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Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
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Продовольственная и
сельскохозяйственная организация
Объединенных Наций

Organización de las
Naciones Unidas para la
Alimentación y la Agricultura

منظمة
الغذية والزراعة
للأمم المتحدة

COUNCIL

Hundred and Fifty-fourth Session

Rome, 30 May - 3 June 2016

Report of the 119th Session of the Programme Committee (Rome, 16 - 20 May 2016)

Executive Summary

The Programme Committee examined a number of matters relating to programme planning and evaluation, in particular with regards to:

- a) Review of FAO Strategic Framework and preparation of Medium Term Plan 2018-21 – Regional Priorities (para. 3)
- b) Evaluation of FAO's contribution to the conservation and sustainable use of genetic resources for food and agriculture (para. 4)
- c) Strategy for FAO's work on climate change - roadmap (para. 5)
- d) Reporting on gender and other cross-cutting themes, including nutrition and climate change (para. 6)
- e) Update on FAO's work on antimicrobial resistance (AMR) (para. 7)

The Committee brings its findings and recommendations on these matters to the attention of the Council.

Suggested action by the Council

The Council is requested to endorse the findings of the Programme Committee, as well as its recommendations on matters within its mandate.

Queries on the content of this document may be addressed to:

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REPORT OF THE HUNDRED AND NINETEENTH SESSION OF THE PROGRAMME COMMITTEE

Rome, 16-20 May 2016

Introduction

1. The Committee submitted to the Council the following report of its Hundred and Nineteenth session.

2. In addition to the Vice-Chairperson, His Excellency Claudio J. Rozencwaig (Argentina), chairing the session in the absence of the Chairperson, His Excellency Serge Tomasi (France), the following representatives of Members were present:

Mr N.C. Montani Cazabat (Argentina)¹

Mr O. Kubota (Japan)

Mr E. Robinson (Canada)

Mr F.R. Salamh Al Argan (Jordan)

Mr M. Mankoussou (Congo)

Mr M. Hooper (New Zealand)

Mr J.A. Carranza Barona (Ecuador)

H.E. I. Nordang (Norway)

Mr M.N. Camara (Guinea)

Mr A. Halasiewicz (Poland)

Mr V. Sharan (India)

Mr H.A. Shoja'aadin (Yemen)

Review of FAO Strategic Framework and preparation of Medium Term Plan 2018-21 - Regional Priorities²

3. The Committee welcomed the document as an integral component of the process for review of the Strategic Framework and preparation of the Medium Term Plan 2018-21. The Committee:

- a) welcomed the support expressed by the Regional Conferences for continuity in the strategic direction of the Organization;
- b) noted the global developments outlined in the document, including the Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda setting the framework for implementation, the Paris Agreement on climate change, the Second International Conference on Nutrition and the World Humanitarian Summit, as well as other developments such as the third UN World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction and the third UN Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development;
- c) noted the regional trends and challenges identified, including youth employment, urbanization, migration and displaced people, innovation and technology, value chain development and trade, statistics for evidence-based policies and monitoring, and resilience, as well as adequate development financing;
- d) supported the regional priorities expressed by the Regional Conferences, as summarized in the document and its *Annexes*;
- e) expressed support for all the Regional Initiatives in 2016-17, as well as inter-regional work on climate change, nutrition, and Blue Growth;

¹ Mr N.C. Montani Cazabat had been designated to replace His Excellency Claudio J. Rozencwaig as representative of Argentina for the 119th session of the Programme Committee.

² PC 119/2, Add.1/Rev.1, Add.2, Add.3

- f) welcomed the alignment of FAO's Strategic Objectives with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and underlined the importance of linking the SDG indicators to the results framework of the Medium Term Plan 2018-21;
- g) appreciated the continued use and strengthening of strategic partnerships, including at regional level;
- h) underlined the importance of providing policy advice and capacity development to Members building on FAO's normative and standard setting work; and
- i) looked forward to reviewing the draft outline of the Medium Term Plan 2018-21 at its next session, taking account of the outcomes of the Committees on Agriculture, Fisheries, Forestry and Commodity Problems.

