

November 2013

	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-eighth Session

Rome, 2-6 December 2013

Report of the Joint Meeting of the 114th Session of the Programme and 151st Session of the Finance Committees (13 November 2013)

Executive Summary

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

- Adjustments to the Programme of Work and Budget 2014-15 (paras. 3-5)
- Enhancement of the Technical Cooperation Programme (para. 6)
- Report on structure and functioning of decentralized offices network (paras. 7-8)
- Arrangements for an independent review of governance reforms (para. 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 FOURTEENTH SESSION OF THE PROGRAMME
COMMITTEE AND HUNDRED AND FIFTY-FIRST SESSION OF THE FINANCE
COMMITTEE**

Rome, 13 November 2013

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 Mougui Médi (Cameroon), Chairperson of the Finance Committee, the following representatives of Members were present:

Mr R. Ayazi (Afghanistan)	Mr V. Sharan (India)
Mr M. Mellah (Algeria) ¹	Mr H. Yamada (Japan)
Mr G.O. Infante (Argentina)	Ms E.M. José Rodriguez Sifuentes (Mexico)
Mr M. Worrell (Australia)	Mr M. Lemghari (Morocco)
Ms N. Feistritz (Austria)	Mr R. Rajasekar (New Zealand)
Mr O. Vieira (Brazil) ²	Mr K. Mehboob (Pakistan)
Ms E. Robinson (Canada)	Mr V. V. Kuznetsov (Russian Federation)
Mr Jingyuan Xia (China)	Ms A. Malik Osman (Sudan)
Mr J.A. Carranza (Ecuador)	Ms C.E. Grieder (Switzerland)
Mr A.G. Aseffa (Ethiopia)	Ms N. Brown (USA) ³
Mr G.F. Cramer (Germany)	H.E. K.A. Al-Akwa (Yemen)
Mr A. Traoré (Guinea)	

Adjustments to the Programme of Work and Budget 2014-15⁴

3. The Joint Meeting welcomed the adjustments to the Programme of Work and Budget (PWB) 2014-15, noting that they reflected fully and accurately the decisions and requests of the 38th session of the Conference.
4. The Joint Meeting supported the recommendations arising from the discussions held separately in the Programme Committee and the Finance Committee. In addition, the Joint Meeting:
 - a) appreciated that budgetary savings had been identified in line with the guidance of Conference for the need to fully implement the Programme of Work in the most cost effective manner;
 - b) encouraged deeper collaboration amongst the Rome-based agencies, in particular by seeking convergence of financial, administrative and management systems and processes with a view to achieving further efficiency gains and savings;
 - c) highlighted the importance of efficient human resources management, effective workforce planning, coordination of the cross-cutting themes, coherence between outcomes and indicators, and the internal governance role of the Corporate Programmes Monitoring Board;
 - d) suggested an increase in the target for timely despatch and translation of documents in indicator 10.1.A;

¹ Ms K. Boubekeur attended part of the Joint Meeting in representation of Algeria

² Mr M.J. Alonso Bezerra dos Santos attended part of the Joint Meeting in representation of Brazil

³ Ms M.B. Rios attended part of the Joint Meeting in representation of the United States of America

⁴ CL 148/3

- e) in line with the observation of the Programme Committee on the process and methodology for developing indicators, requested that updated versions of Annexes 5 and 6 be prepared for the 148th session of the Council.
5. The Joint Meeting:
- a) recommended the Council approve the revised budgeted post establishment;
 - b) recommended the Council approve the revised distribution of the net appropriation by budgetary chapter as reflected in Table 4 of document CL 148/3;
 - c) noted that further budgetary transfers could arise as a result of work planning, as well as from using the most efficient and effective modalities of implementation during the biennium. In this context, the Joint Meeting recalled that within chapter transfers and transfers from one chapter to another required to implement the PWB during the biennium would be handled in accordance with Financial Regulation 4.5.

Enhancement of the Technical Cooperation Programme⁵

6. The Joint Meeting commended the Secretariat for the document. The Joint Meeting:
- a) strongly supported the bottom-up alignment of the TCP with national priorities as reflected in the Country Programming Frameworks;
 - b) strongly supported the alignment and the contribution of the TCP to the reviewed Strategic Framework;
 - c) recognized TCP's central role, especially for capacity development;
 - d) stressed that harmonization and simplification of procedures and guidelines are essential;
 - e) underlined that the TCP can and should play a catalytic role for gender, emergency and social protection, as well as for resource mobilization, as TCP resources can act as seed funding;
 - f) emphasized the need to continue efforts in shortening the appraisal and approval time for TCP projects and ensuring timely implementation;
 - g) requested regular updates on implementation at future sessions.

Report on structure and functioning of decentralized offices network⁶

7. The Joint Meeting welcomed the progress made on strengthening the structure and functioning of the decentralized offices network in line with guidance by the Council at its 144th session. The Joint Meeting:
- a) commended the progress in the decentralization process;
 - b) welcomed the comprehensive roll-out of Country Programming Frameworks, which address country needs and priorities in a bottom-up approach, as well as contributing to FAO's Strategic Objectives;
 - c) appreciated the successful implementation of the new procedure for the appointment and assessment of FAO Representatives (FAORs), and appointment of Deputy FAORs;
 - d) welcomed the implementation of the Global Resource Management System across the network, highlighted its value in respect of internal control, encouraged the implementation of measures to ensure data quality, and emphasized the importance of its full stabilization;
 - e) noted the need for appropriate resources and capacity in the decentralized offices network;
 - f) encouraged further reflection on the criteria for country offices in the future;
 - g) encouraged further efforts as concerns gender and the full use of national staff capacity.
8. The Joint Meeting requested that future reports on the decentralized offices network encompass the regional and subregional offices, and contain information on cross-cutting challenges.

⁵ JM 2013.2/2

⁶ JM 2013.2/3

Arrangements for an Independent Review of Governance Reforms⁷

9. The Joint Meeting took note of document CL 148/10 - *Arrangements for an Independent Review of Governance Reforms* and endorsed the proposed arrangements with the following comments:

- a) the Independent Chairperson of the Council should have the oversight role of the Review;
- b) the purpose of the Review is to carry out an evidence-based assessment of progress in governance reforms as identified in the IPA⁸ and identify areas for further improvement and adjustments;
- c) for the purpose of the Review and on an exceptional basis, meetings may be convened by the Independent Chairperson of the Council with the Chairpersons and Vice-Chairpersons of the Regional Groups, which will be: (i) open-ended; (ii) properly scheduled and well prepared; and (iii) provided with translated documents which are issued on time;
- d) noted that any increase in the budget level from that considered previously by the Council of USD 111,000 would be covered from existing resources.

Any other business

10. There was no discussion under this item.

⁷ CL 148/10

⁸ Immediate Plan of Action (IPA)