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# COUNCIL

## Hundred and Sixty-sixth Session

26-30 April 2021

## Multilingualism at FAO

### Executive Summary

This document outlines analysis of multilingualism at FAO in all its transversal dimensions and solutions to boost its standing further in the Organization. It also addresses the need to ensure timely publication of documents for meetings of Governing Bodies in all languages.

Since the election of Director-General QU Dongyu, there has been increased attention to multilingualism at FAO, and a concomitant surge in the provision of multilingual goods and services.

A series of forward-looking approaches and measures are being planned and implemented to gear up multilingualism in a more systematic and sustainable manner.

This includes improved coordination, increased innovation and digitalization, strengthening resource arrangements, bolstering workforce language capacity, and greater alignment with the United Nations system.

In addition, measures to improve timely publication of Governing Body documents in all languages are being put in place, by boosting the timeliness of preparation and finalization in the original language in which they are prepared.

### Suggested action by the Council

The Council is invited to note the status of multilingualism at FAO in all its transversal dimensions, and to encourage the Secretariat to pursue planned initiatives and solutions to boost its standing further within the Organization. Members are also invited to note efforts aimed at ensuring timely publication of documents for meetings of Governing Bodies in all languages.

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## A. Introduction

1. Multilingualism is a defining characteristic of FAO as an international, intergovernmental agency. It enables the participation of Members in the governance of the Organization on equal footing; it is deeply embedded in the goods and services produced by FAO; it covers the span of the Organization's communications; and it is pervasive in the composition and workings of the Secretariat.
2. The critical value of multilingualism at FAO has been boosted since the election of Director-General QU Dongyu in 2019, which has led to a surge in volume and innovation in the delivery of multilingual products. The ambition now is to gear up multilingualism in a more systematic and sustainable manner for the future.
3. In order to realize this ambition, greater joint recognition of the importance and attention to multilingualism by the Secretariat and Members needs to be supported by a series of forward-looking approaches and measures covering all of its dimensions.
4. This includes improved internal coordination, increased innovation and digitalization, strengthening the existing resource mechanisms and arrangements, unleashing the inherent language capacity of the workforce, and enhanced alignment with the United Nations system.
5. In addition, measures to improve the timeliness of preparation of Governing Body documents in the original language in which they are prepared are being implemented.

## B. Background

6. Multilingualism is firmly rooted in FAO's Basic Texts, results framework and established policy. Rule XLVIII of the General Rules of the Organization establishes that "*Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish are the languages of the Organization*"<sup>1</sup>. Thus, all six languages enjoy equal status within FAO, without the distinction of "official" and "working" languages which exists in other multilateral and United Nations institutions.
7. Furthermore, guidance from the Governing Bodies noted that "*linguistic and cultural diversity are essential features of international co-operation and form part of FAO's most significant comparative advantages*"<sup>2</sup>. The 30th Session of the Conference reaffirmed "*the requirement for ensuring parity and balance in the use of FAO languages, and the need for quality translation and interpretation*"<sup>3</sup>.
8. This document responds to the request from the 165th Session of the Council<sup>4</sup>, with an analysis of multilingualism in FAO in its transversal dimensions and solutions for further enhancement. It outlines the current collection of multilingual goods, services and activities; and articulates plans for enhancing multilingualism at FAO. This includes measures to expand the compendium and balance of deliverables in all FAO languages, increase support to non-FAO language products, and improve timely distribution of documents for meetings of Governing Bodies in all languages.

