

168th Session of the Council

Item 8: Reports of the 131st (Special) (29 July 2021) and 132nd (8-12 November 2021) Sessions of the Programme Committee

Mr Chairperson, Members of Council,

I am pleased to present the Report of the 132nd Session of the Programme Committee.

The 132nd Session of the Programme Committee was held from 8 to 12 November and its Report was adopted on 12 November 2021, which is submitted to the Council in document CL 168/8.

The Programme Committee had 17 items on its agenda, including four items for information. The session was conducted in a hybrid modality due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Having regard to this exceptional modality, the Committee confirmed that participation by designated representatives through virtual modality constituted attendance at the Session, which was convened at the seat of the Organization in accordance with Rule II(5) of the Rules of Procedure of the Committee.

I would like to highlight the following matters for the attention of the Council.

The Committee reviewed the adjustments to the Programme of Work and Budget 2022-23 in accordance of Rule XXVI of General Rules of the Organization (GRO), and welcomed the reviewed number of Programme Priority Areas (PPAs) and allocation of budget between the *four betters*. The Committee further welcomed the updated results framework and supported the proposed approach to results planning, monitoring and reporting.

The Committee welcomed the designation of the Hand-in-Hand (HIH) Initiative as one of the 20 PPAs and encouraged FAO to continue working to develop the HIH Initiative as a transparent and accountable initiative that supports transformation of agri-food systems and rural development.

The Committee welcomed the updated Due Diligence mechanisms and procedures under the new Framework for Risk Assessment and Management for Engagements (FRAME), and the Terms of Reference (ToRs) of the informal Private Sector Advisory Group (PSAG).

The Committee appreciated the comprehensive approach of the Proposal to address the key recommendations of the Evaluation of FAO Statistical Work, and reiterated the importance and critical role of the Organization's statistical work and the data for its elaboration.

The Committee welcomed the outlines and roadmaps for the new strategies on Climate Change and on Science and Innovation, recommended the Council endorse them and looked forward to continued engagement in the development processes of these two strategies.

The Committee appreciated the timely and comprehensive Evaluation of FAO's role and work on the humanitarian-development-peace (HDP) nexus and the first phase of the Real-time Evaluation of FAO's COVID-19 Response and Recovery Programme, including the proposed actions and commitments by Management. The Committee approved the rolling work plan of evaluations 2022-25.

H.E. (Ms) Yael Rubinstein, Chairperson of the Programme Committee