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Food and Agriculture  
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Продовольственная и  
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منظمة  
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# COUNCIL

## Hundred and Sixty-sixth Session

26-30 April 2021

### Report of the 130th Session of the Programme Committee (22-26 March and 6 April 2021)

#### Executive Summary

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

- a) Strategic Framework 2022-31;
- b) Medium Term Plan 2022-25 and Programme of Work and Budget 2022-23;
- c) Mid-term Review Synthesis Report - 2020;
- d) The Hand-in-Hand Initiative;
- e) Update on FAO policies on Protection of Data and Intellectual Property Rights;
- f) Rural Youth Action Plan;
- g) Vision and Strategy for FAO's Work in Nutrition;
- h) Terms of Reference of the International Platform for Digital Food and Agriculture;
- i) 2021-23 Action Plan for the Implementation of the FAO Strategy on Mainstreaming Biodiversity across Agricultural Sectors;
- j) Programmatic implications of the Declaration for Sustainable Fisheries and Aquaculture;
- k) Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR);
- l) Evaluation of FAO's role and work on Antimicrobial Resistance and Management response; and
- m) Evaluation of FAO's support to climate action (SDG13) and the implementation of FAO Strategy on Climate Change and Management response (2017).

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 substantive content of this document may be addressed to:*

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## Introduction

1. The Committee submitted to the Council the following report of its Hundred and Thirtieth 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) <sup>1</sup>	Mr Mohammad Al Shabbar (Jordan) <sup>6</sup>
Ms Keva McKennirey (Canada) <sup>2</sup>	H.E. (Mr) Abdul Malik Melvin Castelino (Malaysia) <sup>7</sup>
Ms Tamara Villanueva (Chile) <sup>3</sup>	Ms Traoré Halimatou Kone (Mali)
Mr NI Hongxing (China) <sup>4</sup>	Mr Donald G. Syme (New Zealand)
H.E. (Ms) Céline Jurgensen (France) <sup>5</sup>	H.E. (Ms) Marie-Therese Sarch (United Kingdom)
Mr Shahin Ghorashizadeh (Islamic Republic of Iran)	Mr Kayoya Masuhwa (Zambia)

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 Programme Committee rules of procedure, which requires 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. Adoption of the Provisional Agenda and Timetable

6. The Committee adopted the Provisional Agenda for the Session, and requested to receive information on FAO activities in collaboration with the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF) within the framework of the Committee on Forestry (COFO), to be included under Item 20 Any Other Matters, in particular in relation to the International Conference on Forest Education (ICFE) to be held virtually from 8-10 June 2021.

7. The Committee adopted the Provisional Timetable.

### II. Strategic Framework 2022-31

8. The Programme Committee, in addition to the conclusions of the Joint Meeting of the 130th Session of the Programme Committee and the 185th Session of the Finance Committee:

- a) welcomed FAO's strategic narrative around the *four betters*, i.e. *better production, better nutrition, a better environment and a better life*, noted with appreciation that FAO was uniquely placed to directly contribute to the achievement of a number of SDGs organized around the *four betters* which reflected the interconnected economic, social and environmental dimensions of agriculture and food systems, and requested a stronger linkage between the *four betters* as well as with the related SDGs;
- b) commended FAO's focus, through the agriculture and food systems approach, on profiling agriculture beyond production and macro-economic purposes to ensure food security and resilient livelihoods, promote innovations, and better catalyse investment and partnerships;

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<sup>1</sup> H.E. (Mr) Carlos Bernardo Cherniak has been replaced by Mr Guillermo Valentín Rodolico for part of the 130th Session.

<sup>2</sup> Ms Keva McKennirey was designated to replace Ms Jennifer Fellows.

<sup>3</sup> Ms Tamara Villanueva has been replaced by Ms Constanza Vergara for part of the 130th Session.

<sup>4</sup> Mr NI Hongxing has been replaced by Mr HUANG Fei for part of the 130th Session.

<sup>5</sup> H.E. (Ms) Céline Jurgensen has been replaced by Ms Delphine Babin-Pellier for part of the 130th Session.

<sup>6</sup> Mr Mohammad Al Shabbar was designated to replace Mr Laith Obeidat.

<sup>7</sup> H.E. (Mr) Abdul Malik Melvin Castelino was designated to replace Mr Muhammad Rudy Khairudin Mohd Nor.

