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FINANCE COMMITTEE

Hundred and Fifty-seventh Session

Rome, 9 - 13 March 2015

Status of Outstanding Recommendations of the Finance Committee

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- This document presents the updated status of outstanding recommendations made by the Committee at its previous sessions.

GUIDANCE SOUGHT FROM THE FINANCE COMMITTEE

- The Committee is invited to take note of the information presented in this document.

Draft Advice

- **The Committee took note of the Status of Outstanding Recommendations of the Finance Committee and looked forward to receiving an updated version of the document at its next regular session.**

Recommendation	Status
I. FINANCIAL POSITION	
Report of the 156th Session of the Finance Committee – document CL 150/4	
<p>The Committee (on the <i>Financial Position of the Organization</i>) <u>requested</u> the Secretariat to continue exploring measures to encourage timely payment of assessed contributions, in particular by examining and applying best practices in this regard used by other international bodies.</p> <p>- paragraph 7</p>	<p>Additional information will be included in the document on the Financial Position of the Organization to be presented to the autumn 2015 Session of the FC.</p>
<p>The Committee (on the <i>Audited Accounts - FAO 2012-13</i>) <u>requested</u> the Office of the Inspector General to review and report on the proposed procurement strategy. Furthermore, it <u>requested</u> the Inspector-General to provide detailed information on matters related to fraud and presumptive fraud.</p> <p>- paragraph 9</p>	<p>Information will be provided in the 2014 Annual Report of the Inspector General to be presented to the spring 2015 Session of the FC (item 13).</p>
<p>The Committee (on the <i>Funding of After Service Medical Coverage (ASMC) Liabilities</i>) <u>requested</u> the Secretariat to continue in its efforts to contain the costs of medical insurance; and to report back at its next regular session when it would consider the results of the 2014 Actuarial valuation of staff related liabilities.</p> <p>- paragraph 14</p>	<p>Information will be provided in the 2014 Actuarial valuation of staff related liabilities to be presented to the spring 2015 Session of the FC (item 6).</p>
II. BUDGETARY MATTERS	
Report of the 148th Session of the Finance Committee – document CL 146/3	
<p>The Committee (on the <i>Mid-Term Review Synthesis Report for 2012</i>):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>looked forward</u> to future reports which should include improved information on measuring financial performance in the delivery of Organizational Results as the results-based budgeting model is further elaborated; and • <u>requested</u> that reporting on performance in the Asia and the Pacific Regional Office clearly delineate performance in the South West Pacific Subregional Office. <p>- paragraph 19</p>	<p>To be addressed in the MTR Report for 2014 to be presented to the spring 2015 Session of the FC (item 7).</p>

Recommendation	Status
Report of the 154th Session of the Finance Committee – document CL 149/4	
<p>The Committee (on the <i>Annual Report on Budgetary Performance and Programme and Budgetary Transfers in the 2012-13 Biennium</i>) received upon its request preliminary information on how the unspent balance of USD 9.6 million would be used in 2014-15 to cover additional expenditures of a one-time nature associated with transformational change as authorized by Conference Resolution 7/2013, and the Committee <u>looked forward</u> to receiving further information for discussion at its next Session - paragraph 19</p>	<p>Information will be provided with the next Annual Report on Budgetary Performance and Programme and Budgetary Transfers in the 2014-15 Biennium which is due to be presented to the spring 2015 Session of the FC (item 8).</p>
Report of the 156th Session of the Finance Committee – document CL 150/4	
<p>The Committee (on a <i>Comprehensive Financial Framework for cost recovery - Update</i>):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>requested</u> the Secretariat to prepare a new FAO cost recovery policy based on the CFF model for consideration at its next regular session. This policy should include definition of the new cost categories, criteria for implementation and clear guidelines for the flexible application of the ISC rate to ensure transparency; • endorsed the timeframe and implementation milestones put forward in the document and <u>requested</u> the Secretariat to prepare an implementation plan, with particular attention to transitional arrangements, for consideration at its next regular session. <p>- paragraph 18</p>	<p>A document on the FAO Cost Recovery Policy will be presented to the spring 2015 Session of the FC (item 10).</p>
III. HUMAN RESOURCES	
Report of the 156th Session of the Finance Committee – document CL 150/4	
<p>The Committee (on the <i>Progress Report on the Implementation of the Human Resources Strategic Framework and Action Plan</i>) <u>requested</u> that particular attention be given to the current deployment of GRMS and iRecruitment functionality in decentralized offices, improvements to geographical representation, and on retention measures for Junior Professional Officers (JPOs) and Associate Professional Officers (APOs) and looked forward to an updated progress report at its next regular session, including information on delegations of authority and APOs and JPOs</p> <p>- paragraph 22</p>	<p>Progress Report to be presented to the spring 2015 Session of the FC (item 11).</p>

