



Members' Update

FAO renewal



Conference backs full funding for renewal plan

FAO Members at the Organization's governing Conference in late November agreed to fully fund implementation of the Immediate Plan of Action for FAO renewal over the next two years.

The agreed programme of work and budget for FAO in 2010-11 sets aside US\$39 600 000 for the IPA, comprising an estimated US\$18 200 000 net recurring costs and US\$21 400 000 investment costs.

This forms part of an overall budget of US\$1.0005 billion for the biennium funded from assessed contributions, a nominal increase of 7.6 percent over the previous two-year budget.

During the debate, Members stressed the importance of the reform and renewal process and of guaranteed funding for it. The Conference also reiterated the concept of "reform with growth" – as articulated in the Independent External Evaluation that set the renewal in motion – and the need to maintain momentum.

Director-General Jacques Diouf echoed these sentiments when he addressed the Conference session, which took place at FAO headquarters in Rome.

"The implementation of the IPA has been a major objective of both Members and the Secretariat since it was adopted by the special session of the Conference in November 2008," he said.

“On my part, it is at the top of my agenda. The reason is self-evident. A renewed FAO will be able to rise to the challenge of the heightened expectations that the world now has for national and international action to address food insecurity.”

“Our collective reform efforts will deliver an Organization that can play its rightful part in helping the international community deliver the commitments made in the L’Aquila Food Security Initiative and at the just-concluded World Summit on Food Security.”

Diouf stressed that the 2010-11 programme of work and budget, which was underpinned by a ten-year Strategic Framework that had also been approved by the Conference, highlighted in clear terms the necessary means to ensure substantial reform while simultaneously implementing an effective programme of work.

He also reflected on progress to date in showing what could be achieved from assessed and voluntary contributions, with major elements including the introduction of a results-based planning framework and change towards a results-based culture.

“We are only at the end of the first year of the five-year period envisaged for the implementation of the IPA but have already completed 56 percent of the actions planned.” he said.

“We have demonstrated that we mean business, not simply through words, but through actions. Major and complex projects lie ahead, and the commitment of staff coupled with the support of Members gives me confidence that, together, we will succeed”

Trust fund requires further US\$1.9 million for 2009

The vast majority of pledges to the trust fund set up to finance implementation of the Immediate Plan of Action for FAO Renewal have now been honoured.

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

France and Turkey are the latest countries to have contributed, with the former having paid the final tranche of its US\$900 000 pledge and the latter US\$60 000. A total of 35 pledges have been made, totalling US\$8 620 214.

This leaves a current US\$1.89 million shortfall, after US\$10.51 million was earmarked for high-priority projects and actions identified by management as critical to be executed during 2009.

“It has been very encouraging to see members backing their support for FAO renewal with contributions, and we hope members will still consider further contributions to help us close the gap for 2009” said assistant director-general Manoj Juneja.

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