- c) welcomed the Programme Priority Areas (PPA), formulated as inter-disciplinary, issue-based technical themes, which responded directly to issues and challenges raised in the formal and informal consultation processes, and would guide the programmes that FAO would implement under the *four betters* in order to fill critical gaps and put in place the conditions needed to drive changes in line with national contexts and priorities;
  - d) highlighted the importance of a balance between the three pillars of sustainable development (economic, social and environmental) throughout the Strategic Framework, including in number of PPAs and allocation of budget between the *four betters*;
  - e) 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 fully leverage FAO's comparative advantages to promote working at scale for greater sustainability and long-term impact in response to Members' needs;
  - f) noted that FAO would apply four cross-cutting/cross sectional "accelerators" in all programmatic interventions, and emphasized the importance of accelerating the impact of programmatic interventions while minimizing trade-offs, taking into consideration national priorities, capacities and circumstances;
  - g) highlighted the need to better reflect climate change and mainstream the conservation and sustainable use of natural resources within FAO's mandate;
  - h) highlighted the need to further showcase FAO's mandate and work on commodity markets and trade and appreciated the importance of its inclusion in the new Strategic Framework;
  - i) underscored the importance of women and youth and indigenous peoples, in particular rural and indigenous women, together with smallholders and family farmers, as key stakeholders for the future of food and agriculture, and sustainable food systems, as well as to address inequalities in this respect and welcomed the Strategic Framework in addressing the particular interests of those groups;
  - j) recalled the need to adopt a broad definition of innovation in order to ensure that all forms of sustainable innovations will be addressed;
  - k) highlighted the importance of the One Health Approach, the Tripartite Partnership and the cooperation with UNEP, and other relevant international organizations, in line with their respective mandates in this respect, the importance of international trade for increasing resilience, addressing the needs of indigenous peoples, giving equal importance to fisheries and aquaculture as well as the need to give more emphasis to environmental issues in the Strategic Framework;
  - l) underlined the need for full alignment with the repositioning of the UN development system, including the role of the Resident Coordinators and requested the inclusion of FAO's Country Programming Framework in the strategic results framework;
  - m) noted with concern that in the Strategic Framework several concepts, approaches and language are used which are not inter-governmentally agreed, and stressed the need for FAO to use multilaterally-agreed concepts, approaches and language and give preference to those adopted by FAO Governing Bodies, as appropriate, and adjust accordingly the draft Strategic Framework;
  - n) recognized the UN Food Systems Summit 2021 and its expected outcomes, could support the achievement of 2030 Agenda and its SDGs, especially SDG2, and should be considered by Members as appropriate through the Governing Bodies; and
  - o) stressed the need for a revised version the draft Strategic Framework before its submission to the 42nd Session of the Conference, and to that end, recommended the Council to request Management to organize an open, transparent and inclusive consultation with FAO membership.
9. Regarding Change Management Strategy, the Programme Committee:
- a) welcomed confirmation that Management is preparing a change management plan as recommended by the Evaluation of FAO's strategic results framework<sup>8</sup> and requested that this is made available for the Programme Committee at its next session; and
  - b) appreciated the elements of the reinvigorated, fit-for-purpose business model and that these would be supported by change management initiatives to promote and capacitate

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<sup>8</sup> <http://www.fao.org/3/ca6453en/ca6453en.pdf>

new ways of working, and requested Management to set out for Members the principles the business model will use for allocating the regular budget.

### III. Medium Term Plan 2022-25 and Programme of Work and Budget 2022-23

10. The Committee, in addition to the conclusions of the Joint Meeting of the 130th Session of the Programme Committee and the 185th Session of the Finance Committee:
- a) welcomed the further elaboration of the strategic narrative and direction in the *Medium Term Plan (MTP) 2022-25 and Programme of Work and Budget (PWB) 2022-23*;
  - b) appreciated that the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are at the center of the Medium-Term document, including the anchoring in targets where the Organization has a custodian or contributing role for indicators;
  - c) further appreciated the overarching aspirations of the *four betters*, i.e. *better production, better nutrition, a better environment and a better life* and the guiding lens of SDGs 1, 2 and SDG10, as well as the emphasis on the interconnectedness of all SDGs in FAO's work and requested a stronger linkage between the *four betters* and the related SDGs;
  - d) highlighted the importance of the contribution of agriculture and food systems to the SDGs, as evidenced by the extent and range of targets supported by the FAO Programme Priority Areas (PPAs);
  - e) underscored the importance of appropriate balance among the *four betters*, including in the distribution of resources, and stressed the centrality of the three dimensions of sustainable development (economic, social and environmental);
  - f) 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, capacities and circumstances;
  - g) endorsed the three cross cutting themes of gender, youth and inclusion and stressed the importance of ensuring these dimensions were taken into account in all of FAO's programmes, to leave no one behind;
  - h) agreed that the twenty PPAs adequately represent themes where FAO has a comparative advantage, track record and ability to act, to address key SDG targets and challenges of all countries, including middle-income developing countries;
  - i) noted that, while each PPA is framed around a single better, contributions span across the *four betters*;
  - j) highlighted the need to better reflect and mainstream the conservation and sustainable use of natural resources within FAO's mandate;
  - k) highlighted the need to further showcase FAO's mandate and work on commodity markets and trade, and appreciated the importance of its inclusion in the MTP 2022-25 and PWB 2022-23;
  - l) reaffirmed the importance of enhancing and achieving balance in FAO's technical support to Members' access to climate finance, when possible and according to Members' requests for support to present funding proposals to the appropriate climate fund institutions;
  - m) stressed the need to better reflect other topics such as nutrition, value chains, partnerships and multilingualism;
  - n) highlighted the importance of the One Health Approach, the Tripartite Partnership and the cooperation with UNEP, and other relevant international organizations, in line with their respective mandates in this respect, the importance of international trade for increasing resilience, addressing the needs of indigenous peoples, giving equal importance to fisheries and aquaculture as well as the need to give more emphasis to environmental issues in the Medium Term Plan 2022-25 and Programme of Work and Budget 2022-23;
  - o) underlined the importance of the CFS and its agreed voluntary products;
  - p) requested the name of the fisheries division to be changed to the fisheries and aquaculture division in order to better reflect its responsibilities and work programme;
  - q) noted the bioeconomy presented in the document as a paradigm that includes a set of sectors that use biological resources, process and technologies for production and services in order to achieve sustainable agriculture and agriculture and food systems;

