

170th Session of the Council

Item 16: Status of Implementation of decisions taken at the 168th Session of the Council (29 November – 4 December 2021)

The UN Food Systems Coordination Hub has concentrated its activities during the first months of its operations on identifying the country needs and maintaining the momentum of national processes for food systems transformations. This has given the opportunity to the Hub to develop a work plan that is demand driven with a view to serve the needs of Members. Looking forward, the Hub will prioritize two actions: 1) Reaching out to the actors of the ecosystem of support to identify products and services that can be offered to the countries to support implementation of their transformations. In this work the Hub will reach out to all UN entities and to all coalitions to identify knowledge products that can be useful for countries transformation pathways. 2) Continuing the work on science and thought leadership on agrifood systems thinking. In order to continue receiving advice on scientific knowledge and innovation the Hub will reach out to the High Level Panel of Experts (HLPE), the members of the former Food Systems Summit Scientific Group, and other relevant eminent scientists and science networks to identify opportunities to strengthen thought leadership for agrifood systems transformations. Within the spirit of coordination, the Hub will create a science advisory board representing various fields of sciences (i.e. the natural, social, economic and applied sciences as well as sustainability science, interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary) dedicated to addressing systemic challenges in a holistic manner. The Hub will collaborate with these broad-based scientific groups, including the HLPE, to support countries to implement their agreed-upon national pathways.

The UN Food Systems Coordination Hub will ensure that information regarding the action on food systems' follow up will be widely shared with Members. The Coordination Hub will be available to provide information updates on its activities and working schedule as per the request from Members. The Hub has not received any funds from the former UN Food Systems Summit (UNFSS) Secretariat. No surplus has also been transferred so far to FAO from the UNFSS Trust Fund that was hosted by the UN World Food Programme (WFP). The UNFSS stocktaking meeting is an initiative announced in the UN Secretary-General's Chair Summary and Statement of Action on the UN Food Systems Summit. The Hub is in direct contact with the Executive Office of the Secretary General (EOSG) to jointly develop a draft schedule and draft roadmap for the organization of the meeting including proposals on coordination with Members.

The Hand-in-Hand Initiative (HiHi) has been providing constant updates in all Programme Committee and Council Sessions since its inception. It also has a web page, which will be also be updated with additional details on the activities done at country level. The Geospatial Platform is also publicly available and has its own web page (<https://www.fao.org/hih-geospatial-platform/en/>). The HiHi assures its transparency by making all this information publicly available. Finally, the HiHi is a country driven and country led program, where FAO is just a technical facilitator.

In addition to the information made available through its web pages, the activities and resources applied to the Initiative are subject to the FAO rules, accountability framework and oversight mechanisms applicable to all FAO activities.

Data protection frameworks form an important component of data management. The data protection framework will function within the context of the overarching data management framework, as reflected in document CL 170/18, *Governance of FAO's statistical and other data activities and their alignment with the crosscutting FAO policies on Protection of Data and Intellectual Property Rights - Proposal for an improved internal coordination and its alignment with corporate policies on Data Protection and Intellectual Property Rights*. The Data Protection Policy will further clarify the distinct but interrelated functions and linkages between the data protection mechanisms and the broader internal coordination mechanisms addressing data and statistics.

As reflected in CL 170/13, Report of the *115th Session of the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters (CCLM) (21-23 March 2022)*, the Data Protection Policy may need to be reviewed and adjusted from time to time to ensure that it remains fit for purpose, and this should be done upon

consultations with Members. The text of the Data Protection Policy, which is before the Council, will be amended to reflect the guidance of the Council, including guidance of the CCLM if endorsed by the Council, and it would be operationalised in accordance with the guidance of the Council. The Policy addresses all categories of data: public, confidential, sensitive, personal and non-personal data. Upon receiving the guidance of the Council, the intention is to immediately promulgate the Policy to ensure appropriate levels of protection of data in the context of all activities of the Organization.

As reflected in document CCLM 115/3, *Update on the FAO policies on Protection of Data and Intellectual Property Rights* and CL 170/13, work on the intellectual property rights policy will now commence and will follow an inclusive and transparent process. An informal briefing is already scheduled for 27 September 2022 to brief Members and seek their inputs on an initial draft policy, which will be circulated to Members in advance.