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Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
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Продовольственная и
сельскохозяйственная организация
Объединенных Наций

Organización de las
Naciones Unidas para la
Alimentación y la Agricultura

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COUNCIL

Hundred and Seventieth Session

13-17 June 2022

Report of the Joint Meeting of the 133rd Session of the Programme Committee and 191st Session of the Finance Committee (Rome, 16, 17 and 20 May 2022)

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 2020-21;
- b) Update on Rome-based Agencies collaboration;
- c) Update on the Technical Cooperation Programme (TCP) Strategic Exercise; and
- d) Update on the UN Food Systems Coordination Hub.

Suggested action by the Council

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

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

Ms Jiani Tian
Secretary, Programme Committee
Tel: +39 06570 53007
Email: Jiani.Tian@fao.org

Introductory Items

1. The Joint Meeting submitted its Report to the Council.
2. In addition to the Chairperson, Ms Imelda Smolčić Nijers (Uruguay) and H.E. (Ms) Yael Rubinstein (Israel), the Chairperson of the Programme Committee, the following representatives of Members were present:

H.E. (Mr) Carlos Bernardo Cherniak (Argentina) ¹	Mr Donald G. Syme (New Zealand)
Ms Lynda Hayden (Australia)	Ms Tahirou Rahila Rabiou (Niger)
H.E. (Mr) Fernando José Marroni de Abreu (Brazil)	Ms Bjørg Skotnes (Norway) ⁷
Mr Maarten de Groot (Canada)	Mr Tomás Duncan Jurado (Panama)
Ms ZHU Baoying (China) ^{2,3}	Mr Denis Cherednichenko (Russian Federation) ⁸
Mr Mina Rizk (Egypt)	H.E. (Mr) Mohammed M. Alghamdi (Saudi Arabia)
Mr Kaba Urgessa Dinssa (Ethiopia)	Ms Saadia Elmubarak Ahmed Daak (Sudan)
Ms Delphine Babin-Pellier (France)	Ms Pernilla Ivarsson (Sweden)
H. E. (Ms) Neena Malhotra (India) ^{4,5}	Mr Thanawat Tiensin (Thailand)
Mr Kuraya Yoshihiro (Japan)	Ms Jennifer Harhigh (United States of America)
Ms Traoré Halimatou Kone (Mali)	Mr Kayoya Masuhwa (Zambia)
H.E. (Mr) Miguel García Winder (Mexico) ⁶	
3. Iraq was not represented.
4. The Session was convened in a hybrid modality, with designated representatives of some Members attending in person at FAO headquarters (Argentina, Australia, Canada, China, Egypt, Ethiopia, France, India, Japan, Mali, Mexico, Niger, Norway, Panama, Russian Federation, Sweden, Thailand, United States of America and Zambia) and others participating virtually (Brazil, New Zealand, Saudi Arabia and Sudan) on an exceptional basis, and without creating a precedent, due to the COVID-19 pandemic in Italy and worldwide.
5. Having regard to this exceptional modality, the Joint Meeting confirmed, that participation by designated representatives through virtual modality constituted attendance at the Session, which was convened at the seat of the Organization in accordance with Rule II (5) of the Rules of Procedure of the Programme Committee and Rule II (4) of the Rules of Procedure of the Finance Committee.
6. The Chairperson informed Members that, should technical connection fail, the meeting would be suspended if the quorum was not reached.
7. The Joint Meeting thanked the Director-General for his comprehensive statement and appreciated his leadership of the Organization in times of crisis.

I. Adoption of the Provisional Agenda

8. The Joint Meeting adopted the Provisional Agenda for the Session.

¹ H.E. (Mr) Carlos Bernardo Cherniak was replaced by Mr Guillermo Valentín Rodolico for part of the Session.

² Mr LI Bo was designated to replace Mr NI Hongxing.

³ Ms ZHU Baoying was designated to replace Mr LI Bo for the Session.

⁴ H.E. (Ms) Neena Malhotra was designated to replace Mr Bommakanti Rajender.

⁵ H.E. Ms Neena Malhotra was replaced by Mr Soumitra Mondal for part of the Session

⁶ H.E. (Mr) Miguel García Winder was replaced by Mr José Luis Delgado Crespo for part of the Session.

⁷ Ms Bjørg Skotnes was designated to replace H.E. (Mr) Morten von Hanno Aasland.

⁸ Mr Denis Cherednichenko was designated to replace Mr Vladimir V. Kuznetsov for the Session.

II. Programme Implementation Report 2020-21

9. The Joint Meeting welcomed the Programme Implementation Report (PIR) 2020-21, and particularly appreciated the improved presentation and readability of the document.