Evaluation of FAO's contribution to the conservation and sustainable use of genetic resources for food and agriculture³

4. The Committee welcomed this evaluation and Management Response, and:
 - a) noted the positive findings of the evaluation regarding the relevance, reputation and contribution of FAO's work on genetic resources for food and agriculture (GRFA);
 - b) supported the findings, conclusions and recommendations of the evaluation and appreciated Management confirmation that actions to address the recommendations were underway, in particular as regards cross-organizational work;
 - c) underlined the importance of technical capacity at headquarters, and supported greater development of capacities at, as well as greater participation of, decentralized offices through integrating GRFA work into country programmes and fostering capacity-development efforts;
 - d) highlighted the importance of maintaining close collaboration between FAO and the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture;
 - e) stressed the importance of seeking innovative partnership modalities, and of close collaboration with other actors in this field with a view to mobilizing resources and avoiding duplications; and
 - f) looked forward to a progress report on this evaluation in due course.

Strategy for FAO's work on climate change - roadmap⁴

5. The Committee:
 - a) reiterated the important role of FAO in climate change, taking note of the Organization's comparative advantages in this regard in order to contribute to the three pillars of sustainable development;
 - b) took note of the proposed conceptual framework and three overarching outcomes for developing the Strategy;
 - c) endorsed the roadmap proposals;
 - d) underlined the importance of considering the national and local realities in the implementation of the Strategy and its Plan of Action, as well as the role of decentralized offices;
 - e) looked forward to reviewing the Strategy and its Plan of Action at its next session, after receiving all Technical Committees' contributions, for its presentation and approval by Council.

³ PC 119/5; PC 119/5 Sup.1

⁴ PC 119/4

Reporting on gender and other cross-cutting themes, including nutrition and climate change

6. The Committee:
- a) reiterated the importance stressed by the 153rd session of the Council of due attention to the cross-cutting themes, including gender, nutrition, climate change and governance;
 - b) welcomed the information provided on gender as a cross-cutting theme in the Programme Implementation Report 2014-15;
 - c) looked forward to continued attention to mainstreaming of gender across FAO's activities, and to reporting thereon through the Organization's reporting mechanisms;
 - d) requested that due emphasis be placed on FAO's work on gender in the upcoming evaluations of the Strategic Objectives; and
 - e) requested an evaluation of FAO's work on gender be prepared for consideration by the Conference in 2019.

Update of FAO's work on antimicrobial resistance (AMR)⁵

7. The Committee:
- a) appreciated the progress on FAO's work on antimicrobial resistance, and urged continued attention in this regard;
 - b) welcomed FAO's Action Plan and focus areas of work and the implementation mechanisms under the Strategic Programme teams;
 - c) noted the importance of decentralization efforts as key for effective implementation of the Action Plan;
 - d) appreciated the continued cooperation on AMR under the tripartite partnership with WHO and OIE, including relevant aspects of the Codex Alimentarius;
 - e) appreciated the Secretariat's support for AMR activities within the PWB, as well as the extrabudgetary funds pledged and made available so far by resource partners; and
 - f) underlined the importance of enhanced finances for AMR; and exhorted FAO Members and others to provide further extrabudgetary resources to meet the requirement of USD 10 million in voluntary contributions for implementation of the AMR Action Plan.

Follow-up report on the evaluation of FAO's Regional and Subregional Offices for Asia and the Pacific (*cf. PC 115/3*)⁶

8. The Committee, took note of this follow-up report, and:
- a) welcomed the progress on implementation of accepted recommendations;
 - b) underlined the need for more information on the impact of the implementation of accepted recommendations with high Management Action Record (MAR) scoring;
 - c) looked forward to reporting on rejected recommendations;
 - d) encouraged the Organization to continue to pay attention to the challenges of Pacific Island countries; and
 - e) highlighted the importance for FAO to continue and strengthen collaboration with Asia-Pacific regional organizations.

⁵ PC 119/3

⁶ PC 119/6

Follow-up report on the Evaluation of FAO's Regional and Subregional Offices for Latin America and the Caribbean (*cf. PC 115/4*)⁷

9. The Committee took note of this follow-up report, and:
- a) welcomed the progress on implementation of accepted recommendations;
 - b) underlined the importance of progress in decentralization in the Latin America and the Caribbean region;
 - c) underlined the need for more information on the impact of the implementation of accepted recommendations with high MAR;
 - d) highlighted the value of the synergy between headquarters and the decentralized offices; and
 - e) supported the alignment of FAO's work with established priorities.

Follow-up report on the Evaluation of FAO's role in support of crop production (*cf. PC 115/5*)⁸

10. The Committee took note of this follow-up report and welcomed the progress made by FAO on implementation of accepted recommendations, in particular through providing a neutral platform for discussion of issues such as agroecology and biotechnology.

Date and place of the Hundred and Twentieth Session

11. The Committee was informed that its 120th session would take place in Rome from 7 to 11 November 2016.

⁷ PC 119/7

⁸ PC 119/8