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PROGRAMME COMMITTEE

Hundred and Thirty-third Session

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Follow-up report on the Evaluation of FAO's Statistical Work

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

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- This matter is being referred to the Committee under Rule XXVI/7(a)i of the General Rules of the Organization. The 128th Session of the Programme Committee “welcomed the timely and thorough Evaluation of FAO’s Statistical Work.” It also welcomed the initiatives proposed in the Management Response to further improve FAO’s statistical work, “but noted with concern that several problems in the coordination and governance of statistical work still remained.” The Committee further “welcomed the assurance of Management that the governance of FAO statistical activities would be improved to strengthen the oversight and enhance relevance, coherence and quality standards of all of its statistics [...]”.
- In response to the recommendations of the Evaluation of FAO’s Statistical Work and observations of the Programme Committee, the Office of the Chief Statistician - in coordination with the Inter-departmental Working Group in Statistics - organized an information seminar with Members in April 2021 to introduce the implementation plan of the FAO Strategy for the Modernization of Statistics. In addition, the Office of the Chief Statistician presented document *Proposal for improved governance of FAO statistical activities* (PC 132/5) to the 132nd Session of the Programme Committee.
- The 132nd Session of the Programme Committee “took note of the *Proposal for improved governance of FAO statistical activities* [...] and encouraged FAO to further develop the document.” It also “appreciated the comprehensive approach of the *Proposal* to address the key recommendations of the *Evaluation of FAO Statistical Work* [...],” while recalling “the importance of the *Proposal* [...] to be aligned with FAO’s Policies on Protection of Data and Intellectual Property Rights, currently under development, in line with internationally agreed standards and protocols”.
- Document *Governance of FAO’s statistical and other data activities and their alignment with the cross-cutting FAO policies on Protection of Data and Intellectual Property Rights* (CL 170/18) to be discussed at the forthcoming Session of the Council, clarifies the alignment of the proposal presented in the document PC 132/5 with the cross-cutting FAO policies on Protection of Data and Intellectual Property Rights, and responds to queries expressed by Members.
- The follow-up report on the Evaluation of FAO’s Statistical Work is subsumed in documents *Governance of FAO’s statistical and other data activities and their alignment with the cross-cutting FAO policies on Protection of Data and Intellectual Property Rights* (CL 170/18) and *Proposal for improved governance of FAO statistical activities* (PC 132/5).

GUIDANCE SOUGHT FROM THE PROGRAMME COMMITTEE

- The Programme Committee is invited to take note of this document.

The Proposal for “Governance of FAO’s statistical and other data activities and their alignment with the cross-cutting FAO policies on Protection of Data and Intellectual Property Rights” as a Follow-up Report on the Evaluation of FAO’s Statistical Work

1. This matter is being referred to the Committee under Rule XXVI/7(a)i of the General Rules of the Organization. The 128th Session of the Programme Committee¹ “welcomed the timely and thorough Evaluation of FAO’s Statistical Work².” It also welcomed the initiatives proposed in the Management Response to further improve FAO’s statistical work, “but noted with concern that several problems in the coordination and governance of statistical work still remained.” In this regard the Committee “welcomed the assurance of Management that the governance of FAO statistical activities would be improved to strengthen the oversight and enhance relevance, coherence and quality standards of all of its statistics, and looked forward to considering a proposal for this at its 130th Session.”

2. In response to the recommendations described in the document on the “Evaluation of FAO’s Statistical Work” and the concerns expressed by the Programme Committee, the Office of the Chief Statistician - in coordination with the Inter-departmental Working Group in Statistics - organized an information seminar with Members in April 2021 to introduce the implementation plan of the FAO Strategy for the Modernization of Statistics. Based on this plan and the feedback received from Members, the Office of the Chief Statistician presented a *Proposal for improved governance of FAO statistical activities* (PC 132/5) to the 132nd Session of the Programme Committee³.

3. The proposal presented in document PC 132/5 is articulated across four cross-cutting priority action areas, which are derived from the priorities highlighted in the Evaluation of FAO’s Statistical Work, as follows:

- i. Integrate and improve the internal coordination of FAO data and statistics
- ii. Strengthen the statistical capacity of Decentralized Offices
- iii. Optimize resource allocation and intensify resource mobilization
- iv. Improve the quality of the information technology (IT) infrastructure supporting data and statistics work

4. The 132nd Session of the Programme Committee “took note of the *Proposal for improved governance of FAO statistical activities [...] and encouraged FAO to further develop the document.*” It also “appreciated the comprehensive approach of the *Proposal to address the key recommendations of the Evaluation of FAO Statistical Work [...]*,” while recalling “*the importance of the Proposal [...] to be aligned with FAO’s Policies on Protection of Data and Intellectual Property Rights, currently under development, in line with internationally agreed standards and protocols.*”

5. Document *Governance of FAO’s statistical and other data activities and their alignment with the cross-cutting FAO policies on Protection of Data and Intellectual Property Rights* (CL 170/18) to be discussed at the forthcoming Session of the Council, clarifies the alignment of the proposal presented in the document PC 132/5 with the cross-cutting FAO policies on Protection of Data and Intellectual Property Rights, and responds to queries expressed by Members.

6. The follow-up report on the Evaluation of FAO’s Statistical Work is subsumed in documents *Governance of FAO’s statistical and other data activities and their alignment with the cross-cutting FAO policies on Protection of Data and Intellectual Property Rights* (CL 170/18) and *Proposal for improved governance of FAO statistical activities* (PC 132/5).

¹ CL 164/6 Rev.1, paragraph 10

² PC 128/5; PC 128/5 Sup.1

³ PC 132/5