

## **Multi-year Programmes of Work for the Governing Bodies**

### **1. Background**

1. Under the Immediate Plan of Action for FAO Renewal (IPA), reform actions aiming at improving the effectiveness of FAO governance include the development of Multi-year Programmes of Work (MYPOWs) for the Governing Bodies. In this regard, the relevant IPA actions provide for the following:

*The Council, Programme and Finance Committees, CCLM, Regional Conferences and Technical Committees will each: (action 2.70)*

- a) *prepare a multiyear programme of work of at least four years duration, once per biennium which will be reviewed by the Council and/or Conference (in accordance with their respective reporting lines) (action 2.71);*
- b) *prepare a report of their progress against the Programme of Work once every two years also for review by the Council and/or Conference (action 2.72).*

2. These actions were confirmed in November 2009 by the FAO Conference in endorsing the Report of the CoC-IEE on the IPA<sup>1</sup>, which pointed out that MYPOWs for the Council, the Council Committees and the Regional Conferences should be developed<sup>2</sup>. This has been further supported by Council at its last session in May 2010<sup>3</sup>.

### **2. Progress to date**

#### ***Programme Committee Multi-year Programme of Work 2010-13***

3. At its April 2010 session, the Programme Committee considered and approved its Multi-year Programme of Work 2010-13, which had been prepared by the Chairperson of the Committee, in consultation with Committee Members, in the course of two informal seminars held on 4 February and 4 March 2010<sup>4</sup>.

4. Under its MYPOW, the Committee is to provide Council with a solid analytical basis for sound, timely, effective and efficient decision-making with respect to the choice of priorities, programmes and plans in order to improve the quality of FAO's work and strengthen the delivery of its services to Member Nations.

5. The results to be achieved through the Committee's MYPOW cover the following five areas: (i) programme planning and priority setting; (ii) results-based monitoring of programme implementation; (iii) evaluation; (iv) IPA implementation and integration into PWB; and (v) improved methods of work and efficiency of the Committee.

6. The Committee's Multi-year Programme of Work 2010-13 was endorsed by Council at its last session in May<sup>5</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> *Report of the Conference of FAO, Thirty-sixth Session, Rome, 18-23 November 2009*, C 2009/REP, Resolution 4/2009, p. 20, and Annex D, paragraph 72, p. D25.

<sup>2</sup> *Report of the CoC-IEE to the FAO Conference on the Immediate Plan of Action for FAO Renewal*, C 2009/7, paragraph 72, p. 29.

<sup>3</sup> *Hundred and Thirty-ninth Session of the Council, Rome, 17-21 May 2010*, CL 139/REP, paragraph 53.

<sup>4</sup> *Programme Committee Multi-year Programme of Work 2010-13*, CL 139/4 Annex 2.

<sup>5</sup> *Hundred and Thirty-ninth Session of the Council, Rome, 17-21 May 2010*, CL 139/REP, paragraph 33.

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### ***Finance Committee draft Multi-year Programme of Work 2010-13***

7. At its April 2010 session, the Finance Committee considered its draft Multi-year Programme of Work 2010-13, noting that informal discussions amongst members on 9 April 2010 had led to the formulation of a draft document within the context of results-based governance. In this regard, the Committee underlined the need to provide Council with technically sound recommendations and guidance, whilst cognizant that the latter's decisions might also involve considerations of a political dimension.

8. The Committee also observed that collaboration with the Programme Committee on key areas of joint interest, such as the review of the Programme of Work and Budget, was needed, noting that the Committee's Chairperson would consult closely with the Chairperson of the Programme Committee and the Independent Chairperson of the Council in this regard. Such collaboration and consultation is foreseen in the MYPOW of the Programme Committee.

9. The Committee further examined and enhanced its draft MYPOW at an informal meeting held on 1 June 2010. It agreed that, based on additional inputs by Members by end June, the document would be finalised for subsequent consideration and approval by the Committee in October 2010.

