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Organización
de las
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Agricultura
y la
Alimentación

COUNCIL

Hundred and Thirty-fifth session

Rome, 17-18 November 2008

Report of the Joint Meeting of the Ninety-ninth Session of the Programme Committee and the Hundred and Twenty-second Session of the Finance Committee Rome, 28 May 2008

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REPORT OF THE JOINT MEETING OF THE PROGRAMME AND FINANCE COMMITTEES

Rome, 28 May 2008

Introduction

1. The Committees submit to the Council the following report of their Joint Meeting.
2. The following Members were present at the meeting:

Programme Committee

Chairperson

Mr V. Heard (United Kingdom)

Members

Mr A.R. Ayazi (Afghanistan)

Mr C.A. Amaral (Angola)

Ms M. del Carmen Squeff (Argentina)

Ms F. Bartlett (Australia)

H.E. J.A. Marcondes de Carvalho (Brazil)

Mr J. Melanson (Canada)

Mr A.A.M. Hosni Abdel Aziz (Egypt)

H.E. P. Bacale Mbiang (Equatorial Guinea)

Mr R. Parasuram (India)

Mr S. Yokoi (Japan)

Finance Committee

Chairperson

Mr Y.A.R. Sorour (Egypt)

Members

Mr M. Médi (Cameroon)

Mr Li Zhengdong (China)

Mr S. Skafté (Denmark)

Mr J.-J. Soula (France)

Mr E.W. Hein (Germany)

H.E. J.E. Chen Charpentier (Mexico)

Mr A.A. Khawaja (Pakistan)

Mr H. Maltéz (Panama)

Mr R. Sabiiti (Uganda)

Mr L. Brudvig (USA)

Item 1: Adoption of the Agenda¹

3. The Agenda for the Joint Meeting was approved.

Item 2: Collaboration on Administrative and Processing Work between FAO, WFP and IFAD - Progress Report²

4. The Committees welcomed the information provided in the Progress Report document JM 08.1/2 on the extensive collaboration between FAO, WFP and IFAD as well as that emerging from the discussions at the joint informal seminar for Permanent Representatives on cooperation between the Rome-based agencies held at FAO on 26 May 2008. They welcomed the broader scope of the report including consideration of FAO's response to the UN General Assembly Resolution on the TCP, its role in the UN system reform process and in the *Delivering as One* pilot countries.

5. The Committees noted with satisfaction that the mapping exercise had clearly revealed the wide range of jointly undertaken activities. They commended the three Rome-based agencies for seeking greater synergies and complementarities in service delivery to member countries. They emphasized the continued need for convergence in order to maximize results and avoid duplication at field level and between headquarters of the three Rome-based agencies.

¹ JM 08.1/1

² JM 08.1/2

6. The Committees noted that while progress had been possible in administrative areas, joint programming issues would have to take due account of the need not to infringe on the respective institutional mandates. It was emphasized that partnership needed to be based on shared objectives and comparative advantages. Additional information was requested on the potential for collaboration between FAO, WFP and IFAD on normative activities and on harmonizing data collection and vulnerability mapping methodologies. More collaborative work at the country level should be developed, including as regards country programming instruments with a view to improving consistency and compatibility with national development priorities and ensuring greater national ownership in line with the principles of the Paris Declaration. Some Members called for greater attention to be paid to the linkages between food security and fuelwood as well as to capacity building. The sequence of interventions by the three agencies in emergency and crisis situations was also queried.

7. The Committees stressed the need to complete a joint strategic document by the end of July to guide future collaboration and noted the need for the strategy to reflect the core roles and mandates of each of the agencies.

8. The Joint Meeting looked forward to receiving a further progress report covering collaboration between the Rome-based agencies as well as UN cooperation. It also expected the report to include more quantitative data and analysis on savings, efficiency gains and further effectiveness and impact resulting from increased collaboration between the Rome-based agencies, and concrete examples and specific proposals for future collaboration. It was informed that the external Root and Branch review of FAO's administrative services, which had just commenced, foresaw the identification of opportunities for a more cost effective and efficient delivery of services with the other Rome based agencies and an initial presentation of a range of costs, savings and implementation time period.

9. There was also general support for intensified collaboration and harmonization on joint communication and advocacy strategies (joint messages) as well as on food security information and early warning systems, with an emphasis on greater clarity on the division of labour and strategic coherence in the work of the Rome-based organizations in these areas.

Item 3. Savings and Efficiencies in Governance

10. The Committees recalled that, at the request of Council, this was a standing agenda item. As there was no document for discussion. The Committees agreed to suggest to Council that at future sessions, where this was the case, the item should not appear on the Joint Meeting Agenda.

Item 4. Any Other Business

11. There was no discussion under this agenda item.