



Members' Update

FAO renewal



FAO Members to consider blueprint for future

A blueprint for taking a renewed FAO into the next decade and beyond is ready for consideration by Members, in the form of the results-based strategic framework 2010-19, medium-term plan 2010-13 and programme of work and budget 2010-11, which have been prepared in line with the Immediate Plan of Action.

Director-General Jacques Diouf said that with these planning documents, “Members should be in a position to make sure that this Organization can operate on a firm footing from the beginning of the next biennium.”

The Strategic Framework provides the long-term Vision and Goals of Members – a world free from hunger and malnutrition, where food and agriculture contribute to improving living standards, especially the poorest, in an economically, socially and environmentally sustainable manner

It sets out the 11 concrete and concise Strategic Objectives that Members aim to achieve with assistance from FAO, taking account of the challenges and opportunities facing food, agriculture and rural development. The framework also identifies the means of action to achieve the Strategic Objectives, through the application of eight core functions reflecting areas of FAO’s comparative advantage as well as actions for effective collaboration with member states and stakeholders, and efficient and effective administration.

Diouf said “The Strategic Objectives reflect a fair measure of compromise among the many different aspirations prevailing in the Membership, especially at such a complex and critical juncture in the evolution of the food and agriculture sector, both globally and in individual regions and countries, when more than 1 billion people are going hungry.”

The medium-term plan and programme of work and budget form the “operational arm” of the framework, linking means to ends, and connecting results to resources.

The plans show assessed and voluntary contributions in a unified programme of work. This “integrated budget” is in line with IPA recommendations and aims to improve governance, oversight and adherence to a results-based framework of all resources flowing through FAO. Consequently, implementation of the IPA is fully treated under the PWB, with just over half funded from assessed contributions and the balance from Core Voluntary contributions. Overall, assessed contributions account for 44 percent of the funding for the programme of work.

Drawing up the documents was especially complex as they needed to take account of and reflect factors such as: wide-ranging reforms detailed in the IPA and the report of the Root and Branch Review of corporate services; a planned new Organizational structure at headquarters and measures for more effective decentralized operations; improving financial health, liquidity and reserves; and the new results-based approach.

The planning documents will be considered by the CoC-IEE this month, and at FAO Council beginning 28 September, before being submitted for decision by FAO’s governing Conference in November.

Trust fund update

Total pledges received by the Trust Fund for implementation of the Immediate Plan of Action had risen to US\$8 328 798 as of 1 September.

Spain pledged US\$600 000 and the United States US\$500 000, while the United Kingdom increased its amount to US\$576 606. Twenty-nine pledges have now been made, with Sweden offering US\$164 090 and Egypt US\$20 000 since our previous newsletter.

Payments to the fund total US\$4 992 474. The Netherlands contributed an extra US\$200 000, bringing its total to US\$400 000, while Thailand paid US\$50 000 and Mauritius US\$5 000.

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 are for high priority projects and actions that have been sequenced by management and need to be executed during 2009.

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