



JOINT MEETING

**Hundred and Thirty-fifth Session of the Programme Committee and
Hundred and Ninety-fifth Session of the Finance Committee**

Rome, 13 and 15 March 2023

Further update on Country Programming Frameworks (CPFs)

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

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- The document provides a further update on the status of FAO Country Programming Frameworks (CPFs) and informs of the recently established *CPF Repository*, in line with the guidance from the Council at its 171st Session in December 2022.

GUIDANCE SOUGHT FROM THE JOINT MEETING

- The Joint Meeting is invited to take note of the document, and provide comments as deemed appropriate.

Draft Advice

The Joint Meeting:

- **welcomed the further update received on Country Programming Frameworks (CPFs); and**
- **commended the publication of the *Country Programming Framework (CPF) Repository* webpage accessible from the FAO Members Gateway.**

I. Background

1. The Joint Meeting of the 134th Session of the Programme Committee and 194th Session of the Finance Committee considered document JM 2022.2/3 *Update on FAO Country Programming Frameworks (CPFs)*. In its Report, the Joint Meeting:
 - a) acknowledged that, in line with the UN development system repositioning, the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) serves as the polestar of all UN country-level activities;
 - b) encouraged FAO to continue its strong efforts to build a culture of transparency enabling broad and swift access to the Organization's activities;
 - c) noted that the timing of the UNSDCF process is negotiated between the Resident Coordinator and the government;
 - d) appreciated the Organization's efforts to adjust the FAO Country Programming Framework (CPF) process to ensure that it is now fully derived from the UNSDCF;
 - e) noted the progress to-date and welcomed the active participation of FAO Country Offices in the formulation, negotiation and adoption of UNSDCFs and FAO CPFs by the governments;
 - f) underlined that the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are the framework for FAO's Programme Priority Areas (PPAs) and the country results planned in the UNSDCFs/CPFs;
 - g) commended FAO on its ongoing efforts to put in place mechanisms to more fully bring to bear FAO's wealth of technical, policy and investment capacity at country level;
 - h) reaffirmed the importance of CPFs linking directly with the FAO Strategic Framework 2022-31, and highlighted that the value of the CPF information could allow more efficiency of FAO's work in the field;
 - i) requested that in time for the next cycle of the Governing Bodies meetings in the spring of 2023, FAO make available to Members, as appropriate, all endorsed CPFs in one single place; and
 - j) recommended to continue discussion of this topic at its next Joint Meeting sessions on the process for CPF development, endorsement and availability among Members.
2. The Report of the 171st Session of the FAO Council reflected the Council's agreement with the observations of the Joint Meeting. The present paper recalls the context of FAO country programming in the wider frame of the UNSDCF, and provides a further update on the status of FAO CPFs, along with recent steps taken by Management to respond to the guidance of the Governing Bodies.

II. UN development system joint programming and FAO CPFs

3. It is worth recalling the context in which FAO prepares its CPFs.
4. On 31 May 2018, the General Assembly Resolution 72/279 elevated the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) as "*the most important instrument for planning and implementation of the UN development activities at country level in support of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.*" The UNSDCF is meant to be the polestar of all UN country-level activities. It identifies specific SDG targets for each country and serves as the results framework against which contributing UN entities will be held collectively and individually accountable.
5. The UNSDCF now guides the entire programme cycle, driving planning, implementation, monitoring, reporting and evaluation of collective UN support for achieving the 2030 Agenda. It determines and reflects the UN development system's contributions in the country and shapes the configuration of UN assets required inside and outside the country.

6. To strengthen the Organization's engagement in the UN development system repositioning at country level, FAO adjusted its CPF process to ensure that the Organization's main planning and programming instrument at country level is now fully derived from the UNSDCF.
7. At the same time, FAO's country level process, as reflected in the CPF design, also contributes to shaping the formulation of the UNSDCF, thus ensuring that agrifood systems transformation concerns and related SDGs, in line with the FAO Strategic Framework 2022-31, are well integrated and prioritized in the UN common planning documents.
8. The FAO CPF formulation starts only when the relevant UNSDCF steps have been completed and endorsed by the government. As part of the CPF quality control process, the FAO Representative (FAOR) requests the Resident Coordinator's confirmation of the CPF's full alignment with the UNSDCF, thereby assuring that FAO builds on the collective UN development system's efforts to support country ownership and address national SDG priorities and gaps.

III. Update of the status of FAO's participation in the UNSDCF

9. As reported to the previous Session of the Joint Meeting, FAORs develop their CPF once the UNSDCF has been endorsed by the government, with the principle of UNSDCF outcomes copied verbatim and aligning the FAO CPF cycle with the UNSDCF cycle. Under this model, FAO Country Offices have actively participated in the negotiation and formulation of 100 UNSDCFs from 2019 to December 2022. Upon the signing of the UNSDCF, 49 CPFs have been endorsed as at the end of December 2022.
10. Indicative timing for the forthcoming 48 UNSDCF processes in which FAO Country Offices will be involved, is for an additional 34 countries in 2023 and 14 countries in 2024, noting that adherence to these timelines is coordinated by Resident Coordinators with the governments.
11. The Organization continues to actively explore mechanisms to further strengthen country capacities to engage in the UNSDCF processes and bring multisectoral technical support to these processes in an effective and timely manner, as well as to better connect technical expertise in a rapid manner to respond to countries' needs.

IV. Recent steps taken by Management to make CPFs more accessible to Members

12. Responding to Council's request that FAO make available to Members, as appropriate, all endorsed CPFs in one single place, FAO has published the *Country Programming Framework (CPF) Repository*, a dedicated webpage accessible from the FAO Members Gateway. The Repository makes available all of the endorsed CPFs and contains additional pertinent information for those countries where the UNSDCF/CPF processes are not yet completed.