



منظمة الأغذية
والزراعة
للأمم المتحدة

联合国
粮食及
农业组织

Food
and
Agriculture
Organization
of
the
United
Nations

Organisation
des
Nations
Unies
pour
l'alimentation
et
l'agriculture

Продовольственная и
сельскохозяйственная
организация
Объединенных
Наций

Organización
de las
Naciones
Unidas
para la
Agricultura
y la
Alimentación

COUNCIL

Hundred and Thirty-sixth Session

Rome, 15 – 19 June 2009

Report of the Joint Meeting of the Hundred and First Session of the Programme Committee and the Hundred and Twenty-sixth Session of the Finance Committee Rome, 13 May 2009

Table of Contents

	Pages
Adoption of the Agenda	2
Elements for the draft Strategic Framework, Medium Term Plan 2010-13, and Programme of Work and Budget 2010-11	2
Technical Cooperation Programme (TCP) Support to the Initiative on Soaring Food Prices (ISFP) and the Comprehensive Framework for Action (CFA) of the UN High-level Task Force on the Global Food Crisis – Progress Report	3
Concept of Reform with Growth	4
Savings and Efficiencies in Governance	4
Any Other Business	4

This document is printed in limited numbers to minimize the environmental impact of FAO's processes and contribute to climate neutrality. Delegates and observers are kindly requested to bring their copies to meetings and to avoid asking for additional copies. Most FAO meeting documents are available on the Internet at www.fao.org

Matters requiring attention by the Council

Matters requiring discussion and/or decision

	Paragraphs
Elements for the draft Strategic Framework, Medium Term Plan 2010-13, and PWB 2010-11	5 - 10

Matters for information

	Paragraphs
Technical Cooperation Programme (TCP) Support to the Initiative on Soaring Food Prices (ISFP) and the Comprehensive Framework for Action (CFA) of the UN High-level Task Force on the Global Food Crisis – Progress Report	11 - 14
Concept of Reform with Growth	15 - 18

REPORT OF THE JOINT MEETING OF THE PROGRAMME AND FINANCE COMMITTEES

Rome, 13 May 2009

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 M. Valicenti (Canada)
 Mr A.A.M. Hosni Abdel Aziz (Egypt)
 H.E. P. Bacale Mbiang (Equatorial Guinea)
 Mr R. Parasuram (India)
 Mr K. Shioya (Japan)

Finance Committee

Chairperson

Mr Y.A.R. Sorour (Egypt)

Members

Mr M. Médi (Cameroon)
 Mr Li Zhengdong (China)
 Mr S. Skafte (Denmark)
 Mr J.-J. Soula (France)
 Mr E.W. Hein (Germany)
 H.E. J.E. Chen Charpentier (Mexico)
 Mr A.A. Khawaja (Pakistan)
 H.E. E. Jaén Esquivel (Panama)
 Mr R. Sabiiti (Uganda)
 Mr L. Brudvig (USA)

3. The Committees appreciated the opening address from the Director-General, the full text of which may be found on FAO's Permanent Representatives Web site (<http://permreps.fao.org/>).

Adoption of the Agenda¹

4. The Agenda for the Joint Meeting was approved.

Elements for the draft Strategic Framework, Medium Term Plan 2010-13, and Programme of Work and Budget 2010-11²

5. The item was discussed after receiving oral reports from the Chairpersons on deliberations in their respective Committees.
6. The Committees confirmed their appreciation of the document prepared by Management. While stressing that it represented work-in-progress, the Committees considered that it provided a good basis for the more comprehensive documentation being prepared for the forthcoming July sessions which would cover in particular the critical resource dimension.
7. In this connection, the Committees endorsed the submission of two physically separate documents: i.e. a concise Strategic Framework and a more substantial document containing the MTP 2010-13 and PWB 2010-11 proposals including a draft Budgetary Appropriations Resolution. The Committees noted that the PWB would be impacted by the approach reflected in

¹ JM 09.1/1

² CL 136/16

the development of the Strategic Framework and the MTP, and benefit from the outcome of discussion on “reform with growth” in the Conference Committee for Follow-up to the Independent External Evaluation of FAO (CoC-IEE).

8. The Committees looked forward to the above-mentioned planning documentation duly reflecting aspects of strong interest to the membership such as the extent of partnerships and delivery of programmes at the country level. Another area of expected improvement concerned the formulation of the Functional Objectives X: *Effective collaboration with Member States and stakeholders* and Y: *Efficient and effective administration*, informed by the findings of the Root and Branch Review.