- r) 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, and appreciated the increased visibility of FAO's normative work in the MTP results frameworks;
- s) 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, as appropriate, in the achievement of sustainable agriculture and food systems;
- t) noted the reinvigorated business model to maximize FAO's comparative advantages, and the results frameworks for the PPAs presented in *Annex 1*, noting that the formulations included a series of elements, such as risks, trade-offs, accelerators, core functions and normative aspects, which are useful to promote the change towards a reinvigorated business model and enrich programme development;
- u) noted the ongoing process in consultation with Decentralized Offices, underlined the importance of alignment with the repositioning of the UN development system (UNDS), appreciated the steps being taken to ensure an improved integration of country level programming, and looked forward to the elaborated outputs to be reported to the Programme Committee;
- v) welcomed FAO's move to an SDG-based framework that will provide a common language across the layers of the Organization and with external UN and other partners, which will facilitate dialogue across all levels of the Organization and integration of results agreed at country level through UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Frameworks (UNSDCFs) feeding into FAO strategic results framework;
- w) encouraged Management to reflect the Country Programming Framework (CPF) shown in Annex 4 in the main part of the document;
- x) requested that further elaboration of the results frameworks including outputs and measurement, be provided in the *Adjustments to the PWB 2022-23*, following guidance from Conference and completion of the work planning exercise;
- y) noted with concern that 95 percent of extra budgetary contributions are earmarked and, in that regard, encouraged Management to explore new approaches to mobilize and incentivize the provision of non-earmarked voluntary contributions among Members;
- z) highlighted the need to better reflect climate change and trade in agriculture and food systems, and encouraged Management to consider it accordingly; and
- aa) reiterated that in the MTP 2022-25 and PWB 2022-23, several concepts and language used were not inter-governmentally agreed, such as green innovation, blue economy and blue transformation, stressed the need for FAO to use multilaterally-agreed concepts and language especially using the concepts agreed in FAO Technical Committees and other Governing Bodies and requested that the documents be revised accordingly.

#### **IV. Mid-term Review Synthesis Report – 2020**

11. The Committee welcomed the Mid-term Review Synthesis Report 2020, and:
- a) welcomed the important progress and results achieved in implementation of the Programme of Work and Budget 2020-21 under all sources of funds, noting that the 2020 Outputs were delivered in a context of unprecedented challenges raised by the COVID-19 pandemic;
  - b) commended the results under 6.2.B of proportion of FAO statistical processes of good quality which exceeded the end-2021 targets, FAO's efforts to support Members towards sustainable production and consumption and food systems, improving pests and disease control and reducing unsustainable practices;
  - c) recalled the need to report regularly on progress of the 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, into planning and work of FAO;
  - d) appreciated the support to the UN Food Systems Summit as well as the contribution to the development of the CFS Voluntary Guidelines on Food Systems and Nutrition, and recalled the importance of their implementation, as appropriate;

- e) noted that the majority of the results (75 percent) were planned for 2021 and encouraged the Organization to continue to closely follow progress and increase efforts in areas as necessary;
- f) appreciated the actions taken by FAO to maintain business continuity, by enabling new ways of working and transition to a digital organization, including through the virtual meetings of Governing Bodies;
- g) noted the progress made in building a dynamic and strengthened FAO, including with support of new initiatives like the Hand-in-Hand Initiative and the FAO COVID-19 Response and Recovery Programme;
- h) welcomed the achievements being on track for delivering technical quality and services, including for the cross-cutting themes contributing to the Strategic Objectives;
- i) highlighted the importance of the Report as an accountability tool and as a model for illustrating best practices, welcomed the intention to improve project performance reporting in the forthcoming results framework, including more systematic country reporting, and encouraged FAO to report on project performance in future Mid-term Reviews and Programme Implementation Reports; and
- j) looked forward to further information in the Programme Implementation Report 2020-21 on progress towards the biennial targets and concerted actions under the Strategic Objectives.

