

## **171st Session of the Council**

### **Item 8: Report of the 134th Session of the Programme Committee (7-11 November 2022)**

Chairperson, Members of the Council,

I am pleased to present the Report of the 134th Session of the Programme Committee. The 134th Session of the Programme Committee was held from 7 to 11 November and its Report is submitted to the Council in document CL 171/8.

The Programme Committee had 18 items on its agenda, including nine items for information. I would like to highlight the following matters for the attention of the Council.

The Committee appreciated the high quality of the document *FAO strategic priorities for food safety within the FAO Strategic Framework 2022-31* and the Office of Evaluation's renewed focus to enhance the quality, effectiveness and efficiency of evaluation work as indicated in the document *Work Plan of Evaluations 2022-2025 – Update*, and recommended the Council to endorse them.

It welcomed the *Preparation for the Medium Term Plan (Reviewed) 2022-25 – Regional and Technical Priorities* and appreciated efforts to operationalize the FAO Strategic Framework 2022-31 with regard to the specific conditions, needs and priorities of Members in each region and technical area, and recalled the importance of incorporating the conclusions of the Regional Conferences and Technical Committees in the review of the Medium Term Plan 2022-25.

In relation to the evaluations and their Management response, the Committee appreciated their useful and comprehensive approaches, and Management's acceptance of their findings. In particular, the Committee recognized that FAO's COVID-19 Response and Recovery Programme was found to be relevant, mostly timely, and adaptive in addressing national priorities emerging from the pandemic, and highlighted FAO's long-term engagement and comparative advantage in facilitating and ensuring South-South and Triangular Cooperation and its technical quality. Moreover, it welcomed the information received and the progress achieved on the follow-up reports of the evaluations of FAO's support to Zero Hunger, FAO's Technical Cooperation Programme and the FAO Strategy for Partnerships with Civil Society Organizations. Furthermore, the Committee appreciated the progress made by FAO on the "One Country One Priority Product Initiative" (OCOP).

Dear Members of the Council, I would like to invite you to review the Report of the 134th Session of the Programme Committee. For your convenience, this Report includes an excellent executive summary prepared by the Secretariat. I am pleased to provide any further explanations you may have regarding this Report.

*H.E. Yael Rubinstein, Chairperson of the 134th Session of the Programme Committee*