## C. Analysis

9. The current range of multilingual goods and services provided by FAO covers: (a) interpretation and translation for meetings of Governing Bodies, Statutory Bodies and other meetings;

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<sup>1</sup> Basic Texts, 2017 Edition, Rule XLVIII. <http://www.fao.org/3/K8024E/K8024E.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> PC 81/6-FC 92/13 Review of FAO Language Policy. [http://www.fao.org/3/x1516e/x1516e.htm#P43\\_3082](http://www.fao.org/3/x1516e/x1516e.htm#P43_3082)

<sup>3</sup> C 99/REP Report of the Thirtieth Session of the FAO Conference, paragraph 94. <http://www.fao.org/3/X4041e/X4041E01.htm#37>

<sup>4</sup> CL 165/REP Report of the Hundred and Sixty-fifth Session of the Council, paras. 23 c) 24 a) and 26 a)

(b) translation and copy-editing of flagship and corporate publications; (c) translation of communication products; (d) terminology in all FAO languages; and (e) interpretation, translation, and terminology support for non-FAO languages.

10. Human and financial resources to deliver multilingual goods and services arise from three streams: (a) expenses across organizational units' Regular Programme allocations, using a back-charging model for services provided; (b) Regular Programme budget directly allocated, with commensurate establishment of dedicated language positions; and (c) extrabudgetary resources.

*C1. Governing Bodies, Statutory Bodies and other meetings*

11. At FAO, all meetings of Governing Bodies, Statutory Bodies and other meetings are underpinned by interpretation and translation services covering the same language composition for any given meeting. Where translation is involved, the principle of the simultaneous distribution of meeting documents in all languages is applied.
12. Most sessions of the Governing Bodies are covered by all FAO languages. This includes the Conference, the Council (and its Committees), the Technical Committees, and the Committee on World Food Security. In the case of the Regional Conferences, coverage is delineated according to the FAO languages in the specific region.
13. Beyond such sessions, the policy for the use of languages in meetings is based upon the principle of statutory parity among the languages of the Organization, and the need for a pragmatic approach. In determining the language composition of a meeting, attention is given to the language requirements of its Members, bearing in mind that the meeting or body concerned may take its own decisions concerning the languages in which it will work. FAO meetings are also held on occasion in non-FAO languages under agreed financial arrangements.
14. Language composition for meetings convened by the Director-General under various articles of the Constitution either as Statutory Bodies that meet periodically or in response to specific situations on an *ad hoc* basis, is determined as follows:
- a) *Statutory Bodies and Panels of Experts established under Articles VI, XIV or XV of the FAO Constitution*: the language composition of meetings is reflected in the treaties establishing the Bodies, as approved by Conference or Council. Language requirements for each body are specified in the Directory of FAO Statutory Bodies and Panels of Experts. Budgetary arrangements are reflected in an annex to the biennial Programme of Work and Budget (PWB) document. For each meeting, provision of the prescribed languages is verified internally by the Governing Bodies Servicing Division (CSG), which provides interpretation and document translation services as required;
  - b) *Ad hoc and extrabudgetary meetings, including sessions co-sponsored by FAO*: language requirements are defined on a case-by-case basis taking into account the linguistic characteristics of meeting participants. The letters of invitation specify the language(s) in which the meeting will be held. Language provisions are generally in line with the composition of the meeting; and
  - c) *FAO Regional Group meetings*: interpretation is provided to Regional Groups to facilitate their meetings on a monthly basis.
15. The schedule of all sessions planned is presented as an annex to each biennial PWB (with the session number and title, the Article of the Constitution under which it is convened, the category, languages and estimated direct cost). Detailed reports on the activities carried out during the biennium as well as the implementation of the language policy are presented in the biennial Programme Implementation Report.

16. Tables 1 and 2 in the Annex of this document provide an overview of the work volume during the period of four years between 2017 and 2020. This data evidences the surge in 2020 in translation and interpretation work as well as in meetings supported by language services, as a result of the greater attention to multilingualism at FAO.

### C2. Publications

17. Disseminating information and data through publications in languages is mission-critical. All flagship publications (SOFA, SOFI, SOFIA, SOFO and SOCO) are published in all FAO languages. For other published books and brochures, the author units decide on the required language(s) for a given publication, on the basis of target audiences' needs, and available resources. The situation for the year 2019 was as follows: 56.3 percent in English, 13 percent French, 12.4 percent Spanish, 4.3 percent Arabic, 4 percent Russian, 3 percent Chinese and the remaining 7 percent in other languages.