## V. The Hand-in-Hand Initiative

### 12. The Committee:

- a) took note of the progress made on the implementation of the Hand-in-Hand Initiative in supporting 36 participating countries despite the extraordinary circumstances prevailing due to the simultaneous impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic and the global economic recession, as well as more localized impacts of extreme weather events, pest infestations, conflict and food emergencies that particularly affected the Hand-in-Hand countries;
- b) appreciated that the inception process for a majority of country programmes is nearing the milestone of agreement on the nature of the country programme, key objectives, focus territories and prioritized metrics, setting the stage for intensive matchmaking efforts to achieve finalization of the programme investment plans in the coming months;
- c) welcomed the commitment to achieve similar objectives in all 36 countries by the end of 2021;
- d) further appreciated the flexibility exercised to enable broader access of FAO Members with their consent to Hand-in-Hand methodologies, data platforms, training, partnering mechanisms and investment support, working within existing resources and structures;
- e) welcomed the evidence of the Organization's new way of working to more closely integrate normative- including technical and policy- work, as well as relevant CFS products, into country support within an emerging "One FAO" framework;
- f) recognized that the Hand-in-Hand Initiative has become a catalyst and key support to strengthening the Organization's capacity to deliver integrated, evidence-based technical, policy and investment support and noted that this will benefit all interested Members by increasing the quality, relevance, scale and impact of FAO-supported national and regional programmes as well as FAO global normative work;
- g) appreciated FAO's commitment to national ownership of Hand-in-Hand programmes, while enabling an inclusive, open and accountable approach to expanded partnerships with a range of relevant actors at local, national and international levels, including the private sector, to deliver essential means of implementation for the programmes;
- h) welcomed the design of the proposed Hand-in-Hand programme dashboards, which will serve as means of ensuring national ownership of the supported programmes while also enabling sustained alignment, communications and, when necessary, adjustment among the partners throughout the multi-year period of national programme implementation and support;
- i) recalled the need for the Initiative to align with the objectives and the actions outlined by the UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF), and to be fully integrated within the joint programming of the UN development system and the 2030 Agenda;

- j) noted the update provided on progress and roadmap toward development of a corporate data policy to govern all FAO data collection and handling, including the Hand-in-Hand Initiative, and took note of the commitment to complete this work for review at the next Programme Committee;
- k) took note that the Initiative is one of the twenty PPAs, and noted Management's response that it has no additional implications on FAO's PWB 2020-21; and
- l) requested Management for the continuation of regular updates on implementation of the Hand-in-Hand Initiative, including progress reports and results achieved.

## VI. Update on FAO policies on Protection of Data and Intellectual Property Rights

13. The Committee:

- a) commended the work being undertaken to strengthen FAO's data protection and intellectual property rights frameworks;
- b) recommended that efforts to strengthen data protection taking into account, the experience, practices and norms of other UN system organizations, national and regional bodies, as well as those of relevant standard setting entities;
- c) highlighted the need for a harmonized framework and for developing voluntary guidelines in a consultative process with all stakeholders;
- d) looked forward to receiving updates on progress in the development of these frameworks and providing views thereon;
- e) requested to receive as soon as possible an updated outcome of the mapping exercise undertaken by IT services;
- f) requested a detailed timetable of the next steps planned by FAO before the next session of the Programme Committee; and
- g) noted the legal aspects of these matters and recommended that the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters also be updated on these matters from time to time, having regard to any legal issues that might arise in this context.

## VII. Rural Youth Action Plan

14. The Committee:

- a) emphasized the importance of strengthening the Organization's work related to youth, particularly in respect of rural youth employment in developing countries, and requested that cooperation be reinforced with other UN System Organizations in this regard;
- b) commended this draft action plan as the first instrument specifically dedicated to youth activities, addressing the unique challenges and constraints facing the growing youth population, and underlined that youth engagement is key to thriving rural communities;
- c) supported the integration and mainstreaming of the Rural Youth Action Plan (RYAP) across the range of work programmes and initiatives, such as Hand-in-Hand Initiative, Youth World Food Forum empowered by FAO Youth Committee and the Policy on Gender Equality, among others, to contribute to achievement of relevant SDGs as outlined in the document in line with FAO's sustainable food and agriculture principles;
- d) underlined the need to monitor progress towards youth inclusiveness and to fully implement the action plan;
- e) encouraged multi-dimensional actions in support of youth in terms of education and training and access to job opportunities to promote dynamism in agriculture and rural development;
- f) noted the need for the RYAP to remain a "living" document to ensure its flexibility to accommodate new developments and emerging challenges, including those posed by the COVID-19 pandemic;
- g) noted that the document presented was a progress report;
- h) took note of the conclusions on the draft RYAP by the Committee on Agriculture (COAG) at its 27th Session and underlined the need to take into consideration the guidance from the 27th Session of COAG (para 57)<sup>9</sup> ;

<sup>9</sup> <http://www.fao.org/3/ne021en/ne021en.pdf>

- i) requested that the draft RYAP uses multilaterally agreed concepts and language; and
- j) looked forward to reviewing the draft RYAP at the 131st Session of the Programme Committee including the need for its approval by the Council.

