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Food and Agriculture
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Продовольственная и
сельскохозяйственная организация
Объединенных Наций

Organización de las
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COUNCIL

Hundred and Sixty-fifth Session

30 November - 4 December 2020

Report of the 129th Session of the Programme Committee (9-13 November 2020)

Executive Summary

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

- a) Outline of the Strategic Framework and Outline of the Medium Term Plan 2022-25, including the change management strategy;
- b) Strengthening the governance and oversight of FAO's Country Programming Framework (CPF);
- c) The Hand-in-Hand Initiative;
- d) Evaluation of FAO's Technical Cooperation Programme and Management Response;
- e) Evaluation of FAO's support to Zero Hunger (SDG2) - Second phase and Management Response;
- f) Evaluation of FAO Strategy for Partnerships with Civil Society Organizations and Management Response;
- g) Indicative rolling work plan of evaluations 2021-2023;
- h) Terms of Reference of the International Platform for Digital Food and Agriculture;

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:

Jiani Tian
Secretary, Programme Committee
Tel.: +39 06570 53007

Introduction

1. The Committee submitted to the Council the following Report of its Hundred and Twenty-ninth Session.
2. In addition to the Chairperson, H.E. (Mr) Hans Hoogeveen (Netherlands), the following representatives of Members were present:

H.E. (Mr) Carlos Bernardo Cherniak (Argentina)	Mr Laith Obeidat (Jordan) ³
Ms Jennifer Fellows (Canada)	Mr Muhammad Rudy Khairudin Mohd Nor (Malaysia) ⁴
Ms Tamara Villanueva (Chile)	Ms Traoré Halimatou Kone (Mali)
Mr NI Hongxing (China)	Mr Donald G. Syme (New Zealand)
H.E. (Ms) Céline Jurgensen (France) ¹	H.E. (Ms) Marie-Therese Sarch (United Kingdom) ⁵
Mr Shahin Ghorashizadeh (Islamic Republic of Iran) ²	Mr Kayoya Masuhwa (Zambia) ⁶
3. The Session was convened virtually on an exceptional basis due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
4. The Programme Committee confirmed, pursuant to Rule VII of the rules of procedure of the Programme Committee that they agreed to the suspension of Rule II (5) of the PC rules of procedure, which require that sessions shall be held at the seat of the Organization.
5. The Chairperson informed Members that, should technical connection fail, the meeting would be suspended if the quorum was not reached.

I. Election of the Vice-Chairperson for the term November 2020 to June 2021

6. The Committee decided unanimously to elect H.E. (Mr) Carlos Bernardo Cherniak (Argentina) as Vice-Chairperson of the Programme Committee for the remainder of its term (November 2020 – June 2021), in replacement of H.E. Mohammad Hossein Emadi (Islamic Republic of Iran).

II. Adoption of the Provisional Agenda and Timetable

7. The Committee adopted the Provisional Agenda for the session with the proposed amendment to address *Item 6 e) Terms of Reference of the International Platform for Digital Food and Agriculture*, as an item for discussion. Furthermore, the Committee agreed to address *Item 10 - Evaluation of FAO Strategy for Partnerships with Civil Society Organizations and Management Response*, as an item for discussion, in addition to considering the matter of multilingualism in the Organization under *Item 16 - Any Other Matters*.
8. The Committee adopted the Provisional Timetable with the proposed change to discuss *Item 4 - Strengthening the governance and oversight of FAO's Country Programming Framework (CPF)* after *Item 7 - Evaluation of FAO's Technical Cooperation Programme and Management Response* and *Item 8 - Evaluation of FAO's support to Zero Hunger (SDG2) - Second phase and Management Response*.

¹ H.E. (Ms) Céline Jurgensen was designated to replace H.E. (Ms) Delphine Borione.

Ms Delphine Babin-Pellier was designated to replace H.E. (Ms) Céline Jurgensen for part of the Session.

² Mr Shahin Ghorashizadeh was designated to replace H.E. (Mr) Mohammad Hossein Emadi.

³ Mr Laith Obeidat was designated to replace H.E. (Mr) Fayez Khouri.

⁴ Mr Muhammad Suhail Muhammad was designated to replace Mr Muhammad Rudy Khairudin Mohd Nor for part of the Session.

⁵ Ms Elizabeth Nasskau was designated to replace H.E. (Ms) Marie-Therese Sarch for part of the Session.

