

March 2013



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para la
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COUNCIL

Hundred and Forty-sixth Session

Rome, 22-26 April 2013

Report of the Joint Meeting of the 113th Session of the Programme Committee and 148th Session of the Finance Committee (Rome, 20 March 2013)

Executive Summary

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

- a) Reviewed Strategic Framework (para. 3)
- b) Medium Term Plan 2014-17 and Programme of Work and Budget 2014-15 (para. 4)
- c) Final Management report on IPA implementation and the FAO reform process (para. 5)
- d) FAO strategy for partnerships with the private sector (paras. 6-7)
- e) FAO strategy for partnerships with civil society organizations (paras. 8-9)

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 THIRTEENTH SESSION OF THE PROGRAMME COMMITTEE
AND HUNDRED AND FORTY-EIGHTH SESSION OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE**

Rome, 20 March 2013

INTRODUCTION

1. The Joint Meeting submitted its Report to the Council.
2. In addition to the Chairperson, Mr MOUNGUI MÉDI (Cameroon), and Her Excellency Cecilia Nordin van Gansberghe (Sweden), Chairperson of the Programme 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 F. Lekjaa (Morocco)
Dr M. Rahman (Bangladesh)	Mr R. Elkhuizen (Netherlands)
Mr O. Vieira (Brazil)	Mr N. Fraser (New Zealand)
Mr L.D. Couliadiati (Burkina Faso)	Mr V. V. Kuznetsov (Russian Federation)
Ms D. Price (Canada)	Mr M.E. Elfaki Elnor (Sudan)
Mr Jingyuan Xia (China)	Ms C.E. Grieder (Switzerland)
Mr M.A. Hassan (Egypt)	Ms K.E. Johnson (USA)
Mr A.G. Aseffa (Ethiopia)	

Reviewed Strategic Framework¹

3. The Joint Meeting examined the reviewed Strategic Framework, and in this regard:
 - a) expressed appreciation for the inclusive and participative nature of the Strategic Thinking Process from which it was derived;
 - b) considered the Strategic Framework as the results-based structure that guides FAO's normative and operational work in support of the agreed goals and objectives set by the membership; and noted that the sustainable use of natural resources and partnerships are two essential features of the Strategic Framework;
 - c) recalled that the success of the reviewed Strategic Framework lay in its full and timely implementation;
 - d) noted that revision of Strategic Objectives was undertaken within the context of FAO's established planning and programming cycle which foresees review of the Strategic Framework every four years; and
 - e) recommended the Council endorse the document for approval by the Conference.

¹ C 2013/7

Medium Term Plan 2014-17 and Programme of Work and Budget 2014-15²

4. The Joint Meeting acknowledged the outcome of the separate deliberations of the two Committees on the Medium Term Plan 2014-17 and Programme of Work and Budget 2014-15, noting that the Finance Committee would consider the matter further during its current session. In addition, the Joint Meeting:

- a) noted that the document benefited from the Strategic Thinking and the Transformational Change processes launched in 2012;
- b) stressed the importance of efforts to further elaborate the results model, including the monitoring and evaluation framework, in particular to define measurable, cost-effective and attributable indicators, and to elaborate the relationship between input mix and outputs;
- c) welcomed the efforts of Management to design the implementation arrangements and stressed the importance of a clear delineation of roles, responsibilities and accountability, including for resource management, amongst Strategic Objective Coordinators and managers of organizational units in all locations;
- d) noted the proposals on social protection as contained in the document and requested that due visibility be given to gender, including by considering the retention of the word “gender” in the title of the renamed Social Protection Division;
- e) urged the Secretariat to identify further areas of programmatic emphasis and de-emphasis in elaborating the Strategic Objective action plans;
- f) requested further clarification on work in the area of natural resources in relation to the proposed organizational structure; and
- g) noted the Director-General’s request for guidance from Members on the issue of staff cost increases.