### **VIII. Vision and Strategy for FAO's work in Nutrition and Follow-up report on evaluation of nutrition strategy**

15. The Committee:

- a) welcomed the updated Vision and Strategy for FAO's Work in Nutrition (the Strategy) and commended the inclusive and transparent consultative efforts taken in its development;
- b) noted that FAO's vision for nutrition is a world where all people are eating healthy diets from sustainable, inclusive and resilient agriculture and food systems, and emphasized the important role of FAO in raising levels of nutrition;
- c) appreciated a thorough update of the key recommendations made by the Evaluation of the previous Strategy and Vision for FAO's Work in Nutrition and their reflection in the Strategy;
- d) commended the integration of comments provided by the Programme Committee at its 127th and 129th Sessions, as well as the recommendations from all FAO Regional Conferences and Technical Committees for the finalization of the Strategy;
- e) welcomed the Accountability Framework and Implementation Plan to ensure accountability for actions towards reaching the outcomes of the Strategy;
- f) underlined the importance of alignment between the Strategy and FAO's Strategic Framework, and its focus on efficiency and feasibility, the increased importance of digital innovation and nutrition knowledge, and the positive contributions of agricultural trade, market access and of agriculture and food systems in general to nutrition;
- g) underlined the role of the Strategy in advocating for improvements in nutrition, in the context of health and education to capture the Organization's normative guidance and capacity building materials;
- h) recognized the need for FAO to drive forward immediate actions building on the momentum generated by the UN Food Systems Summit and the recently adopted "CFS Voluntary Guidelines on Food Systems and Nutrition", and its other agreed and voluntary relevant products, and stressed the need to take into account national circumstances and to be adaptable to fit the local context in implementation of the Strategy;
- i) encouraged the continued dialogue with partners to include health sector stakeholders to better facilitate and balance the policy coherence; and
- j) recommended the endorsement of the Vision and Strategy for FAO's Work in Nutrition by the 166th Session of the Council.

### **IX. Terms of Reference of the International Platform for Digital Food and Agriculture**

16. The Committee:

- a) noted with appreciation the engagement of the Committee on Agriculture, the Committee on Forestry and the Committee on Fisheries in the development of the Terms of Reference (ToRs) for the International Platform for Digital Food and Agriculture, and welcomed the updated document with the incorporation of guidance from these Technical Committees;
- b) underlined the importance of digital solutions in achieving sustainable agriculture and food systems, and emphasized the importance of issues related to digital technologies applications and data, including management, data protection, Intellectual Property Rights, and privacy;
- c) requested inclusive multi-stakeholder representation in the Platform's operating mechanism to allow access to best practices on digital technologies for agriculture to advance agricultural production and achieve sustainable development;
- d) recognized that digital technologies play a crucial role in addressing global challenges and urged that more efforts are taken in reducing the digital gap that exists between

developed countries and less developed countries and developing countries, and promoting an equitable access of digital technology to actors within agriculture and food systems;

- e) requested FAO to ensure that the initiative create synergies between international organizations and stakeholders, and strengthen coordination between them without duplicating their activities under their respective mandates; and
- f) recommended the approval by the 166th Session of the Council.

## **X. 2021-23 Action Plan for the Implementation of the FAO Strategy on Mainstreaming Biodiversity across Agricultural Sectors**

17. The Committee:

- a) welcomed the progress made in the development of the 2021-23 Action Plan for the Implementation of the FAO Strategy on Mainstreaming Biodiversity across Agricultural Sectors (draft Action Plan);
- b) highlighted the extensive consultative process carried out in its development, and commended the integration of some of the inputs from the Regional Conferences, relevant Technical Committees and the Group of National Focal Points for Biodiversity for Food and Agriculture of the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (CGRFA), but noted with concern that the draft includes several concepts, on which no consensus exists among the membership;
- c) emphasized that biodiversity mainstreaming across agriculture sectors in developing countries requires substantial capacity building and facilitated access to finance;
- d) stressed the importance of building capacity of governments, local communities and other stakeholders in mainstreaming biodiversity, including with regard to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity for food and agriculture;
- e) stressed the importance of the FAO Strategy on Mainstreaming Biodiversity across Agriculture Sectors (Strategy) and its draft Action Plan to coordinate FAO's activities and strengthen its capacity to assist Members, on their request, in mainstreaming biodiversity across agricultural sectors;
- f) highlighted the importance of coherence between the Action Plan and work of the CGRFA, as well as with work of relevant international organizations within their respective mandates, and the need to avoid duplication of work;
- g) reviewed the draft Action Plan and requested its Chair to organize a Members-led, open, transparent and inclusive informal consultation with a view to reaching consensus on the draft action plan, and requested a revised version of the Action Plan to be submitted to the 166th Session of the Council for its consideration; and
- h) noted that the FAO Strategy and its Action Plan, when approved, should serve as an input for the 15th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the UN Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), in particular the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework, and the UN Food Systems Summit 2021.

