

174th Session of the FAO Council

Item 8: Report of the Joint Meeting of the 137th Session of the Programme Committee and 198th Session of the Finance Committee (Rome, November 2023)

I am pleased to present the Report of the Joint Meeting of the 137th Session of the Programme Committee and 198th Session of the Finance Committee. This Report is submitted to the Council in document CL 174/7.

The Joint Meeting examined, among others, the *Implementation of integrated water resources management: progress and needs*, the *update on FAO's collaboration with other UN system entities*, and the *Annual Report on Corporate Policy, Processes and Measures on the Prevention of Harassment, Sexual Harassment and Sexual Exploitation and Abuse*. I would like to highlight the following matters for the attention of the Council.

The Joint Meeting acknowledged the progress made on FAO's work on integrated water resources management (IWRM); appreciated FAO's engagement and coordinated actions in global fora; recognized the needs identified for accelerating and scaling up FAO interventions on IWRM from global to local level; and recommended FAO to provide updates on IWRM including on the programmatic initiatives, resources, partnerships and collaboration to Governing Bodies during the biennium 2024--2025.

The Joint Meeting commended FAO for its ongoing efforts and encouraged the Organization to further strengthen and deepen its collaboration across the UN system, acknowledging the foundational importance of Rome-based Agencies (RBAs) collaboration.

The Joint Meeting welcomed the *Annual Report on Corporate Policy, Processes and Measures on the Prevention of Harassment, Sexual Harassment and Sexual Exploitation and Abuse*; stressed the need to ensure that safe and confidential decentralized-level complaint and feedback mechanisms are in place and readily available; and encouraged FAO to be even more proactive in its public communication on its policies and accountability mechanisms, including via the Organization's homepage, social media and websites of responsible units.

The Joint Meeting took note of the follow-up report on UN Food Systems Summit +2 Stocktaking Moment (UNFSS+2).

I would like to invite you to review the full *Report of the Joint Meeting of the 137th Session of the Programme Committee and 198th Session of the Finance Committee*. For your convenience, this report includes an executive summary and suggested action.

I am pleased to provide any further explanations you may have regarding this Report.

Ms Yael Rubinstein, Chairperson of the Joint Meeting of the 137th Session of the Programme Committee and 198th Session of the Finance Committee