⁶ Mr Kayoya Masuhwa had informed that he was unable to attend the Session.

III. Outline of the Strategic Framework (2022-2031) and Outline of the Medium Term Plan 2022-25

9. The Programme Committee, in addition to the conclusions of the Joint Meeting of the 129th Session of the Programme Committee and the 183rd Session of the Finance Committee:

- a) appreciated the inclusive consultation process to date, and the reflection of inputs from Members in the development of the new Strategic Framework;
- b) noted with appreciation that the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are at the center of the new Strategic Framework and welcomed the guiding lens of SDGs 1, 2, and 10;
- c) welcomed the focus on a food systems approach and the strategic narrative of “*Leaving No One Behind through sustainable, inclusive and resilient food systems for better production, better nutrition, a better environment, and a better life*” to support the achievement of the 2030 Agenda and FAO’s three Global Goals of Members;
- d) welcomed the application of four cross-cutting/cross-sectoral accelerators in programme interventions, i.e. technology, innovation, data, and complements (governance, human capital and institutions), to maximize efforts in meeting the SDGs and to facilitate the management of trade-offs, according to national priorities, and noted that further efforts are required to facilitate access to technologies and innovations for all countries and all stakeholders, especially the most vulnerable populations;
- e) reiterated the importance of scientific and evidence-based normative work of FAO, and the global public goods for which FAO is responsible, as its main comparative advantages, requested FAO to further clarify the definition of “normative work” in the context of FAO’s core mandate, and welcomed the intention to increase the visibility of normative work and global public goods in the Strategic Framework;
- f) requested that Members will be informed on FAO’ flagship publications prior to their publication;
- g) underscored the importance of developing a framework that is agile and responsive in preventing and mitigating effects of known and unknown future challenges on food systems as well as increasing their sustainability;
- h) underscored the importance of gender and youth and encouraged further development of transformative approaches concerning those priorities;
- i) stressed the central role of all forms of innovations;
- j) stressed the centrality of the three dimensions of sustainable development (economic, social and environmental), the importance of the One Health approach, the role of inclusive trade and market access, and food prices;
- k) recognized the UN Food Systems Summit 2021 and its expected outcomes, if agreed by Members, could support the achievement of 2030 Agenda and its SDGs, especially SDG2, and should be considered by Members, as appropriate, through the Governing Bodies;
- l) stressed the need to duly consider in an independent and neutral, balanced, science- and evidence- based manner, all the available approaches systems and tools to support Members in achievement of sustainable food systems;
- m) encouraged FAO to support countries to strengthen national capacities on data collection and statistics;
- n) encouraged an update of CL 165/3 para 32, 47 and 74 to better clarify, acknowledge and address trade-offs or synergies, recognizing that those trade-offs interactions should also be managed at national level;
- o) underlined the need for full alignment with the repositioning of the UN development system, including the role of the Resident Coordinators, and requested a better integration of it into the FAO Strategic Framework;
- p) recalled the importance of incorporating the conclusions of the Regional Conferences and Technical Committees in the further development of the Strategic Framework and the Medium Term Plan, and looked forward to the incorporation of pending inputs from Governing Bodies and to receive updates at the next session of the Programme Committee;

- q) looked forward to further development of the Programme Priority areas and the strategic results framework, in consultation with Members, and welcomed Management's agreement to provide the change management plan before the next session of the Programme Committee; and
- r) welcomed the overall outline for the development of the Strategic Framework and looked forward to further formal and informal consultations with Members for its elaboration.