## **XI. Programmatic implications of the Declaration for Sustainable Fisheries and Aquaculture (cf: COFI/2020/2.3 – Draft 2020 Declaration for sustainable fisheries and aquaculture)**

18. The Committee:

- a) supported the 2021 Committee on Fisheries (COFI) Declaration for Sustainable Fisheries and Aquaculture and commended the inclusive consultation process conducted;
- b) noted the recommendations of the Declaration in relation to the FAO Strategic Framework 2022-2031 and Medium-Term Plan 2022-2025, and recommended the integration process in the Strategic Framework to ensure consistency and balance;
- c) noted the clarification that the term “blue economy” is used in respect to a foresight analysis of the challenges that emerged around the world from a number of perspectives, emphasized that it is not a multilaterally agreed concept, and requested to use the agreed concept as outlined in the Declaration as *sustainable and inclusive ocean economies* in the Strategic Framework;

- d) requested Management to provide further information on the partnerships and resources required to fully implement the Declaration in a future session of the Committee; and
- e) in that regard, invited Members to support the implementation of the Declaration, including through extra budgetary resources.

## **XII.I FAO Action Plan on Antimicrobial Resistance 2021-2025**

19. The Committee:

- a) expressed appreciation for the inclusive and transparent process carried out by the Organization in the preparation of the FAO Action Plan on Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) 2021-2025, as requested by the Committee at its 127th Session;
- b) took note of the guidance and comments provided by the 27th Session of COAG, the 34th Session of COFI and the two rounds of informal consultations;
- c) took note of the updated FAO Action Plan (Version 4) on AMR 2021-2025 and requested Management to further refine it to reflect the comments raised by the Committee prior to its adoption at the 166th Session of the Council under item 9 – Report of the 130th Session of the Programme Committee;
- d) noted that this Action Plan was not a policy and standard-setting document but an instrument to guide FAO's work to support Members in their National Action Plans on antimicrobial resistance upon Members' requests based on the national priorities and on the recommendations emanating from standard setting bodies;
- e) stressed the importance for an increased level of ambition and flexibility for the 2021-2025 Action Plan with respect to the previous Action Plan to address all countries' realities on this matter;
- f) noted the alignment of the Action Plan with the Global Action Plan on AMR and emphasized the need for its five objectives to be reflected in a balanced way in the executive summary;
- g) emphasized the importance of awareness raising and engagement of relevant stakeholders to achieve behavior change, the promotion of biosecurity and biosafety practices that prevent disease emergence and spread and surveillance;
- h) stressed the need for a better inclusion of all agricultural sectors in the Action Plan;
- i) recalled the centrality of capacity building at national level to ensure sustainability and impact of activities after the conclusion of FAO's support;
- j) noted with satisfaction that the AMR Action Plan will be an integral part of the Programme Priority Area on One Health;
- k) requested Management to report progress regularly on the implementation of the Action Plan, through the appropriate Governing Bodies and relevant documents, including as an annex in the Programme Implementation Report and to include AMR indicators in the FAO's results framework; and
- l) reviewed the draft Action Plan and requested its Chair to organize a Members-led, open, transparent and inclusive informal consultation with a view to reaching consensus on the draft action plan, and requested a revised version of the Action Plan to be submitted to the 166th Session of the Council for its consideration.

## **XII.II One Health approach in FAO's work on zoonoses and AMR**

20. The Committee:

- a) noted the importance of zoonotic disease and AMR prevention and control for the attainment of FAO's goals and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and welcomed the progress made to mainstream FAO's approach to One Health in its actions relating to zoonotic diseases and AMR in the programme of work;
- b) encouraged Management to continue to integrate the comments raised from the 128th, 129th and the 130th Sessions of the Programme Committee;
- c) welcomed the integration of recommendations from FAO Technical Committees for the mainstreaming of One Health in the work of the Organization, and stressed the importance of a rigorous science-policy interface for the development of guidance to countries to increase health security, build capacities and reduce the threats of zoonotic infections and AMR through common tools and joint roadmaps, noting that prevention

