



Members' Update

FAO renewal



FAO's 'internal vision statement' is unveiled

Director-General Jacques Diouf has unveiled FAO's "internal vision statement" to staff.

The statement begins by outlining the fundamental remit of FAO's work – striving for a world free of hunger and malnutrition where agriculture contributes to improving living standards in a sustainable manner – before outlining a set of values and desired behaviours to guide FAO's future actions.

The vision statement was drawn up following consultations with over 1 000 staff worldwide and forms an essential milestone in the culture change process and the path towards renewal at FAO.

"Our vision statement is about how we work together and how we work with external partners in order to turn our noble mission into a reality," said Diouf.

"It is about creating a culture that can commit us to providing results and quality service, by holding ourselves to the highest standards of integrity and recognizing and respecting diversity of ideas and people. It is about optimizing our potential and making us proud to work together as colleagues and to contribute to this Organization's noble mandate.

"So above all, it is about better meeting the needs of those we serve. This collective vision is a crucial step in bringing about the culture change we've been working towards."

An event to launch of the statement on 5 November – "Vision Day" – was attended by more than 1 000 staff at headquarters, with hundreds more watching and listening by web stream or videoconference from 165 offices worldwide. It was the first time in FAO's history that staff at headquarters and all regions had been simultaneously connected to one another.

“Teamwork, knowledge sharing and learning are the essence of our work practices. We are proud to work for FAO and are fully committed to its mission of building a food-secure world,” the statement reads.

Diouf stressed that the statement formed one part of a much wider process.

“The launch of our vision statement is just one step of many in transforming the policies, practices, values and behaviours of our Organization. Vision Day marks an important milestone on the journey of FAO’s renewal,” he said.

“I am pleased that many positive initiatives have already started in departments, divisions and field offices aimed at improving the way work is planned, knowledge is shared, teams are put together and work is carried out.

“There are small culture change teams budding across FAO, and ultimately we are all members of the culture change process.”

Trust fund update

Total contributions received by the Trust Fund for implementation of the Immediate Plan of Action stood at US\$7 849 326 as of 5 November.

The EC has paid US\$1 380 814 and the United Kingdom US\$541 480, while US\$5 000 has been received from Lithuania, since the previous update in this newsletter.

Thirty-five pledges, totalling US\$8 527 401, have been made.

The FAO Conference established the Trust Fund to receive Members' extrabudgetary contributions.

The target for funding in 2009 is US\$15.25 million, inclusive of programme support costs. Within this target, US\$10.51 million is for high-priority projects and actions that have been sequenced by management and need to be executed during 2009.

On 5 November, the chairperson of the CoC-IEE appealed to Members to pledge at least an additional US\$2 million, so as to reach a target figure of US\$10.51 million in 2009.

Comments? Suggestions? Write to Members-Update@fao.org.