Final Management report on IPA implementation and the FAO reform process³

5. The Joint Meeting reviewed the Final Management Report on the IPA implementation and of the FAO reform process. The Joint Meeting appreciated the work carried out by Prof. Mohammad Saeid Noori Naeini and the entire staff of the Programme Management Unit in the follow-up of FAO reform and IPA implementation. The Joint Meeting:

- a) took note of the discussion at the 148th session of the Finance Committee on the financial aspects provided in the report;
- b) considered that funds made available for the purpose of IPA implementation had been spent effectively and efficiently;
- c) expressed appreciation for the many actions successfully implemented and requested completion of those still outstanding;
- d) requested the Secretariat to provide an update to the June 2013 Conference on the seven IPA actions scheduled for completion prior to Conference;
- e) recognized the benefits associated with IPA implementation, especially on the impact on culture change, and looked forward to continued internalization and mainstreaming of these benefits;

² C 2013/3

³ C 2013/26

- f) suggested that the evaluation of the benefits of the reform scheduled for 2015 should be jointly undertaken by the Office of the Inspector General and the Office of Evaluation; and
- g) recommended the Council endorse the document for approval by the Conference.

FAO strategy for partnerships with the private sector⁴

6. The Joint Meeting reviewed the updated version of the [FAO strategy for partnerships with the private sector](#) and recommended its approval by the Council. The Joint Meeting:

- a) expressed satisfaction that the comments and observations made by the Joint Meeting during its November 2012 session and by the Council at its 145th session had been fully addressed;
- b) commended the Secretariat for the dynamic, inclusive and transparent nature of the consultation process adopted for its finalization;
- c) noted that this consultation process represented a welcome sign of culture change within the Organization;
- d) encouraged the Secretariat to undertake such consultation in future with requisite attention to inclusiveness and transparency; and
- e) requested that guidelines be developed for the terms of reference for multistakeholder partnerships in order to keep the corporate identity of FAO.

7. In addition, the Joint Meeting:

- a) recognized that the strategy is a living document;
- b) highlighted the importance of the strategy in improving governance in agricultural development;
- c) highlighted the importance of the strategy in relation to FAO's mandate and pursuit of its Strategic Objectives in collaboration with key stakeholders;
- d) welcomed its decentralized level approach;
- e) reasserted the central role of Member States in its implementation at the country level with the *modus operandi* defined in the Country Programming Frameworks;
- f) emphasized the need for maintaining FAO's neutrality and impartiality;
- g) indicated the need to report to Members on a yearly basis on its implementation; and
- h) underlined the distinction between national and international private sectors.

FAO strategy for partnerships with civil society organizations⁵

8. The Joint Meeting reviewed the updated version of the FAO strategy for partnerships with civil society organizations and recommended its approval by Council. The Joint Meeting:

- a) expressed satisfaction that the comments and observations made by the Joint Meeting during its November 2012 session and by the Council at its 145th session had been fully addressed;
- b) commended the Secretariat for the dynamic, inclusive and transparent nature of the consultation process adopted for its finalization;
- c) noted that this consultation process represented a welcome sign of culture change within the Organization; and
- d) encouraged the Secretariat to undertake such consultation in future with requisite attention to inclusiveness and transparency.

⁴ JM 2013.1/2

⁵ CL 146/8

9. In addition, the Joint Meeting:
- a) recognized that the strategy is a living document;
 - b) welcomed the strategy as a move in the right direction in terms of governance in agriculture development;
 - c) highlighted the importance of the strategy in relation to FAO's mandate and pursuit of its strategic objectives in collaboration with key stakeholders;
 - d) reasserted the central role of Member States in its implementation at the country level with the modus operandi defined in Country Programming Frameworks;
 - e) indicated the need to report to Members on a yearly basis on its implementation;
 - f) emphasized the need for maintaining FAO's neutrality and impartiality; and
 - g) underlined, in the context of Country Programming Frameworks, the importance of national civil society organizations which have outreach capacities and detailed knowledge of grassroots realities and regional contexts.

Any other business

10. There was no discussion under this item.