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COUNCIL

Hundred and Forty-fifth Session

Rome, 3-7 December 2012

Report of the Joint Meeting of the 112th Session of the Programme Committee and 147th Session of the Finance Committee (Rome, 7 November 2012)

Executive Summary

The Joint Meeting of the Programme and Finance Committees brings to the attention of the Council its findings and recommendations on:

- a) Programme Implementation Report 2010-11 (paras. 5-8)
- b) Progress Report on Implementation of the Immediate Plan of Action (paras. 9-10)
- c) Transformational Changes in the 2012-13 biennium (paras. 11-13)
- d) Reviewed Strategic Framework and Outline of the Medium Term Plan 2014-17 (paras. 14-15)
- e) FAO strategies for partnerships with the private sector and with civil society (paras. 17-20)

Suggested action by the Council

The Council is requested to endorse the findings and recommendations, of the Joint Meeting.

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

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**REPORT OF THE JOINT MEETING OF THE
HUNDRED AND TWELFTH SESSION OF THE PROGRAMME COMMITTEE
AND HUNDRED AND FORTY-SEVENTH SESSION OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE
Rome, 7 November 2012**

INTRODUCTION

1. The Joint Meeting submitted its Report to the Council.
2. In addition to the Chairperson, Her Excellency Cecilia Nordin van Gansberghe (Sweden), and Mr MOUNGUI MÉDI (Cameroon), Chairperson of the Finance Committee, the following representatives of Members were present:

Mr R. Ayazi (Afghanistan)	Mr S.K. Pattanayak (India)
Mr M. Mellah (Algeria)	Mr H. Yamada (Japan)
Mr G.O. Infante (Argentina)	Ms M. Sabah Mohammad Al-Sabah (Kuwait)
Mr M. Worrell (Australia)	Ms E.M. José Rodríguez Sifuentes (Mexico)
Ms N. Feistritz (Austria)	Mr M. Lemghari (Morocco)
Ms S. Afroz (Bangladesh)	Mr R. Elkhuisen (Netherlands)
Mr O. Vieira (Brazil)	Mr N. Fraser (New Zealand)
Mr L.D. Couliadiati (Burkina Faso)	Mr G. Vega Berrio (Panama)
Ms D. Price (Canada)	Mr V. V. Kuznetsov (Russian Federation)
Mr Guo Handi (China)	Mr M.E. Elfaki Elnor (Sudan)
Mr M.A. Hassan (Egypt)	Ms C.E. Grieder (Switzerland)
Mr A.G. Aseffa (Ethiopia)	Ms K.E. Johnson (USA)

3. The Joint Meeting appreciated the opening address from the Director-General.

Adoption of the Agenda¹

4. The Agenda for the Joint Meeting was approved.

Programme Implementation Report 2010-2011²

5. The Joint Meeting welcomed the Programme Implementation Report (PIR) 2010-11. It noted that considerable effort had been required to compile the performance information, but regretted the delay in presenting the PIR, which had prevented it from being discussed at the Council meeting in June 2012. It also requested the preparation of a concise and focused PIR 2012-13 which could be discussed at the Council in the next biennium.
6. The Joint Meeting took note of the biennial performance as elaborated in the PIR. It encouraged further progress to achieve a balanced geographic representation of professional staff, while adhering to the main requirement of competences and the application of FAO's language policy.
7. The Joint Meeting recommended several improvements for preparation of the next PIR:
 - a) analyze factors contributing to good performance and deficiencies, and linking this analysis to lessons learnt;
 - b) include an assessment of cross-cutting issues, core functions and resource mobilization;

¹ JM 2013.3/1

² C 2013/8

- c) focus the printed report on key findings and the performance against indicators (cf. Annex 5), and publish supporting material as Web annexes;
 - d) align reporting on regional dimensions with the Strategic Objectives; and
 - e) report more clearly on the implementation of the integrated budget.
8. The Joint Meeting endorsed the Programme Implementation Report 2010-11 for transmission to the Council.

Progress Report on Implementation of the Immediate Plan of Action³

9. The Joint Meeting welcomed the Progress Report on the Immediate Plan of Action Implementation, which was also discussed separately by the Finance Committee. It looked forward to the comprehensive report on the entire reform period to be produced in time for the March 2013 governing bodies' meetings, and suggested that the report:

- a) take into account sustainability and possible multiplier effects of IPA benefits;
- b) would benefit from introduction of new and more precise nomenclature, for example "completed", "not completed" or "parked", to describe the status and rationale for the 10 IPA actions proposed by Management to be closed; and
- c) be prefixed by a short precis outlining the reform work in FAO.

10. Furthermore, the Joint Meeting:

- a) noted that any unspent balance of approximately USD 3.5 million from the 2012 IPA allocation would be utilized for IPA related matters in 2013, with the goal of no further carry-over in future years;
- b) requested that IPA action 7.22 relating to overhaul of the FAO Manual be implemented, while recognizing the legal concerns expressed by the Secretariat, and to that end take into account other experiences, such as the Mexican Government experience on more effective public service management;
- c) requested a status update on frequency of Executive Leadership Meetings, meetings of the Human Resources Committee, on the working status of the Performance Evaluation Management System and on the recruitment of the Ombudsman;
- d) requested to be provided with an overall view of how gender objectives are being met;
- e) requested further exploration of mechanisms to create greater flexibility in grading of posts at all levels (action 3.71);
- f) expected that the delivery of continuous, corporate business improvements would not be affected by the closure of the Business Improvement Unit;
- g) suggested that a document on the revised culture change approach be made available to staff and Member States as soon as possible, together with the policy paper on mobility;
- h) encouraged further work on language balance and suggested quality testing of machine translation; and
- i) suggested that the status of the IPA recommendation 7.19 dealing with new funding model for the interpretation services remain open.