IV. Strengthening the governance and oversight of FAO's Country Programming Framework (CPF)

10. The Committee:

- a) appreciated Management's presentation on strengthening the governance and oversight of FAO's Country Programming Framework (CPF);
- b) noted Management's response that FAO's new CPF guidelines are fully in line with the UNSDCF⁶ (Cooperation Framework) Guidance;
- c) underlined the need for strong involvement of governments and welcomed that the Cooperation Framework was being developed jointly with governments, and noted that it would support informed analysis for action on the ground and obstacles to be managed;
- d) welcomed the more coordinated approach between agencies at country level to support countries in accelerating their progress in meeting the SDGs and noted that contributing UN entities are held collectively and individually accountable against the Cooperation Framework;
- e) noted that CPF monitoring and reporting will be undertaken jointly with the Cooperation Framework as part of a more coordinated UN collective offer at country level, based on SDG targets and indicators and tracked online through a common system (UN INFO), as well as through FAO's corporate reporting in the Mid-term Review Synthesis Report (MTR) and Programme Implementation Report (PIR);
- f) recalling recommendation 7 of the Evaluation of FAO's support to SDG2 (PC 129/3), underlined the need that the new Strategic Framework should similarly use SDG targets and indicators which will allow for promoting focus and tracking progress seamlessly at all levels, and welcomed Management's agreement to improve the visibility of results reporting from FAO's country offices in the new Strategic Framework;
- g) noted that the UNSDCF Joint National/UN Joint Steering Committee (JSC), co-chaired by the Resident Coordinator and the government, will provide governance and oversight at country level to ensure that the efforts of the UN development system (UNDS) collectively support country ownership and address national SDG priorities and gaps;
- h) highlighted the importance of accountability mechanisms and FAO Governing Body oversight of its work at country level;
- i) welcomed CPF evaluations through FAO's Country Programme Evaluations (CPEs), as well as through UNSDCF Evaluations and noted that future CPEs would *inter alia* promote national ownership of evaluations and mutual accountability at country level; and
- j) requested further information on the Common Country Analysis (CCA) especially on conceptualization of the preparation, implementation and follow-up, and welcomed its use throughout the process to validate findings and advance advocacy around the 2030 Agenda and stressed the need of involvement of governments in these analyses.

⁶ United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework

V. The Hand-in-Hand Initiative

11. The Committee:

- a) welcomed the presentation of the progress in implementation of the Hand-in-Hand (HIH) Initiative;
- b) recognized the substantial progress of the HIH Initiative, underlined the need for a country-led and country-owned nature of this initiative; and requested regular information on the implementation of the initiative and its timeline;
- c) requested that the HIH Initiative also be extended to middle- and high-income developing countries to ensure that no one is left behind;
- d) supported the importance of strengthening national and local capacities, according to governments priorities, for improved data integration and analysis, designed to address multiple objectives under the 2030 Agenda;
- e) considered ways to enhance complementarity and extend the HIH Initiative's analytical and partnership-based approach to strengthen FAO country support to achieve countries' priorities and objectives, as well as FAO's response to the COVID-19 pandemic and associated impacts;
- f) recalled the importance for the Initiative to be fully integrated within the joint programming of the UN development group agencies and the 2030 Agenda;
- g) highlighted the benefit of improved use of data and analytics to enable better informed decision-making, and the relevance of innovation in practices, technology, investment, policy and institutions;
- h) welcomed the flexible and innovative matchmaking approach to building multidimensional partnerships that strengthen mobilization of means of implementation (including knowledge, know-how, all forms of innovations, technology, digitalization, access to markets, capacity development, and finance and investment) to accelerate progress toward achievement of national sustainable development priorities for food and agriculture and rural development;
- i) noted with appreciation the transparent approach to monitoring performance for the multi-partner HIH Initiative;
- j) encouraged FAO to build on Rome-based Agencies (RBA) collaboration, such as the RBA Plan of Action for the Sahel; and
- k) stressed the need to develop a cross-cutting data policy to ensure data governance, data integrity and privacy, as well as intellectual property rights, and to adhere to international standards and protocols, and requested FAO to report to Members on this.

VI. UN Food Systems Summit 2021 and FAO's work in food systems (Item for information)

12. The Committee:

- a) welcomed the update on the preparatory process of the UN Food System Summit 2021, the substantive technical and logistical support provided by FAO and welcomed the informal consultation of the Group of Friends;
- b) noted that the Secretary-General had announced the date and location of the Summit (September 2021, New York) and that a pre-Summit event would take place in Rome during the summer of 2021;
- c) acknowledged the important contribution of FAO's technical work on food systems and its support to the Summit preparatory process and encouraged further ongoing FAO technical and scientific input into the Summit content, noting FAO is not leading the process;
- d) noted with concern the lack of neutrality and scientific soundness in the work of some of the Action Tracks, as well as the lack of involvement of the membership, uncertainties about governance and process, including the role of the Advisory Committee, the Group of Champions, participation of the membership in the Action Tracks, and the desired outcomes of the Summit, and stressed the importance of full involvement of the membership in the preparatory process;