### C3. Communications

18. The Organization encourages the use of all languages in its output in order to reach the widest possible spectrum of audiences. It aims to provide the public with comprehensive, accurate, timely and multilingual information on the work of the Organization, in order to foster better understanding, strengthen public support and facilitate the delivery of FAO's mandates. The main products include, *inter alia*: a) corporate website FAO.org; b) sub-websites for technical areas; c) websites at decentralized level; d) press releases and web-stories; e) social media networks; and f) outreach and promotion campaigns. Specific content management is mainstreamed across the Organization, particularly for decentralized level websites and social media accounts.

### C4. Other dimensions

19. **Terminology** work is a valuable instrument in FAO's efforts in global public goods, for standardization across the UN system, and to strengthen multilingualism by providing the correct equivalents across all FAO languages. To this end, the terminology electronic database FAO Term Portal<sup>5</sup> offers a critical instrument for standardization and harmonization of the vast quantity of terms used in FAO documents and publications. It is accessible on the corporate internet website, and responds to the increasing demand for terminological tools from FAO Members and partners, including national experts and decision-makers, researchers, students, academics, and the media.
20. Multilingual products in **non-FAO languages** are provided at two levels: (a) specific demands from Members for interpretation, translation and terminology; and (b) goods and services delivered at country level. Examples of demand-driven goods in non-FAO languages include the 2019-20 support to the Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries of the Republic of Indonesia in its national fisheries data efforts; and interpretation for FAO meetings in Albanian, Croatian, German, Hindi, Italian, Portuguese and Turkish. The Organization also provides products in non-FAO languages at country level, to support local uptake of its goods and services. This includes materials, capacity building and training related to technical cooperation, policy assistance, and South-South cooperation, as well as humanitarian and emergency, projects and programmes.
21. **Terminology** in FAO and **non-FAO languages** has also become a valuable instrument for data to be classified homogeneously, facilitating interoperability and reuse in information systems at FAO. For example, when launched, the multilingual AGROVOC Thesaurus<sup>6</sup> was made available in three languages – English, Spanish and French – and its purpose was to serve as a terminology for the indexing of publications in agricultural science and technology. AGROVOC has now been translated to Arabic, Chinese, Russian, and 35 non-FAO languages, covering all FAO areas of interest. In recent years an increasing number of information systems at FAO utilize AGROVOC for a broad range of uses, including indexing geospatial and statistical data. By using AGROVOC,

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<sup>5</sup> <http://www.fao.org/faoterm/en/>

<sup>6</sup> [www.fao.org/agrovoc](http://www.fao.org/agrovoc)

FAO has strengthened data interoperability across its different databases and knowledge systems, spanning multiple languages and domains, enhancing efficiency and effectiveness while avoiding information silos. Up to 25 national and international organizations<sup>7</sup> have volunteered and contributed to the different language versions and subject domains.

22. **The workforce** of FAO at headquarters and in decentralized locations is essentially multilingual, as well as being multinational. Language qualifications are a fundamental requirement for the recruitment and appointment of staff in the Professional and above-mentioned categories, as well as at the General Service level. They are also generally a minimum requirement for most non-staff employees, such as consultants. Furthermore, as a measure to boost further multilingualism, language training for employees is the largest single component of capacity building for FAO employees. Since 2020, there has also been a concerted corporate effort to encourage greater use of all FAO languages in the internal workings within the Secretariat. This was epitomized by the historic introduction of interpretation for high-level internal meetings, including the Director-General's townhall meetings with employees at headquarters and Decentralized Offices, the 2020 global Employee Recognition Awards event, and the 2021 annual Director-General address and 25 Year Medal ceremony.

