

April 2010



منظمة الأغذية
والزراعة
للأمم المتحدة

联合国
粮食及
农业组织

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et
l'agriculture

Продовольственная и
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организация
Объединенных
Наций

Organización
de las
Naciones
Unidas
para la
Agricultura
y la
Alimentación

COUNCIL

Hundred and Thirty-ninth Session

Rome, 17 – 21 May 2010

**Report of the Joint Meeting of the Hundred and Third Session of the
Programme Committee and the Hundred and Thirty-second
Session of the Finance Committee
Rome, 14 April 2010**

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REPORT OF THE JOINT MEETING OF THE PROGRAMME AND FINANCE COMMITTEES

Rome, 14 April 2010

INTRODUCTION

1. The Joint Meeting submitted its Report to the Council.
2. The Meeting was chaired by the Chairperson of the Finance Committee and the following representatives were present:

Programme Committee

Chairperson
Ms R. Laatu (Finland)

Members

Mr C.A. Amaral (Angola)
Ms M. del Carmen Squeff (Argentina)
Mr T.S. Power (Australia)
Ms S. Afroz (Bangladesh)
Ms M van Dooren (Belgium)
Mr M. Valicenti (Canada)
Mr A.A.M. Hosni Abdel Aziz (Egypt)
H.E. C. Obama Ondo (Equatorial Guinea)
Ms S. Helbing (Germany)
Mr K. Shioya (Japan)
Ms L.H. Coronel Correa (Paraguay)

Finance Committee

Chairperson
Mr Y.A.R. Sorour (Egypt)

Members

Ms S. Cowan (Australia)
H.E. Li Zhengdong (China)
Mr L.S. Charicauth (Gabon)
Mr S.K. Pattanayak (India)
H.E. J.S. Tavakolian (Iran)
H.E. J.E. Chen Charpentier (Mexico)
Mr R. Elkhuizen (Netherlands)
Mr F. Torres González (Panama)
Mr M. E. Elfaki Elnor (Sudan)
Mr R. Sabiiti (Uganda)
Mr M. Glover (United States of America)

3. The Joint Meeting appreciated the opening address from the Director-General, the full text of which may be found on FAO's Permanent Representatives' Web site
<HTTP://PERMREPS.FAO.ORG>

Item 1: Adoption of the Agenda¹

4. The Agenda for the Joint Meeting was approved.

Item 2: Progress on Implementation of the TCP²

5. The Committees took note of the documents submitted and appreciated the updates and clarifications provided by the Secretariat related to the level of approval and expenditure for the current and previous two biennia. The Committees expressed concern over the delay between requests and approval of projects (at present average of six months) and over the level of expenditure of the 2008-09 Technical Cooperation Programme appropriation (53 percent as at 12 April 2010).

¹ JM 2010.1/1

² JM 2010.1/2

6. The Committees were informed of the initiatives taken in 2009 to increase the capacity of decentralized offices through training and the establishment of posts in regional offices to handle their new responsibilities. Members welcomed the training initiatives foreseen in 2010, which should enhance the capacity of decentralized offices.

7. The Committees were informed that parallel to the establishment of TCP posts in regional offices, a small core TCP unit was maintained at headquarters. The remit of this unit was to manage the 15 percent of the TCP appropriation earmarked for emergency projects, and the 3 percent earmarked for inter-regional projects. Furthermore, the unit would provide guidance and training to decentralized offices and headquarters' staff, as the need arose, and would ensure the monitoring of the entire decentralization process of the TCP. Thus, the Committees expressed their interest in ensuring that TCP resources continue to benefit all countries, according to the IPA.

8. The Committees decided to:

- a) continue to follow the progress on TCP implementation, with particular focus on the decentralization of the TCP management;
- b) request the Secretariat to include information on distribution of the TCP resources by region and by Strategic Objectives in future reports;
- c) request the Secretariat to enhance its efforts to reduce the time between the submission of requests for TCP assistance, the approval of projects and the disbursement of funds so as to ensure the efficient delivery and full use of resources approved.

Item 3: Results-based Work Planning, Monitoring and Reporting System³

9. The Committees took note of progress and next steps in developing the results-based work planning and monitoring system under the new Strategic Framework.

10. The Committees recognized the close linkages between results-based planning and monitoring on the one hand, and the process of priority-setting on the other. The Committees appreciated the ongoing efforts by the Secretariat to support preparation for, and work of, the Regional Conferences in light of their new functions. The Committees looked forward to receiving the advice of the Regional Conferences on regional areas of priority action to be taken into account in the preparation of the Programme of Work and Budget 2012-13.