- e) highlighted the importance of a full integration of the Committee on World Food Security (CFS) in preparation and follow-up of the Summit as well as of its agreed products as inputs to the Action Tracks and acknowledging the work of High Level Panel of Experts on Food Security and Nutrition (HLPE) in that regard, and noting the ongoing work on the CFS Voluntary Guidelines on Sustainable Food Systems and Nutrition;
- f) highlighted the need for a science- and evidence-based approach, the important role of trade and market access, and the importance of sustainable and integrated approaches, in particular in view of the 15th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (COP15) and the 26th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP26), and the importance of trade-offs and balanced narratives;
- g) noted with appreciation the conclusions of the 27th Session of the Committee on Agriculture and 25th Session of the Committee on Forestry with respect to FAO's work in supporting the development of sustainable food systems; and
- h) looked forward to a further progress report to be presented to the 130th Session of the Programme Committee.

VII. Draft Vision and Strategy for FAO's Work in Nutrition (Item for information)

13. The Committee:

- a) welcomed the draft Vision and Strategy of FAO's Work in Nutrition and the consultative efforts taken in developing the draft Strategy and stressed the need for the integration of recommendations from the FAO Technical Committees for the finalization of the Strategy;
- b) emphasized the impact of COVID-19 on nutrition, the need for integrated policies, the attention to issues of inequity and gender, the importance of principles such as transparency and 'do no harm', dietary diversity, addressing conflict of interests, strengthening national capacities, data management and analytics in FAO's work in nutrition, and engagement with the private sector and civil society, and stressed the need for Members and relevant stakeholders to actively participate in the ongoing negotiations on the CFS Voluntary Guidelines on Food Systems and Nutrition;
- c) welcomed the clarification on division of responsibilities within the Organization; and
- d) looked forward to reviewing the Strategy in its final form at the 130th Session of the Programme Committee and approval by the Council.

VIII. Update on FAO's response to the Desert Locust upsurge and Fall Armyworm (Item for information)

14. The Committee:

- a) acknowledged the essential role the Organization continued to play in the fight to control Desert Locust upsurge and Fall Armyworm outbreak;
- b) welcomed the launch of the Desert Locust Global Response Plan and the FAO Global Action for Fall Armyworm Control by the Director-General, recognizing the need for the establishment of global coordination mechanisms to scale up technical support and reverse the trend of the damage;
- c) appreciated the briefing on the current situation, welcomed the progress made, noted the forecasts in the impacted regions and underlined that continued efforts including resource mobilization, control and surveillance operations should be upscaled in order to minimize impacts on food security and nutrition, while ensuring sustainability through integrated pest management method and a humanitarian development nexus approach;
- d) acknowledged the importance of positioning livelihood anticipatory action from the very onset of the Desert Locust infestation as the best approach to preventing food insecurity consequences resulting from crop and rangeland losses induced by the upsurge;
- e) noted that the FAO Desert Locust response would continue beyond December 2020; and
- f) looked forward to receiving the results of the first phase of the Real Time Evaluation of the Desert Locust Response, and looked forward to further updates.

IX. Update on FAO's Gender Action Plan (Item for information)

15. The Committee:

- a) appreciated the update with acknowledgement of the importance to mainstream gender as a cross-cutting theme and ensuring linkages with other areas of FAO's work, welcomed the theory of change and urged all Members to support the commitment towards gender work, underlining the importance of using gender transformative approaches to tackle bias and gender inequalities; and
- b) noted the importance of establishing close linkages between the Gender Action Plan and the Strategic Framework, and with the ongoing CFS workstream on "gender equality and women's empowerment", requested a separate chapter on progress achieved under the Gender Action Plan in the MTR and PIR, and suggested that sufficient funding be made available to support the implementation of the Gender Action Plan.