#### *C5. Resources*

23. As noted in paragraph 10 above, the capacity to deliver multilingual goods and services at FAO is resourced from three distinct streams: (a) Regular Programme funds budgeted in units and charged through an internal mechanism; (b) Regular Programme funds directly for language services; and (c) extrabudgetary resources.
24. The Regular Programme budgetary allocations for meetings, documents and publications are largely spread internally across the FAO units that anticipate requiring the use of such services to deliver outputs under their purview. Other than for specific language products, such as documentation for official sessions of Governing Bodies, organizational units have a degree of flexibility to utilize the internal language services, or to contract external providers.
25. Requesting units and programmes pay for translation and interpretation services through a user back-charging mechanism. Corresponding rates are established each biennium on the basis of projected volume of translation and interpretation and projected cost. Rates for translation include all staff costs and the cost of all processes related to translation: preparation, translation, revision, typing, proofreading and layout. Rates for interpretation cover staff and consultants' salary, travel costs and daily subsistence allowance (DSA) where applicable.
26. The back-charge funding mechanism permits flexibility of recruitment to deliver high volumes of translation and interpretation through the use of freelancers, while maintaining the overarching need for quality control and terminology requirements.
27. Regular Programme funds included in the PWB directly for language related services are essential to cover normative duties not directly related to the service provided, such as management of the roster of translators and interpreters, terminology management, implementation of the UN CEB/AIIC agreement<sup>8</sup>, and financial reporting and monitoring. In addition, these direct funds are used to establish an enabling environment for the collection and sharing of technical information through cross-media, multilingual, interactive publishing.

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<sup>7</sup> These include the CGIAR, the Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences; Empresa Brasileira de Pesquisa Agropecuária (Embrapa), Brazil; Centre de coopération internationale en recherche agronomique pour le développement (CIRAD), France among others.

<sup>8</sup> Agreement between the United Nations Chief Executives Board (CEB) and the Association Internationale des Interprètes de Conférence (AIIC)

28. An additional allocation of USD 0.8 million is proposed in the PWB 2022-23 for the CSG division, which houses the internal, multilingual expertise of the Organization. This increase is juxtaposed to the legacy streamlining of language services and corporate efficiency exercises, as well as the historical lower proportion of regular budget allocated to language services at FAO compared with other UN agencies, as outlined in Table 3.
29. Finally, for extrabudgetary funds for meetings and documentation financed through Trust Funds, organizational units have flexibility to use the internal language services or to outsource directly.

#### **D. Solutions**

30. In line with the Director-General's drive for greater emphasis on multilingualism at FAO, as well as the requests from Members, and alignment with the United Nations, the solutions required to gear up multilingualism at FAO will be based on the surge in the volume, quality and innovation in the provision of multilingual products already in course since the election of Director-General QU Dongyu.
31. They will aim to ensure greater volume and balance in goods and services in all FAO languages, and increased support to non-FAO language products. This will entail enhancement to internal coordination, innovation in processes and technology, and strengthening of required resources. In addition, tangible Human Resources management measures will bolster composition and workings of the Secretariat. Finally, systematic and corporate attention will be given to ensure timely publication of documents for Governing Bodies in all languages.
32. As noted in paragraph 28 above, USD 0.8 million is included in the PWB 2022-23 proposal for these purposes as part of Management's commitment to multilingualism at FAO.