- and control of zoonotic diseases is a priority in FAO's work, given its essential role in achieving food security and nutrition;
- d) in that regard, welcomed the inclusion of One Health as a Programme Priority Area in the FAO Strategic Framework 2022-31, and the application of the "One Health" approach across FAO's actions, recognizing the potential synergies in managing health threats to plants, livestock, aquaculture and forestry;
  - e) encouraged further consideration of linkages and synergies between plants, animals (livestock, aquatic species and wildlife), humans and environment, in the development of FAO's programme;
  - f) stressed the importance of enhanced international collaboration, especially the positive collaboration between the Tripartite and UNEP, including finalization of the terms of reference for the One Health High Level Expert Panel, and looked forward to a good collaborative arrangement for a Tripartite+ enabling each partner to contribute within the context of its respective mandate, and encouraged collaboration among the Tripartite, with UNEP and with other relevant international organizations, such as International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), at the global, regional and national levels through common tools, approaches and programmes, noted participation of FAO in PREZODE initiative, and recommended regular reporting by Management on progress made in the implementation of the Global Plan of Action to the relevant FAO Governing Bodies;
  - g) encouraged FAO to continue supporting Members to strengthen their capacities to prevent and control zoonotic diseases and improve animal-origin food safety issues, including through the implementation of food and other related international standards set by Codex Alimentarius Commission, and OIE, in line with WTO Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (SPS Agreement);
  - h) recognized FAO's role in science-policy consultations on the prevention of zoonotic diseases in the areas of its mandate; and
  - i) welcomed the efforts in strengthening national capacities to implement One Health initiatives and highlighted the importance of monitoring tools to assess progress made on One Health implementation and identify gaps on One Health operationalization.

### **XII.III Indicator on AMR for the 2020-2021 biennium**

21. The Committee:
  - a) noted that the measurement of the indicator was based on the self-reporting results of the Tripartite Country Self-Assessment Questionnaire, which reflected FAO's progress on AMR with no implication of additional burdens for countries;
  - b) invited FAO to provide, when feasible, disaggregated information on the implementation of specific objectives of the National Action Plans;
  - c) requested FAO to revise the title to ensure that the indicator covers specific objectives of national plans related to AMR;
  - d) appreciated the inclusive consultation process; and
  - e) recommended the Council to endorse the indicator as proposed for FAO's results framework 2020-2021.

### **XIII. Evaluation of FAO's role and work on Antimicrobial Resistance and Management response**

22. The Committee appreciated the comprehensive evaluation and management's acceptance of the evaluation's recommendations including the proposed actions and commitments in the Management Response, in particular, the Committee:
  - a) supported all the recommendations, especially the Recommendation 1, and welcomed Management's response to implement the recommendations;
  - b) requested FAO to engage in the development of a long-term, science- and evidence-based strategy on AMR based on an inclusive process with the membership;
  - c) highlighted FAO's important role in addressing AMR in food and agriculture sectors, and the leadership that FAO has been providing on tackling AMR within the One Health approach in line with its mandate;

- d) welcomed FAO's leadership in improving implementation on good practices and responsible and prudent use of antimicrobials in food and agriculture systems;
- e) acknowledged the importance of Tripartite collaboration and cooperation with UNEP in this respect;
- f) urged FAO to continue prioritizing, developing and coordinating its AMR portfolio, in particular to further improve good production practices and build capacity on measures to secure the responsible and prudent use of antibiotics to ensure effective and life-saving antibiotic drugs in the future for both animals and humans;
- g) noted FAO's comparative advantage and its global, regional and national presence;
- h) welcomed FAO's partnership with the scientific community and the establishment of FAO Reference Centres for AMR, and encouraged Members to apply to fill in gaps in the geographical representation;
- i) highlighted and recognized the role of the joint FAO/WHO Centre (Codex Food Standards and Zoonotic Diseases and AMR) (CJW) to enable central coordination of FAO's work on AMR and to report on relevant FAO's AMR indicators, including regular reporting to the Programme Committee; and
- j) further encouraged FAO to strengthen its long-term convening role in bringing stakeholders together from the food and agriculture sectors, and the establishment of the Partnership Platform for Actions against AMR.

#### **XIV. Evaluation of FAO's support to climate action (SDG13) and the implementation of FAO Strategy on Climate Change (2017) and Management response**

##### 23. The Committee:

- a) appreciated this broad-scoped and timely evaluation and the Management's acceptance of the evaluation recommendations;
- b) welcomed the evaluation and its recognition of FAO's achievements including by promoting its leadership in the global arena and the key role that the agricultural sectors play in achieving SDG13 and the Paris Agreement, which may differ in different national contexts;
- c) invited FAO to further mainstream the "Leave no one behind" principle and to a more systematic consideration of women, in particular rural and indigenous women, and youth, the extreme poor and vulnerable, marginalized and discriminated groups in climate change-related initiatives;
- d) took note of the importance of the involvement of indigenous peoples in climate change programs and invited FAO to strengthen this area of work;
- e) underlined the importance of FAO's Strategic Framework and of the recently created Office of Climate Change, Biodiversity and Environment (OCB), and of the new climate risk assessments as good steps towards a more coordinated climate change work;
- f) invited FAO to adopt more strategic and programmatic approaches for climate change to act at scale, and be transformative, including through strengthened innovative partnerships with the private sector and with main development partners building on FAO's knowledge, expertise and convening power;
- g) noted FAO's comparative advantages in providing technical support to Members' initiatives on climate change;
- h) underlined the importance of balancing FAO portfolio of Green Climate Fund (GCF) and Global Environment Facility (GEF) and other relevant climate fund projects, both geographically and thematically;
- i) encouraged FAO to optimize its comparative advantages and technical expertise especially in crop production, fisheries and food safety;
- j) highlighted that FAO's actions and plans on climate change should focus on supporting Members to achieve their climate change goals, for both mitigation and adaptation, through timely data, technical guidance and support in resource mobilization and partnerships, among others, as it is paramount to ensure food security and nutrition for a growing population, and emphasized the special attention to be paid to the needs of developing countries;