Transformational changes in the 2012-13 biennium⁴

11. The Joint Meeting reiterated the findings of the respective Committees on transformational changes in the 2012-13 biennium, noting the progress on measures previously approved by the Council, as well as further initiatives for institutional strengthening as presented in the document.

12. In particular, the Joint Meeting:

- a) welcomed the fact that the guidance and decisions of the Council had been followed;
- b) supported the revised post establishment and structural changes;

³ CL 145/10

⁴ CL 145/3

- c) supported the revised distribution of the net appropriation by budgetary chapter as reflected in Table 2 of document CL 145/3; and
- d) looked forward to further initiatives in the PWB 2014-15.

13. The Joint Meeting recommended to Council to take note of the comments of the Programme and Finance Committees in considering the transformational changes in the 2012-13 biennium.

Reviewed Strategic Framework and Outline of the Medium Term Plan 2014-17⁵

14. The Joint Meeting supported the comments and findings of the respective Committees on the reviewed Strategic Framework and outline of the Medium Term Plan 2014-17, and in addition:

- a) reiterated its appreciation of the Strategic Thinking Process, and looked forward to continued dialogue in this regard;
- b) supported the orientation of the five cross-cutting Strategic Objectives in the reviewed Strategic Framework, noting their alignment to the Organization's aspirational values, as well as the addition of a sixth Objective on technical quality knowledge and services;
- c) underlined the significance of gender and governance, while being mainstreamed across the Strategic Objectives; and
- d) recognized that the outline of the Medium Term Plan 2014-17 was work in progress and looked forward to reviewing in 2013 the draft MTP 2014-17 and the PWB 2014-15.

15. The Joint Meeting recommended to Council to take note of the comments of the Programme and Finance Committees in considering the reviewed Strategic Framework and formulating guidance for preparation of the draft MTP 2014-17 and the PWB 2014-15.

Enhancement of the Technical Cooperation Programme⁶

16. The Joint Meeting endorsed the proposal for enhancement of the Technical Cooperation Programme, consistent with the Strategic Thinking Process and Country Programming Frameworks (CPFs) and:

- a) noted that CPFs will serve as a basis for resource mobilization and building partnerships at country level;
- b) looked forward to receiving an implementation plan and timeline before the end of 2013; and
- c) observed that the further integration of emergency and development work would eventually have an impact on the budget structure.

FAO strategy for partnerships with the private sector⁷ and FAO strategy for partnerships with civil society⁸

17. The Joint Meeting welcomed the updates on the strategies for partnerships with civil society and with the private sector respectively, and:

- a) recognized the importance of both strategies in relation to FAO's mandate and pursuit of its goals and objectives;
- b) recognized that the two papers were living documents and, while generally supporting their content, requested specific amendments be made in both strategies;
- c) highlighted the importance of maintaining FAO's neutrality and impartiality;
- d) underlined the importance, in the elaboration of both strategies, to take into account the role, competence and mandates of governing bodies and other related committees;
- e) underlined the importance of the decentralized level emphasis for implementation of the two strategies;

⁵ CL 145/4

⁶ CL 145/8

⁷ JM 2012.3/2

⁸ JM 2012.3/3

- f) stressed the need for monitoring and evaluation of the implementation of the strategies;
 - g) underscored the need for transparency in partnership work, and thus encouraged online dissemination of related information;
 - h) highlighted the importance of linkages to the Organization-wide strategy on partnerships and other related UN documents; and
 - i) encouraged clear selection criteria for engaging in partnerships.
18. With respect to the strategy for partnerships with the private sector, the Joint Meeting:
- a) noted that guidance previously provided by Members had been duly incorporated;
 - b) underlined the importance for clear delineation of mutual benefits;
 - c) encouraged attention to the experience of other UN agencies with regard to non-profit corporations and input supply organizations;
 - d) requested the consideration of resource mobilization from the private sector be linked to the broader resource mobilization and management strategy, stressing the partnerships of a collaborative nature; and
 - e) recommended that the reference to the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security in the document be reviewed.
19. The Joint Meeting welcomed the updated strategy for partnerships with civil society as an important development for the Organization. It commended the Secretariat for the excellent first formulation of the Strategy and requested, in particular the following refinements:
- a) include the concepts of risk assessment and management, as for partnerships with the private sector;
 - b) consider better articulation or separation of the treatment of partnerships with academia and research institutions, philanthropic foundations, farmers' organizations, and with movements with different legal status;
 - c) delete the topics of interest to the civil society from the strategy.
20. The Joint Meeting looked forward to further refinement of the two strategies for its consideration and possible endorsement at its next session.

Any other business

21. There was no discussion under this item.