##### *D1. Coordination*

33. The provision of multilingual products and services is a complex, multistep, production chain that incorporates multiple functions and units within the Organization *inter alia* user divisions/offices/centres, secretariats of sessions and language service providers. Internal coordination, along with associated processes and workflows, for efficiency and control is therefore of critical importance.
34. Accordingly, the Secretariat will undertake in 2021 a dedicated internal review of existing workflows established in various administrative instruments, aimed at enhancing coordination and collaboration among responsible functions, strengthening accountability and efficiency at every stage, and improving overall performance and delivery of such production chains.
35. Beyond the specificities of workflows and procedures, the success of improved internal coordination for the delivery of multilingual goods and services will depend on an enhanced culture of shared goals, *esprit de corps*, and breaking down of silos. This is already underway at FAO driven by a new corporate culture of teamwork, changes to organizational structure and working methods required to adapt to the impact of COVID-19 pandemic.
36. Examples established in 2020 include concerted efforts by the Office for Communications (OCC) and CSG on communication, media and internet multilingual products; and greater coordination between Secretariats of various Governing Bodies and Statutory Bodies on interpretation and translation of documents for meetings. This includes joint efforts whereby accountability is clearly defined at every step in the production of multilingual communication products: from advance notification, timely submission of finalized original texts, to translation and publishing, leading to quick turnaround to meet the often-tight deadlines as required for such products. The Organization will build upon and enhance this new culture to improve the volume, timeliness and quality of multilingual products.

## D2. Innovation

37. The combination of the Director-General's drive for digitalization, and the need for creative solutions resulting from the impact of the COVID pandemic, have laid the ground for innovation in the provision of multilingual goods and services at FAO.
38. For example, in 2020, the shift from physical to virtual meetings led to the introduction of interpretation hubs, recalibrating service beyond established time and spatial limits, to service Governing Bodies, Statutory Bodies and other meetings. This enabled FAO to lead the United Nations and multilateral institutions in providing full, real-time interpretation in all languages, as part of the efforts to maintain the integrity of governance and delivery of key normative and technical products of FAO.
39. In order to meet the surge in demand for multilingual products and services, a more robust leverage of innovation and technologies in language service will thus be undertaken in order to improve and speed up document processing and translation, guarantee constant maintenance and correct use of terminologies, and facilitate timely dissemination, proper repository and utilization of language products and services.
40. Accordingly, the Secretariat is already undertaking a series of projects, including: the revamping of internal systems for submission, monitoring and reporting of translation products; upgrading the hardware for provision of real-time interpretation, communication and webcasting for physical, virtual and hybrid meetings; and integration and enhancement of multilingual communication, information and interaction platforms with Members.
41. These and further projects will drive the continued search for the use of innovation and technology to provide efficient, timely and quality multilingual goods and services in response to the evolving demand as part *inter alia* of the New Normal at FAO.

## D3. Resources

42. Effective implementation of the above-mentioned measures and approaches needs to be supported at various levels. In order to do so, four specific measures are planned: (a) strengthen the demand-driven, back-charging, internal market model; (b) increase the number of non-PWB language staff positions as required; (c) establish a dedicated Trust Fund for multilingualism; and (d) review the possibility of ring-fencing funds in project formulation for delivery at country level.
43. **Strengthening the internal market model** will enable provision of resources for language services without any increase to earmarked funds in the PWB. Greater coordination, innovation and use of new technologies, and more streamlined workflows designed to encourage the use of internal multilingual capacity through the back-charging mechanism would create a virtuous cycle of increased expertise needed to meet growing demand, and at the same time provide timely provision of quality language goods and services, obviating any potential, associated corporate reputational or other risks.
44. As a corollary, an **increase in non-PWB language staff positions** could be undertaken as a result of a strengthened back-charging mechanism and to address the increased volume of translations, funded from the commensurate increase in the flow of funds for language services. This, in turn, would bolster order and planning for quality and timeliness, as well as greater balance across all FAO languages of multilingual products by the strengthening of all language groups. Establishment of such non-PWB positions would thus offer an optimal balance between the need for rooted capacity with the constraints of earmarked PWB resources.
45. The proposal to establish a **global Trust Fund for Multilingualism** with a biennial target of USD 2 million entirely from voluntary contributions is aimed at bolstering basic capacity to

improve the balance of FAO languages, and extend support for the production of non-FAO language products and services, as and when required by field programmes and projects.

46. Likewise, a possible approach of ring fencing the budget of **extrabudgetary funded projects where applicable** might be considered, similar to the practices already established for evaluation and gender components, to embed multilingualism as one of the core values of FAO into the Organization's work, particularly its technical cooperation, policy assistance, and emergency activities at country level.

