

C 2019/3 - Medium Term Plan 2018-21 (reviewed) and Programme of Work and Budget 2020-21

Information Note no. 1 – June 2019

Proposal to carry over any unspent balance of the 2018-19 budgetary appropriation for one-time uses

This note makes a proposal to authorize the Director-General to utilize any unspent balance of the 2018-19 appropriations for one-time uses in 2020-21.

I. Background

1. Each session of the Conference approves the Programme of Work for the next biennium and votes a budgetary appropriation for its implementation. The Conference also provides guidance and authority to the Director-General on other programme and budget matters.
2. In this regard, the Conference has approved carry over of any unspent balances of budgetary appropriations for a range of specific purposes on a number of past occasions.¹ In particular, since the 2008-09 biennium, Conference has authorized the carry-over of the unspent balance of the appropriations for specific one-time uses in the subsequent biennium, which amounted to:
 - USD 2.5 million from 2008-09 to 2010-11 to replenish the Capital Expenditure Facility.
 - USD 8.7 million from 2010-11 to 2012-13 for full implementation of the Immediate Plan of Action for FAO Renewal.
 - USD 9.4 million from 2012-13 to 2014-15 for transformational change.
 - USD 5.6 million from 2014-15 to 2016-17 for consolidation of transformation change.
 - USD 3.9 million from 2016-17 to 2018-19, for one-time use to support programmes of the Organization, including for the Special fund for Development Finance Activities (SFDFA), in agreement with the Joint Meeting of the Programme and Finance Committees, and the Council at their meetings in November-December 2017.
3. The decision to authorize the carry-over of the unspent balances has been a matter considered solely by and within the authority of the Conference when considering the level of the budget, without discussion by the Council or its Committees.
4. The 161st Session of the Council (8-12 April 2019) recommended to the 41st Session of Conference (June 2019) to approve the budget level proposed by the Director-General.
5. The Director-General, while continuing to undertake his duty to fully obligate and spend the budgetary appropriation to implement the Programme of Work, is cognizant that a small unspent balance (less than USD 8 million) may arise at the end of the 2018-19 biennium. Accordingly, the Director-General proposes that any unspent balance of the 2018-19 budgetary appropriation be authorized for one-time uses in 2020-21.
6. Therefore, the Conference is requested to reflect in its report the following one-time authority:
 - *Authorizes the Director-General, notwithstanding Financial Regulation 4.2, to use any unspent balance of the 2018-19 appropriations for one-time uses in 2020-21, in agreement with the Joint Meeting of the Programme and Finance Committees, and the Council at their meetings in November-December 2019.*

¹ This was the case in 1979, 1981, 1983, 1987, 1991, 1997, 1999, 2001, 2009, 2011, 2013, 2015 and 2017

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