recommend to the Conference proposals for the immediate plan of action as defined in paragraph 5 above; and
- b) provide ongoing review and feedback on the implementation of all actions, including *inter alia* quick wins, being undertaken by the Director-General, on those areas of the IEE follow-up lying essentially within his authority, recognizing that some actions are subject to the provision of the requisite budgetary resources.

8) Appointas Chair and as Vice-Chair respectively of the Committee. The Committee shall appoint its Bureau and co-Vice Chairs respecting regional representation. The meetings of the Bureau will be open to non-speaking observers and will address exclusively administrative and organizational matters.

The Conference further decides:

9) In the interests of efficiency, the Committee of the Conference will establish such task-defined working groups as it requires to prepare individual inputs for its consideration. The working groups will be made up of a maximum of three member country representatives per region. Meetings of the working groups will be open to observers from the whole of the FAO membership, ensuring transparency, and will conduct their work in all languages of the Organization. In order to assure that all Members may be present at Working Group and Bureau sessions, no meetings will be held simultaneously with the same timings nor will they coincide with Bureau meetings. The chairs of the Committee, the Bureau, and the working groups will ensure that aide-mémoires are available to the FAO membership following each session. The Chairperson of the Committee will present its final report to the Special Session of the Conference.

10) FAO management will provide full support, as requested, to the workings of the Conference Committee, its Bureau and its working groups.

11) In conducting its work, the Conference Committee will decide when necessary to call on the Committees of the Council to advise it on aspects of the reform process within their mandates.

12) The Conference recognizes the need for additional resources for the 2008-09 Regular Programme Budget of the Organization to fund the implementation of this Resolution, amounting

to [US\$4.8 million – to be decided in the Budget Resolution] and provided for in Resolution 7/2007.

Annex: Suggested paragraph to establish basic milestones in the work of the Committee of the Conference (submitted by one regional group and supported in principle by some other regional groups on which it was not possible to reach consensus in the limited time available)

In view of the necessity of maintaining strong momentum in developing all elements for the plan of immediate action for FAO reform with growth, beginning in 2008, the Committee is directed to carry out its programme of work in a timely way, and will at a minimum deliver outputs as follows:

- a) Definition of its working groups, the bureau and a detailed work plan for the Committee and its working groups by 31 January 2008;
- b) Initial agreement on overall recommendations of the Committee to the Conference, for:
 - i. preliminary conclusion on each individual IEE recommendation, together with an indicative implementation timetable (31 March 2008),
 - ii. main priorities of FAO to be addressed in the Strategic Framework (30 May 2008),
 - iii. proposals for immediate governance reform (30 May 2008)
 - iv. immediate organizational changes and initial programme adjustments (30 June 2008)
- c) By 31 July 2008, proposals for:
 - i. human resource, administrative and system reforms,
 - ii. adjustments to the Programme of Work and Budget for 2009 and main directions for the Programme of Work and Budget 2010-2011,
 - iii. draft Strategic Framework and Medium-Term Plan for FAO,
 - iv. changes in the Basic Texts in order to undertake agreed Governance changes,
 - v. any continued special arrangements of the Governing Bodies to implement a continued programme of reform with growth; and
- d) By 15 September 2008, final report of the Committee for the Special Session of the FAO Conference.