#### *D4. Workforce*

47. The existing rules and requirements for recruitment and appointment ensures that FAO workforce is essentially multilingual, as well as multinational. In addition, new measures will be introduced, in conjunction with the implementation of the Human Resources Strategic Action Plan<sup>9</sup> to enhance the multilingual interactions and opportunities for Secretariat employees worldwide, including by building upon the existing language training services, as well as methods and manner of internal workings within the Secretariat, both at headquarters and in Decentralized Offices.

#### *D5. United Nations system*

48. Parity of languages is an important element in all United Nations entities, as it is at FAO. Since 1995, the General Assembly has been building a legislative core for multilingualism through several resolutions<sup>10</sup> aiming to eliminate the disparity and ensure full and equitable treatment of all the official languages.
49. The UN General Assembly in its resolution 73/346<sup>11</sup> adopted on 16 September 2019, emphasized the paramount importance of the equality of the six official languages of the United Nations, and underlined the responsibility of the Secretariat in integrating multilingualism in its activities. The resolution reiterated with concern its request that the Secretary-General ensure that the rules concerning the simultaneous distribution of documents in all six official languages are strictly respected.
50. Furthermore, the Joint Inspection Unit (JIU) of the United Nations system included in its Programme of Work for 2019 a review on "Multilingualism in the United Nations system". The resulting JIU Report "Multilingualism in the United Nations system"<sup>12</sup> contains formal recommendations for action, regarding the development of a strategic framework and system-wide approach on multilingualism, recruitment of new translators and interpreters, and appointment of senior coordinator/focal point by agencies of the UN system.
51. FAO fully shares the importance of multilingualism in achieving its goals; multilingualism is both an asset and a shared commitment for all organizations in the United Nations system. In boosting multilingualism at FAO, the Secretariat will follow closely the evolution of the JIU report and its recommendations, as well as other developments at UN partner entities, to seek alignment with the United Nations system in addition to the FAO-specific needs.

#### *D6. Governing Body Documents*

52. The 165th Session of the Council requested solutions to improve timeliness of publication of documents for meetings of Governing Bodies in all languages. Analysis of the timelines of

<sup>9</sup> Document FC 183/4 – Human Resources Strategic Action Plan, paragraphs 19 and 26

<sup>10</sup> [A/RES/50/11](#), [A/RES/52/23](#), [A/RES/52/214](#), [A/RES/54/64](#), [A/RES/56/262](#), [A/RES/59/309](#), [A/RES/63/306](#), [A/RES/65/311](#), [A/RES/67/124](#), [A/RES/67/292](#), [A/RES/69/324](#), [A/RES/71/101](#), [A/RES/71/328](#), and [A/RES/73/346](#)

<sup>11</sup> A/RES/73/346 Resolution adopted by the General Assembly, paragraphs 2, 4 and 60.

<https://undocs.org/en/A/RES/73/346>

<sup>12</sup> JIU/REP/2020/6 Multilingualism in the United Nations system - Report of the Joint Inspection Unit. [https://www.unjiu.org/sites/www.unjiu.org/files/jiu\\_rep\\_2020\\_6\\_english.pdf](https://www.unjiu.org/sites/www.unjiu.org/files/jiu_rep_2020_6_english.pdf)

internal preparation, translation and publication of such documents has shown that delays in dissemination in all languages originate from the finalization in the original language in which they are prepared.

53. This is illustrated in Figure 1 in the Annex, which shows the pattern for the documentation submitted for the November 2020 Session of the Programme and Finance Committees and their Joint Meeting. Most documents were finalized just a few days before the meeting in the original language and consequently language versions were delivered late.
54. To rectify this shortcoming, the Secretariat has strengthened as of 2021 internal communication, coordination and monitoring for timely production of documents in the original language in which they are prepared, supported by greater corporate level awareness of the importance of this enterprise, including by issuance of a dedicated Director-General's Bulletin (DGB 2021/06) in February 2021.

