

May 2012

	منظمة الأغذية والزراعة للأمم المتحدة	联合国 粮食及 农业组织	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations	Organisation des Nations Unies pour l'alimentation et l'agriculture	Продовольственная и сельскохозяйственная организация Объединенных Наций	Organización de las Naciones Unidas para la Alimentación y la Agricultura
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COUNCIL

Hundred and Forty-fourth Session of the Council

Rome, 11-15 June 2012

Report of the Joint Meeting of the 110th Session of the Programme Committee and 143rd Session of the Finance Committee (7 May 2012)

Executive Summary

The Joint Meeting of the Programme and Finance Committees of 7 May 2012 brings to the attention of the Council its findings and guidance on: (i) implementation of the IPA (paras. 3-5); (ii) implementation and potential enhancement of the TCP (paras. 6-7); and on proclamation and implementation of International Years (para. 8)

Suggested action by Council

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

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**REPORT OF THE JOINT MEETING OF THE
HUNDRED AND TENTH SESSION OF THE PROGRAMME COMMITTEE
AND HUNDRED AND FORTY-THIRD SESSION OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE**

Rome, 7 May 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 F.G. Cramer (Germany)
Mr M. Mellah (Algeria)	Mr S.K. Pattanayak (India)
Mr G.O. Infante (Argentina)	Mr H. Yamada (Japan)
Ms E. Collins (Australia)	Ms M. Sabah Mohammad Al-Sabah (Kuwait)
Ms S. Afroz (Bangladesh)	H.E. M. Ruíz-Cabañas Izquierdo (Mexico)
Ms M. van Dooren (Belgium)	Mr Y. Farhat (Morocco)
Mr O. Vieira (Brazil)	Mr R. Elkhuisen (Netherlands)
Mr L.D. Couliadiati (Burkina Faso)	Mr N. Fraser (New Zealand)
Mr M. Valicenti (Canada)	Mr G. Vega Berrio (Panama)
Mr H. Guo (China)	Mr V.V. Kuznetsov (Russian Federation)
Mr E.O. Fayed (Egypt)	Mr M.E. Elfaki Elnor (Sudan)
Mr A.G. Aseffa (Ethiopia)	Ms K.E. Johnson (USA)

Immediate Plan of Action – IPA annual report for 2011 and direction for 2012¹

3. The Joint Meeting welcomed the content of the document, but regretted its late availability.
4. The Joint Meeting, in emphasizing the need for successful completion of the Immediate Plan of Action (IPA) and FAO reform:
 - a) supported the shift in focus of IPA implementation to outcomes and benefits;
 - b) welcomed the Strategic Thinking Process launched by the Director-General to help determine the FAO's future strategic direction and as a basis for reviewing the Strategic Framework 2010-19, and preparing the Medium Term Plan 2014-17;
 - c) underlined in this context the need to protect FAO's competencies as a global knowledge Organization, especially in expressing its comparative advantages;
 - d) underlined the need for continuing culture change, with appropriate reporting of its impact with improved indicators;
 - e) underscored the importance of the sequencing and integration of action plans;
 - f) supported the focus on full and comprehensive acceleration of implementation of the IPA and FAO reform, with due attention to effectively managing the associated risks; and
 - g) supported a culture of continuous improvement within the Organization.

¹ CL 144/10 and Web Annex

5. The Joint Meeting recognized the need for increased efforts by Member Nations in certain areas to ensure successful implementation of the IPA. The Joint Meeting was informed of the external assessment of the IPA programme undertaken under the auspices of the Office of the Inspector General, and looked forward to Management's response in order to align the implementation of the IPA with its findings.

Progress on implementation of the Technical Cooperation Programme (TCP)²

6. The Joint Meeting expressed disappointment at having received the document very late. It noted the progress of TCP approvals and expenditures against the 2008-09, 2010-11 and 2012-13 appropriations. It also noted with satisfaction the successful completion of the TCP decentralization, the enhancement of quality assurance mechanisms and the development of new monitoring and reporting tools.

7. The Joint Meeting underlined the importance of alignment of the TCP with the Strategic Framework, and requested the Secretariat to submit for its consideration at its next regular session opportunities for potential enhancements of the TCP in line with the Strategic Thinking Process, and consistent with Country Programming Frameworks.

Proclamation and implementation of International Years³

8. The Joint Meeting reviewed and endorsed the proposed policy on the proclamation and implementation of International Years as set out in Annex 1.

² JM 2012.1/2

³ JM 2012.1/3

Annex 1

FAO Policy on Proclamation and Implementation of International Years

Criteria for selection of themes

- 1) A subject proposed for an International Year should be consistent with the purposes and principles listed in the main constitutional instruments of concerned UN system entities (i.e. the United Nations Charter, the FAO Constitution, etc).
- 2) The International Year should address a priority concern to all, or the majority of countries, and should contribute to the development of international cooperation in solving global problems, in particular those affecting developing countries.
- 3) The International Year, if endorsed, should involve concrete action at the international and national levels and should be expected to generate significant follow-up at both levels in the form of new activities or the strengthening of existing ones.
- 4) There should be an interval of at least two years between two International Years, and a longer interval between years concerning similar subjects. The Conference will not call for the proclamation of more than one International Year at a time.
- 5) The proclamation of an International Year should be considered only when celebrations of shorter duration (a month, week or day) would not suffice.
- 6) An International Year should not be proclaimed when a World Conference has been convened separately on the same subject, or when a subject is already of wide international concern and effective programmes exist to further its ends.

Procedures to be followed and other requisites

- 1) Adequate time should be allowed for full consultations, including the fact that a final decision on a proposal is taken by the United Nations General Assembly not earlier than one full year after the introduction of the proposal in order to take into account the views expressed by Members, and to allow a thorough assessment of the proposal by the competent organs.
- 2) In general, there should be a period of two years between the proclamation and the beginning of an International Year.
- 3) An International Year will not be proclaimed unless full financing (which in principle should be based on voluntary contributions) and all organizational arrangements are confirmed.
- 4) There should be effective coordination of the activities of United Nations organizations and bodies concerned so as to build on inherent synergies and avoid duplication.
- 5) Each International Year should have objectives that are likely to lead to identifiable and practical results.
- 6) Arrangements for evaluation should be established in the preparatory phase and form part of the implementation of, and follow-up, to each International Year.