X. Terms of Reference of the International Platform for Digital Food and Agriculture

16. The Committee:

- a) noted the progress made towards the development of the Terms of Reference of the International Platform for Digital Food and Agriculture on the basis of the feedback received by the 27th Session of the Committee on Agriculture and the 25th Session of the Committee on Forestry;
- b) underscored the need that the Terms of Reference set out its work on all food and agricultural sectors, including livestock and aquaculture;
- c) emphasized the importance of issues related to digital technology applications and data, including management, data protection, intellectual property rights and privacy and requested that these are included in the Plan of Action;
- d) requested the Platform to develop a framework on the basis of the recommended practices related to the digital food and agriculture for Members' consideration through FAO Governing Bodies processes, following the review of the Terms of Reference by the Council;
- e) acknowledged that participants in the Inter-governmental Representatives Group will be appointed according to Members' criteria;
- f) expressed support for work of the Platform and the need to strengthen governance, including the involvement of Permanent Representatives to FAO and the regional development banks;
- g) recognized the Platform as an important tool to support small and medium-sized producers and family farmers, with particular focus on rural and indigenous women and youth, in order to build their capacities and access to innovating tools and improve the sustainability, quality and resilience of agricultural and farming activities;
- h) underlined the importance of adequate extrabudgetary funding for the Platform; and
- i) noted that the Terms of Reference will be further reviewed in line with feedback by the 34th Session of the Committee on Fisheries, before their presentation to the Programme Committee and the Council in 2021.

XI. Evaluation of FAO's Technical Cooperation Programme and Management Response

17. The Committee, in addition to the conclusion of the Joint Meeting of the 129th Session of the Programme Committee and the 183rd Session of the Finance Committee:

- a) welcomed the evaluation report's analysis of Technical Cooperation Programme (TCP) catalytic effects and contributions to food and agriculture development at country level, and took note of the Management Response;
- b) reaffirmed that the TCP complements FAO's normative work by providing demand-driven technical cooperation in the field, as well as for supporting FAO's positioning, visibility and operations at country level;

- c) underlined the need to make the TCP strategic and catalytic, as a facilitative instrument to achieve the 2030 Agenda and recommended that efforts be enhanced to ensure that more TCP projects have a catalytic effect;
- d) requested further analysis on the implementation of repositioning of the UN development system in the framework of TCP;
- e) welcomed the progress made in enhancing transparency, and requested further details especially on the criteria used in the fund allocation;
- f) stressed the need for a corporate monitoring system and mechanisms for quality assurance of TCP projects and accountability for the effective use of TCP funds;
- g) welcomed the efforts initiated by Management to re-imagine the TCP, following the approval of FAO's new Strategic Framework, to ensure a holistic, programmatic and accountable approach, in line with the new vision and priorities of the Organization;
- h) noted the need to review the percentages of distribution of TCP among regions, according to 2008 FAO's Special Session of the Conference para 35, measure 3.23⁷, and recommended the Joint Meeting of the Programme and Finance Committees to review the issue at its next session;
- i) requested FAO to begin a strategic exercise, in consultation with Members, with the aim to refine, and possibly unify, the criteria of resource allocation, beyond the traditional criteria of per capita income, and taking into account the specific needs of each region;
- j) looked forward to discussions and formal consultations with Members on possible updates to the TCP criteria in line with current challenges and FAO's new priorities;
- k) discussed the issue of future appropriations for TCP and highlighted that these should be based on, but not limited to, evidence-based criteria;
- l) requested Management to further streamline the TCP project cycle and approval procedures; and
- m) looked forward to regular updates on progress in the implementation of recommendations, including on accountability and on the effective resource distribution among regions as well as the resource allocation by FAO Regional Offices.

XII. Evaluation of FAO's support to zero hunger (SDG2) - Second phase and Management response

18. The Committee appreciated the comprehensive evaluation and Management's acceptance of all the evaluation's recommendations. In particular, the Committee:

- a) agreed with the recommendations and welcomed the proposed actions contained in the Management Response;
- b) highlighted the importance to identify tangible actions to enhance capacities at country level, including by improving knowledge sharing and bolstering operational capacities to provide assistance to countries, and acknowledged ongoing efforts to improve operational capacities through revamping the headquarters structure and establishing more coherent regional and sub-regional structures and approaches to ensure FAO delivers tangible, impactful, and visible results to its Members as One FAO;
- c) noted with concern the lack of capacity at country level for implementation of programmes and projects on the ground;
- d) welcomed FAO engagement in strengthening decentralized administrative and operational capacities, including through increased delegation of authority, and improving skills mix in order to pursue a programmatic approach, to maximize partnerships and to better integrate FAO's global and local assets to highlight FAO's valuable contributions to SDGs achievement in line with recommendations of the *Evaluation of FAO's Strategic Results Framework*;
- e) stressed the importance of alignment with the implementation of the repositioning of the UN development system and invited FAO to seize the opportunities presented by this repositioning as well as to incorporate in the new FAO Strategic Framework, so as to