### **E. Conclusion**

55. Multilingualism is an integral part of FAO, emanating from its established rules and policy, implemented through the goods and services provided to its Members, promoted via its governance, and advanced by its Secretariat. It features prominently in Governing Body and other meetings, flagship and other publications, corporate communications and terminology, and the very composition of FAO's multinational workforce.
56. Solutions for enhancing multilingualism will build on enhanced attention since 2019, and aim at increasing the volume and balance of goods and services provided in FAO languages, support to non-FAO languages, as well as furthering the multilingual essence of the Organization's workforce.
57. Such enhancements will require concerted effort in innovation, coordination and resourcing. In turn, they will enable achievement of the ambition for FAO as a truly multilingual organization.

## Annex

**Table 1: Number of words translated internally**

<b>Words Translated</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>
Meeting documents	8 406 148	7 802 102	7 998 399	7 818 170	9 436 563
Publications	2 047 625	1 165 097	2 912 618	1 988 355	2 993 305
Other	2 075 217	2 315 500	1 489 740	2 404 201	3 445 692
<b>Total words</b>	<b>12 528 990</b>	<b>11 282 700</b>	<b>12 400 757</b>	<b>12 210 727</b>	<b>15 875 560</b>

**Table 2A: Number of meetings interpreted**

<b>Year</b>	<b>Number of meetings</b>
2017	234
2018	222
2019	233
2020	284

**Table 2B: Number of days interpreted by freelance interpreters compared with staff**

<b>Year</b>	<b>Freelancers</b>	<b>Staff</b>	<b>Total</b>
2017	3 037	164	3 201
2018	3 339	170	3 509
2019	3 372	247	3 619
2020	3 257	482	3 739

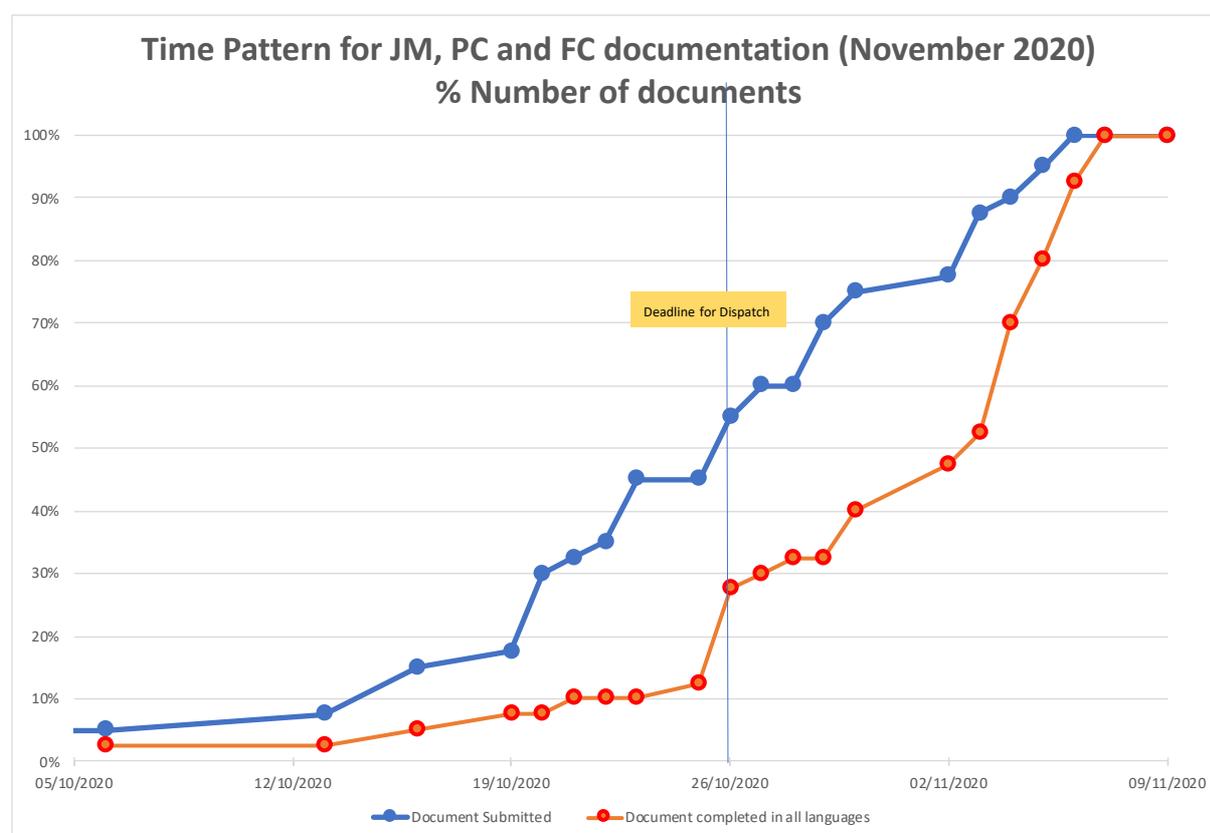
**Table 2C: Total number of days interpreted per language**