- k) underlined the shared principles and commitments of the 2030 Agenda, including the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities;
- l) recommended to develop the communication strategy based on solid scientific evidence;
- m) invited FAO to improve the way that it generates, exchanges and manages climate change knowledge, allowing for more bottom-up and transversal exchanges, including across regions and across areas of its work; and
- n) recommended the Council to further review the Recommendation 2 of the report of the Evaluation of FAO's support to climate action (SDG13) and the implementation of FAO Strategy on Climate Change (2017).

## **XV. Progress Report on the UN Food Systems Summit and FAO's work in food systems (Item for information)**

24. The Committee:

- a) took note of information provided in the document and recognized the substantive technical and logistical support that FAO is providing to the preparatory process towards the Food Systems Summit;
- b) noted with concern the insufficient information related to substance, process and outcomes of the UN Food Systems Summit, including the pre-Summit, and highlighted the need for more transparency and active involvement of the membership; and
- c) requested Management, given its substantive and important role of FAO in the preparations, to convey this to the Special Envoy and the UN Secretary-General.

## **XVI. Update on the new Strategy for Private Sector Engagement (Item for information)**

25. The Committee:

- a) commended the adopted approach suggested by Members vis-a-vis the operationalization of the strategy for engagement with the private sector, including the need for a selected portfolio of active, strategic and transformative partnerships, which are balanced in terms of geographical coverage, thematic area of engagement and types of entities;
- b) requested Management clarifications on the criteria used to proactively approach and select private sector entities;
- c) welcomed the new availability of all formal private sector partnership agreements on the Members' Gateway, as requested previously by Members;
- d) noted the publishing of the FAO Strategy for Private Sector Engagement 2021-2025 and the FAO Private Sector website in all official languages;
- e) commended the extensive progress in the design and implementation of the CONNECT portal and looked forward to the anticipated updates on key deliverables at the next meeting of the Programme Committee; and
- f) noted with appreciation the regular report and informal and formal consultations with Members and the relevant Governing Bodies on the progress made in the private sector partnership function in line with the guidance received.

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

26. The Committee:

- a) commended the work of the Programme Committee Secretariat and welcomed the Progress Report on the implementation of Programme Committee recommendations as a learning tool for the Committee in phrasing its recommendations;
- b) noted the action required on the recommendations in rows four (Medium Term Plan) and five (Programme Priority Areas) had not been completed and requested the color of the traffic lights for these rows to be changed from green to yellow;
- c) welcomed the informal seminar to be organized with membership on FAO statistical activities, noted the proposal in row 12 had been reviewed by the Committee, requested

- the color to be changed to yellow and looked forward to review this matter at the 131st Session of the Programme Committee; and
- d) recalling recommendations of the Programme Committee at its 128th and 129th Sessions in row 11, recommended a transparent and inclusive consultation with membership on the Tripartite Work Plan.

### **XVIII. Tentative agenda for the 131st Session of the Programme Committee (Item for information)**

27. The Committee took note of the tentative agenda and requested the inclusion of items on:
- a) the UN Food Systems Summit;
  - b) the Hand-in-Hand Initiative;
  - c) Update on the Work Plan of the Tripartite Memorandum of Understanding for Antimicrobial Resistance;
  - d) Improvement of the Governance of FAO Data and Statistics;
  - e) Rural Youth Action Plan (RYAP); and
  - f) Standardized procedure for elaboration and approval of FAO policies, strategies and action plans.

### **XIX. Date and Place of the next session**

28. The Committee took note of the proposed dates for its 131st Session, to be held from 8 to 12 November 2021, and acknowledged that the arrangements for the session would be established in accordance with the evolving COVID-19 restrictions.

### **XX. Any Other Matters**

29. The Committee:
- a) noted the information on FAO activities in collaboration with the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF), in particular in relation to the International Conference on Forest Education to be held virtually from 8-10 June 2021;
  - b) requested FAO to duly inform Members through their Permanent Representations in Rome on meetings and initiatives in the framework of CPF and the Committee on Forestry; and
  - c) appreciated the assurances from Management that Permanent Representations will be better informed on the Organization's work in forestry, including by regular updates from headquarters and Regional Offices, improved links with the other Technical Committees and enhanced effectiveness and efficiency of the Regional Forestry Commissions.