⁷ <http://www.fao.org/tempref/docrep/fao/meeting/014/k3413e.pdf>

strengthen FAO's support to its Members' achievement of SDG2 targets by further enhancing its work at country level;

- f) underlined the importance of tailoring FAO's global approaches to local contexts, and improving knowledge-sharing in a participatory and horizontal manner, overcoming language and cultural differences;
- g) underscored the importance of integrating key principles of the 2030 Agenda across FAO's work, in particular those related to holistic approaches and the principle of "Leave no one behind";
- h) noted FAO's comparative strengths in SDG2 domains, recognized FAO's efforts to adopt the food systems approach and acknowledged the identified actions to increase focus on matters such as biodiversity, forests and ecosystems, which are important for the achievement of food security and nutrition and called on FAO to intensify its efforts to integrate in all the three dimensions of sustainable development in its activities;
- i) encouraged FAO to further integrate CFS agreed products into its activities, as appropriate, given their unique comparative advantage in the field of food security and nutrition, and acknowledged the work of HLPE in that regard;
- j) acknowledged the valuable work carried out by FAO together with Members for the preparation and implementation of projects within the framework of the Global Environment Facility and the Green Climate Fund, aimed at climate resilience;
- k) highlighted the importance of non-earmarked voluntary contributions from donors and prioritizing interventions in areas that belong to the Organization's core mandate for efficient use of limited resources; and
- l) stressed, in the context of zero nominal growth of the regular budget, the importance of partnerships with the private sector, and deepening efforts in the implementation of South-South and Triangular Cooperation schemes.

XIII. Indicative rolling work plan of evaluations 2021-2023

19. The Committee welcomed the comprehensive work plan of evaluations 2021-2023, and endorsed the Work Plan as contained in document PC 129/4.

20. The Committee:

- a) invited the Office of Evaluation to include, in the next update of the Work Plan, proposals for an evaluation of FAO's implementation of Conference Resolution 7/2019 "*Further integration of sustainable agricultural approaches, including agroecology, in the future planning activities of FAO*", including the balance of the full range of sustainable agriculture approaches and systems, and an evaluation on the data use on FAO data platforms;
- b) invited the Office of Evaluation to organize informal presentations on: the evaluation of humanitarian – development – peace nexus, the real time evaluation of FAO's desert locust response, the evaluation on International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC), if so decided by the Governing Bodies of the IPPC, the evaluation of the Lake Chad strategy, and Evaluation of the Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean; and
- c) welcomed the intention to cover the role of decentralized offices in the new FAO Evaluation Policy and for the Office of Evaluation to provide guidance and training to decentralized offices in this regard.

XIV. Evaluation of FAO Strategy for Partnerships with Civil Society Organizations

21. The Committee welcomed the evaluation report and Management's acceptance of all the evaluation recommendations, and noted the resource implications for their full implementation.

22. The Committee:

- a) underscored the significance of the contribution of partnerships with civil society organizations (CSOs) towards achieving FAO's mandate and the SDGs and encouraged FAO to continue using the Strategy as an overarching framework to guide FAO's

- engagement with civil society, facilitating shared-value collaboration and demand-based partnerships based on equality, trust, inclusion and mutual benefits;
- b) reiterated the importance of engaging with civil society organizations and of creating a mechanism to strengthen country offices in order to undertake this task in full coordination with and agreements of governments;
 - c) requested the Organization to bring CSOs contributions into its main work streams and programmes through programmatic and long-term strategic partnerships;
 - d) encouraged the Organization to promote multi-stakeholder initiatives at country level that would allow inclusive and effective engagement of civil society organizations with FAO, governments, and other development actors;
 - e) encouraged the Organization to accelerate its effort to streamline processes and instruments for effective partnership development, ensuring that necessary safeguards are commensurate with the varying levels and scopes of proposed engagement;
 - f) highlighted the importance of aligning FAO's work on civil society engagement with the CFS and its Civil Society Mechanism (CSM);
 - g) requested the Organization to use multilaterally agreed concepts as well as science- and evidence-based linkages in the Strategy; and
 - h) requested the Organization to strengthen the monitoring and evaluation mechanisms of partnerships within the new Strategic Framework.