10. The Committee's agreed MYPOW would then be endorsed by Council at its next session in November-December 2010.

### **3. Future steps**

11. At its May 2010 session, in endorsing the Programme Committee's MYPOW, Council appreciated the progress made by the Finance Committee in preparing its own MYPOW. In addition, Council looked forward to reviewing, at a future session, the MYPOWs of the Finance Committee, the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters, the Regional Conferences and the Technical Committees<sup>6</sup>.

### ***Multi-year Programme of Work 2010-13 for Council***

12. Under the guidance of the Independent Chairperson of the Council, preparatory work was initiated in May for the development of the Council Multi-year Programme of Work 2010-13. As a result of this initial effort, it is expected that a draft MYPOW for Council will be discussed by Members at informal seminars in July and September 2010.

13. Through this participatory consultation process, a consensual draft MYPOW should be formulated for review and possible approval by Council at its next session in November-December 2010.

### ***Multi-year Programme of Work for the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters***

14. Under the guidance of the Chairperson of the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters (CCLM), a draft MYPOW for CCLM will be prepared for review and input by Committee Members.

15. Subsequently, the draft MYPOW should be considered and possibly approved by CCLM at its forthcoming session in September 2010.

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<sup>6</sup> *Hundred and Thirty-ninth Session of the Council, Rome, 17-21 May 2010, CL 139/REP, paragraph 53.*

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16. The CCLM agreed MYPOW would then be endorsed by Council at its next session in November-December 2010.

### ***Multi-year Programmes of Work for the Technical Committees and the Regional Conferences***

17. As called for by the IPA, MYPOWs should also be prepared, once per biennium, by the Technical Committees and the Regional Conferences. As with the other Governing Bodies, such MYPOWs should have a duration of at least four years, and should be reviewed by the Council and/or the Conference, in accordance with the respective reporting lines of the Technical Committees and the Regional Conferences.

18. Due to their novelty, however, MYPOWs have not been included in the provisional agendas of the 2010 sessions of the Regional Conferences and the Technical Committees. Thus, they have not been addressed at any meeting of those bodies so far, nor are they expected to be covered at future sessions in the course of 2010.

19. As the Regional Conferences meet once per biennium, the next round of their sessions should take place in 2012. Draft MYPOWs should therefore be prepared for review and approval by the five Regional Conferences when they meet in 2012.

20. Similarly, the Committee on Agriculture (COAG), the Committee on Commodity Problems (CCP), the Committee on Fisheries (COFI), and the Committee on Forestry (COFO), which all meet once every two years, should also hold their next sessions in 2012. At that time, draft MYPOWs should be ready for review and approval by the four Committees.

21. As for the Committee on World Food security (CFS), since its sessions are held annually, it should be in position to review and approve its draft MYPOW when it meets in October 2011.

22. In the meantime, a preliminary discussion on MYPOWs could take place at the 2010 sessions of CFS, COFI and COFO, as part of their deliberations on their methods of work.

## **4. Reporting progress on Multi-year Programmes of Work**

23. Besides agreeing their MYPOWs, the Council, Finance Committee, Programme Committee, CCLM, Regional Conferences and Technical Committees are required to “prepare a report of their progress against the Programme of Work once every two years also for review by the Council and/or Conference” (IPA action 2.72).

24. In line with this action, the MYPOW of the Programme Committee, for example, explicitly calls for reporting on the MYPOW at the end of the biennium under section E, entitled *Improved methods of work and efficiency of the Programme Committee*. A similar requirement is found in the draft MYPOW of the Finance Committee.

25. Likewise, all the other Governing Bodies should make provision for such reporting on achievements in their MYPOWs, and all of them should actually submit their report on progress at the end of the biennium: (i) either to Council only in respect of the Finance Committee, the Programme Committee and the CCLM; (ii) or to Council and Conference with regard to the other Governing Bodies. As to the Council report, it should be submitted to Conference in June-July 2011.