<b>Year</b>	<b>Days interpreted</b>			
	<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>
Arabic	763	663	857	747
Chinese	531	472	667	531
English	809	879	854	746
French	788	853	876	758
Russian	362	318	393	406
Spanish	662	642	677	582
Other	35	65	49	80
<b>Total</b>	<b>3 950</b>	<b>3 892</b>	<b>4 373</b>	<b>3 850</b>

**Table 3: Comparison on budget availability for meeting service function between FAO, UN, ILO and WHO (USD million)**

	FAO (CSG) (2020-21)	UN (2021) <sup>13</sup>	ILO (2020-21) <sup>14</sup>	WHO (2020-21)
Budget appropriation	20.6 <sup>15</sup>	329.8	68.3	42.09 <sup>16</sup>
Back-charges estimation	10.4			
Total budget	1 005.6 <sup>17</sup>	3 036.6	796.4	1 193.7 <sup>18</sup>
% Total	3.01%	10.86%	8.57%	3.52%

**Figure 1**



<sup>13</sup> A/75/6 Proposed programme budget for 2021, Schedule 2. [https://undocs.org/en/A/75/6\(Introduction\)-proposed-budget-for-the-Department-General-Assembly-and-Economic-and-Social-Council-affairs-and-conference-management](https://undocs.org/en/A/75/6(Introduction)-proposed-budget-for-the-Department-General-Assembly-and-Economic-and-Social-Council-affairs-and-conference-management)

<sup>14</sup> Programme and budget for the biennium 2020–21: Governance organs USD 50,735,649 - Official Meetings, Documentation and Relations USD 17 542 614 - [https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---ed\\_mas/---program/documents/genericdocument/wcms\\_736562.pdf](https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---ed_mas/---program/documents/genericdocument/wcms_736562.pdf)

<sup>15</sup> CL 164/3 - Information Note 4- Further Adjustments to the Programme of Work and Budget 2020-21, page 3. <http://www.fao.org/3/nd206en/nd206en.pdf>

<sup>16</sup> A72/53 - Multilingualism Report by the Director-General, page 5, Table: Breakdown of estimated resource requirements. [https://apps.who.int/gb/ebwha/pdf\\_files/WHA72/A72\\_53-en.pdf](https://apps.who.int/gb/ebwha/pdf_files/WHA72/A72_53-en.pdf)

<sup>17</sup> C 2019/3 Medium Term Plan 2018-21 (reviewed) and Programme of Work and Budget 2020-21, paragraph 78, Table 2. <http://www.fao.org/3/my734en/my734en.pdf>

<sup>18</sup> Programme Budget (2020-2021), page 20, Table 2. <https://www.who.int/about/finances-accountability/budget/WHOPB-PRP-19.pdf?ua=1>