XV. Follow-up report on evaluation of FAO's contribution to integrated natural resource management for sustainable agriculture (SO2)
(Item for information)

23. The Committee:

- a) took note of the follow-up report and progress made, encouraged FAO to continue to implement activities in support of sustainable agriculture, welcomed the information provided on data collection, and looked forward to further updates;
- b) requested that, in the implementation of the Recommendations, more attention should be given to sharing the full range of approaches in sustainable food and agriculture in a balanced and neutral manner; and
- c) requested that the new Strategic Framework take full account of the outcomes of the evaluation by integrating the sustainable management of natural resources across agricultural sectors, and highlighted the need to work on all approaches to promote sustainable agriculture.

XVI. Executive Summary of the Terms of Reference of the Joint Evaluation on Collaboration among the United Nations Rome-based Agencies
(Item for information)

24. The Committee:

- a) welcomed the Executive Summary of the Terms of Reference of the Joint Evaluation on Collaboration among the United Nations Rome-based Agencies (RBAs);
- b) stressed the importance of evaluating RBA collaboration within the broader context of the repositioning of the UN development system and evaluating collaboration under the four pillars of the 2016 collaboration framework at global, regional and country levels; and
- c) requested a presentation of the preliminary results in time to contribute to the UN Food Systems Summit 2021.

XVII. Progress Report on the implementation of Programme Committee recommendations (Item for information)

25. The Committee:

- a) welcomed the Progress Report on the implementation of Programme Committee recommendations as a learning tool for the Committee in phrasing its recommendations;
- b) noted that the action required on the recommendations in rows 19 (AMR) and 21 (AMR) had not been completed and the color of the traffic lights for these rows 19 and 21 should be changed from green to yellow; and
- c) while recalling paras 15 c) and i) in the Report of the 128th Session of the Programme Committee with regards to: the need for a consultative process with the Membership on the Tripartite Work Plan, and the decision of the 163rd Session of the Council on establishing result framework indicators for AMR, welcomed Management's commitment to consulting with the membership on the Tripartite Work Plan, and with the Technical Committees, and informally with Members, on the proposed indicators on AMR, without further delay.

XVIII. Tentative agenda for the 130th Session of the Programme Committee (Item for information)

26. The Committee:

- a) took note of the tentative agenda and requested an informal meeting be held prior to the formal session to consolidate and finalize the agenda for its 130th Session;
- b) requested under the item of the Strategic Framework, sub-items to consider FAO's change management plan, results framework and the governance and accountability of FAO's work at country level;
- c) referred to the programmatic implications of the Declaration for Fisheries and Aquaculture Sustainability on the occasion of the 25th Anniversary of the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries;
- d) requested inclusion of an item on the One Health approach in FAO's work on zoonosis and AMR;
- e) requested inclusion of an item on the new Strategy for Private Sector Engagement; and
- f) requested inclusion of an item regarding actions taken by the Organization to fully implement multilingualism.

XIX. Date and Place of the next session

27. The Committee took note of the proposed dates for its 130th Session, to be held from 22 to 26 March 2021, and acknowledged that the arrangements for the session would be established in accordance with the evolving COVID-19 restrictions.

XX. Any Other Matters

28. The Committee:

- a) expressed its concern about the delay in publication of documents for its 129th Session, noting in particular the acute lateness of publication of some language versions;
- b) stressed the need for strict adherence to established rules for timely publication of documents in all FAO languages for meetings of the Governing Bodies, in line with agreed deadlines, and in accordance with indicators established within the FAO results framework;
- c) underlined the cross-cutting nature of multilingualism at FAO as a defining characteristic of the Organization which enables all Members to engage in the activities and governance on equal footing;
- d) noted that delay in publication of documents in all languages may arise primarily from lateness of their finalization in the language in which they are written originally, rather than from translation issues;

- e) noted that the extraordinary circumstances arising from the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic had exacerbated the challenges for timely preparation, finalization and translation of documents, and appreciated the efforts and the commitment of the Organization in this regard;
- f) agreed that for future sessions, the Committee will adhere to the rule that documents which are not published in all Committee languages by the established deadline will not be considered in the meeting; and
- g) recommended the Council to request Management to prepare a comprehensive report containing analysis and solutions for enhancing multilingualism in all its transversal dimensions in FAO's work, including concrete action to ensure the timely publication of documents in all languages for Governing Bodies' meetings, to be considered by the 166th Session of the Council following the review by the Joint Meeting of the Programme and Finance Committees.