11. The Committees emphasized the crucial role of performance monitoring and assessment in informing and adjusting implementation and forward-planning. They recognized that progress against the Medium Term Plan-Programme of Work and Budget would be assessed twice in each biennium, against work plans at the end of the first year, and against two-year targets for Organizational Results indicators at the end of the biennium in the Programme Implementation Report.

12. The Committees:

- a) requested the Secretariat to ensure that the results-based planning and monitoring and the process of priority-setting be coordinated and mutually supportive;
- b) requested the Secretariat to propose a format for summary reporting of implementation progress after the first year of the biennium, to permit the Committees to advise on any required adjustments to the Programme of Work;
- c) looked forward to receiving a proposal for the format of the biennial Programme Implementation Report, for consideration at their sessions in October 2010;

³ JM 2010.1/3

- d) recommended that future sessions of the Technical Committees and Regional Conferences be scheduled within the new cycle of governing body input to the MTP-PWB as approved by the Conference.

Item 4: Progress on Resource Mobilization and Management Strategy⁴

13. The Committees considered the progress and next steps in the development of the Resource Mobilization and Management Strategy.⁴
14. The Committees recalled that the integrated budget presented in the MTP-PWB provided the basis for developing the resource mobilization and management strategy, including for less earmarked contributions, and Impact Focus Areas. The Committees welcomed the efforts made by the Organization to engage a broader range of emerging partners, including private foundations and consideration of the private sector.
15. The Committees acknowledged the work conducted by FAO with regard to partnerships among countries, such as South-South Cooperation, as a form of resource mobilization. The Committees discussed the informal meeting of donors and partners, and questions were asked regarding the context of that meeting and who would be invited to it.
16. The Committees:
- a) encouraged the development of a communication strategy for resource mobilization that included advocacy to raise the profile of the Organization among the general public;
 - b) looked forward to receiving a proposal at its next session on the format of the meeting, scheduled in the first quarter of 2011, bringing together interested Members, partners and other potential sources of voluntary contributions, to exchange information on extra-budgetary voluntary funding requirements. In this context, the Committees requested a clear definition of partners;
 - c) requested that the Secretariat provide at the next meeting information on:
 - sources of voluntary funding;
 - modalities of voluntary funding;
 - efforts to develop good practices, including harmonization and alignment;
 - how FAO could relate to the ongoing “good multilateral donorship” initiative;
 - d) looked forward to reviewing the policy and guidelines for partnering with the private sector at a future meeting.

Item 5: The Evaluation of FAO’s Operational Capacity in Emergencies⁵

17. The Committees appreciated the Evaluation report, which had been previously considered by each Committee separately. The Committees noted that most of the recommendations had been accepted by management and urged that those without financial implications, or those which were covered by IPA funding, be implemented without delay.
18. The Committees reaffirmed the important role of FAO, *inter alia*, to support FAO Members in preparing for and responding to food and agriculture threats and emergencies, including the transition from emergency to development.
19. The Committees noted advice that certain types of disasters were predictable and could be anticipated in programming, and that there was a need to strengthen FAO’s response capability in particular at country level. In this connection, the Committees called for more predictable and stable donor funding, to enable quicker response.

⁴ JM 2010.1/4

⁵ PC 103/7 – FC 132/10; PC 103/7 – FC 132/10 a)

20. The Committees welcomed proposals for greater decentralization of emergency and rehabilitation activity implementation, while recognizing that capacity-building for staff in regional, subregional and country offices to deal with emergency situations, improved communications' connectivity and administrative capacity in general were key pre-requisites for effective decentralized emergency operations. The Committees appreciated the emphasis in the corporate operational strategy on the need to empower subregional and country offices with a business model aimed at bringing decision-making as close as possible to beneficiaries.

21. The Committees:

- a) requested the Secretariat to present options to develop the SFERA⁶ mechanism and options for predictable funding for related human resources;
- b) recognizing that more harmonization among donors could enhance the operational efficiency, the Committees encouraged the Secretariat to continue to build synergies between the Rome-based Agencies and enhance partnerships between FAO and other agencies in emergency situations, including for greater harmonization of operating procedures and shared services;
- c) requested the Secretariat to ensure that gender issues be covered in all evaluations, appreciating that guidelines had been developed and measures were being applied to ensure gender mainstreaming and equal opportunities in emergency and rehabilitation activities.

Item 6: Any Other Business

22. The Committees discussed the role and working methods of the Joint Meeting, including collaboration among the Committees' Chairpersons and the Independent Chairperson of the Council on the handling of matters of joint interest such as priority setting. The Committees agreed that the Chairs would consult and report back on collaboration at the next Joint Meeting.

23. The Committees agreed that the format and despatch deadline of Joint Meeting documents should be similar to the current practice of the Finance Committee, which is two weeks before the meeting date.

⁶ Special Fund for Emergency and Rehabilitation Activities (SFERA)