10. The Joint Meeting:

- a) noted the exceptional challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, and applauded FAO's holistic and effective approach in support of countries to contain the effects of the pandemic;
- b) welcomed the results and achievements delivered by FAO under the strategic results framework in line with commitments in the Programme of Work 2020-21, presented in the main document and *Annex 1*, and took note of the financial performance as illustrated in *Annex 3*;
- c) encouraged FAO to further enhance effective gender mainstreaming across programming in order to achieve gender equality;
- d) welcomed the approach to capturing lessons learned and looked forward to their incorporation in future programmes of work;
- e) stressed the pivotal importance of assessed contributions in the implementation of the agreed programme of work;
- f) commended FAO's resource mobilization efforts during the biennium, reaching the remarkable level of USD 2.7 billion, and encouraged FAO to continue building trust with resource partners and exploring different funding modalities to attract more flexible funding;
- g) highlighted the value to the Organization of unearmarked and lightly earmarked voluntary funding, and requested an analysis of the role and effects of earmarked contributions in delivering the Strategic Framework;
- h) appreciated the progress in FAO's multilingualism efforts, as presented in *Annex 7*, and looked forward to receiving further information on the implementation of the strategic policy framework for multilingualism at a future session; and
- i) recommended the endorsement by the Council of the Programme Implementation Report 2020-21.

III. Update on Rome-based Agencies collaboration: i) Executive Summary of the Joint Evaluation of the collaboration among RBAs and its Coordinated Response; ii) Update on the status of the feasibility study for the RBAs on the integration of administrative services.

11. The Joint Meeting:

- a) welcomed the recommendations of the Joint Evaluation of the collaboration among the United Nations Rome-based Agencies (RBAs), and encouraged further strategic collaboration among the RBAs, based on their comparative advantages and building on their complementarities, avoiding overlaps and competition, as well as maximizing the efficient utilization of resources;
- b) welcomed the RBA Coordinated Response to address the recommendations of the Joint Evaluation, and recognized the importance of pursuing joint collaborative efforts within the broader UN context and in alignment with the ongoing United Nations development system (UNDS) reform in particular at a country level;
- c) highlighted the need to further strengthen collaboration in both emergency response and development programming; and
- d) took note of the update provided on the status of the Feasibility Study on the integration of administrative services among the RBAs and looked forward to receiving its update at the next session before the report's finalization by the end of 2022.

IV. Update on the Technical Cooperation Programme (TCP) Strategic Exercise

12. The Joint Meeting:

- a) appreciated the continued inclusive and transparent process based on the principle of universality and the criteria approved by the 166th Session of the Council;
- b) recalling the guidance from the 166th Session of Council on this matter, noted that a decision is still pending, invited Members to conclude the review and finalize a decision through the continued consultation on specific regional allocation shares to be reviewed by the Council for submission and adoption at the 43rd Session of the Conference;
- c) noted the overall progress on the refinements of the criteria for TCP resource allocation within regions, and appreciated the readiness of Regional Representatives to consider greater uniformity while keeping the required flexibility to respond to regional specificities and ensuring effective, equitable, and catalytic use of TCP, in the evolving context in countries and regions; and
- d) welcomed the efforts to enhance reporting of TCP results with the aim of documenting more systematically its catalytic effect.

V. Update on the UN Food Systems Coordination Hub

13. The Joint Meeting:

- a) recalled that Members played an important role in the preparation of the UN Food Systems Summit and reiterated appreciation for the UN Secretary-General's Chair Summary and Statement of Action on the UN Food Systems Summit and noted that the Summit did not have a negotiated outcome;
- b) noted that the UN Secretary-General designated FAO as the host for the Coordination Hub on behalf of the UN system, and recognized the initial support of FAO to establish and operationalize the Hub and the progress achieved;
- c) emphasized the importance for the Hub to focus its operations on supporting Members, as appropriate;
- d) encouraged FAO Management to identify opportunities to further strengthen the capacity of the Hub in support of its initial operations within the existing programmatic and budgetary frameworks, and without creating any new or duplicative mechanisms, in order to support Members in implementing their national food systems pathways; and
- e) recommended regular updates to be shared with Members, including through Governing Bodies, and underlined the need to continue keeping Permanent Representations to FAO apprised when communicating with the National Convenors as well as the UN Agencies and the High Level Political Forum (HLPF).

VI. Any Other Matters

Member Oversight and FAO Country Programming Frameworks and their transparent consideration

14. The Joint Meeting took note with appreciation of the information provided, and welcomed further consideration of FAO's Country Programming Frameworks at the next session.