9. The Committees underlined the need to draw to the attention of the June 2009 Council that the preparation of this documentation was inherently complex. It was taking place during a multi-faceted reform process, including transition to an enhanced results-based management approach and culture change, coupled with a more inclusive and revised inter-governmental process as specified in the IPA. Recognising this complexity, the Committees requested the Secretariat to facilitate presentation of the documentation to Council, taking into account the Committees’ deliberations and those of the CoC-IEE and its Working Groups.

Technical Cooperation Programme (TCP) Support to the Initiative on Soaring Food Prices (ISFP) and the Comprehensive Framework for Action (CFA) of the UN High-level Task Force on the Global Food Crisis – Progress Report³

10. In considering this item, the Committees recalled the guidance provided by the Finance Committee at its 123rd Session in October 2008 regarding the allocation of TCP resources in support of ISFP activities.

11. The Committees expressed satisfaction with the progress of implementation of the ISFP TCP as a whole. They noted in particular the catalytic role of ISFP TCPs as exemplified by the European Union Food Facility, the largest single funding instrument to be deployed to date in response to the global food security crisis, which included 41 of the countries that were also recipients of ISFP TCPs. Clarification was provided on the criteria for selection of the countries benefiting from the ISFP TCP projects and on the reasons for the slow start-up of the regional projects. It was suggested that the latter problem might be overcome in future by working directly with regional organizations.

12. The Committees noted the scope for linkages with partners, including international financing institutions, in the context of the Comprehensive Framework for Action (CFA) of the High-Level Task Force which provided the basis for further collaboration at country-level in the medium- to long-term, as well as for linkages with the activities currently envisaged within the framework of the Committee on World Food Security.

13. The Committees highlighted the need to link the TCP with the Impact Focus Areas (IFA) and then expressed satisfaction that the incorporation of the ISFP in the first IFA on food security was envisaged. They supported taking further advantages of streamlined operational procedures used for implementation of the ISFP TCPs and drawing on lessons learned with respect to flexibility, focus and accountability.

³ JM 09.1/2

Concept of Reform with Growth⁴

14. The Committees recalled that the CoC-IEE had been tasked with analysing the concept of “reform with growth” and submitting proposals to the 2009 Conference. The Committees bore in mind that the Working Groups of the CoC-IEE were due to discuss the concept of “reform with growth” in early June and had requested to receive advice from the Programme and Finance Committees on the matter.

15. The Committees noted that, while the expression “reform with growth” had been used extensively in the IEE report, no firm definition had been given. They observed that the document prepared by Management to facilitate reflections in the Joint Meeting had highlighted three possible dimensions to the concept. The Committees recognised that there could be a broad range of perceptions about its implications, as Members provided during their interventions.

16. The Committees emphasised that “reform with growth” entailed *inter alia* an adequately resourced Organization with stronger comparative advantage, improved governance and reinforced technical, administrative and managerial competencies at headquarters and decentralized offices.

17. The Committees submitted to the CoC-IEE the following initial elements related to the concept of “reform with growth” for its consideration. The growth should be real, considering the following points:

- a) a primary consideration of ensuring efficient and effective delivery of services to member countries;
- b) the need to guarantee sustainability of the reforms presently carried out in the Organization;
- c) the imperative of ensuring that highly qualified and sufficient human resources are at the disposal of FAO;
- d) growth requirements not to be defined by pre-determined figures but be assessed in the first instance against the Strategic and Functional Objectives and MTP approved by the governing bodies; and
- e) the expected full integration of Regular Budget and extra-budgetary resources in the MTP and PWB.

Savings and Efficiencies in Governance

18. There was no discussion under this agenda item.

Any Other Business

19. The Committees recalled that, in the schedule for governing body input and oversight under the revised cycle of preparation and governing body decision making set forth in the IPA⁵, the Technical Committees of Council would meet in the third quarter of the first year of each biennium. The Committee took note that, at the 28th Session of COFI (2-6 March 2009), many Members expressed opinions that, to the extent possible, the current timing of the COFI sessions should be maintained (i.e. February/March in the second year of each biennium)⁶. Moving the session to the third quarter of the first year of each biennium would cause conflict with the timing of the meetings of some important regional fisheries bodies and annual consultations for the UN General Assembly Resolutions.

⁴ JM 09.1/3

⁵ C 2008/4 Chart 1

⁶ CL 136/2