Recommendation	Status
<p>The Committee (on the <i>Recommendations and Decisions of the International Civil Service Commission and the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Board to the General Assembly (including Changes in the Salary Scales and Allowances)</i>) <u>requested</u> that the Secretariat report back to the Committee at its next regular session on developments and progress in the Review of the Compensation Package by the ICSC and on resolutions adopted by the United Nation General Assembly related to conditions of service of staff covered by document FC 156/11.</p> <p>- paragraph 24</p>	<p>Information will be provided to the spring 2015 Session of the FC (document FC 157/INF/3).</p>
IV. ADMINISTRATIVE AND INFORMATION SYSTEMS FRAMEWORK	
Report of the 154th Session of the Finance Committee – document CL 149/4	
<p>The Committee (on the <i>Progress Report on the Global Resource Management Programme</i>):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>requested</u> that the Secretariat continue to report on the business benefits realized through the implementation of the GRMS; <p>- paragraph 27</p>	<p>Information will be provided to the autumn 2015 Session of the FC.</p>
V. OVERSIGHT	
Report of the 148th Session of the Finance Committee – document CL 146/3	
<p>The Committee (on the <i>Annual report of the Ethics Committee</i>) <u>requested</u> that when presenting future Annual reports, the report of the Ethics Officer should also be made available to the Finance Committee and noted that the Secretariat would examine this request in light of the practice of other Organizations of the United Nations System - paragraph 38</p>	<p>Examination of the request will be considered with the 2014 Annual Report to be presented to the spring 2015 Session of the FC (item 16).</p>
<p>The Committee (on the <i>Review of Article XIV Statutory Bodies with a view to allowing them to exercise greater financial and administrative authority while remaining within the framework of FAO</i>) noted that Management was in the process of implementing the recommendations contained in Appendix II to document FC 148/21, and generally reflected in paragraph 27 of that document, which were within Management’s authority, and <u>requested</u> a report on the matter at a future session of the Committee, possibly as part of the IPA follow-up report by the Secretariat - paragraph 50</p>	<p>Report to be presented to the spring 2015 Session of the FC (item 17).</p>

Recommendation	Status
Report of the 154th Session of the Finance Committee – document CL 149/4	
<p>The Committee (on the <i>2013 Annual Report of the Office of the Inspector-General</i>):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>highlighted</u> the importance of strengthening internal control in the Organization and in particular in relation to the Decentralized Offices Network, and requested updates from management and the Inspector-General in this regard at its regular session in Spring 2015; • <u>looked forward</u> to an update on the status of GRMS implementation and operation at its regular session in Spring 2015; • <u>requested</u> the Office of the Inspector-General to closely monitor the progress on the preparation of the Organization’s 2014 IPSAS-compliant financial statements and to include an assessment of this in its 2014 annual report; <p>- paragraph 30</p>	<p>Information will be provided in the 2014 Annual Report of the Inspector General to be presented to the Spring 2015 Session of the FC (item 13).</p>
<p>The Committee (on <i>FAO Audit Committee Membership</i>) <u>requested</u> that for future appointments of Audit Committee members, the candidate identification process be reviewed, considering practices adopted in some other agencies of the United Nations System</p> <p>- paragraph 34.</p>	<p>Additional information on the identification process will be included when the Finance Committee is next presented with recommendations for appointment to FAO Audit Committee Membership.</p>
<p>The Committee (on the <i>2013 Annual Report of the Ethics Committee</i>) looked forward to receiving more detailed information in the next report of the Ethics Committee on issues covered by the deliberations of the Committee, including on aspects related to partnerships with the private sector, on the presentation of Human Resources policies, rules and procedures in the Administrative Manual and on activities related to ethics education and awareness raising - paragraph 36.</p>	<p>Report to be presented to the Spring 2015 Session of the FC (item 16).</p>
Report of the 156th Session of the Finance Committee – document CL 150/4	
<p>The Committee (on the <i>Status of Implementation of Internal Audit Recommendations</i>) <u>requested</u> that the Legal Counsel present at the Committee’s next regular session in spring 2015, a detailed report on actions taken with regard to past recommendations to increase delegations of authority to Article XIV bodies, taking into account the differentiated nature of these bodies - paragraph 28</p>	<p>Report to be presented to the spring 2015 Session of the FC (item 17).</p>

Recommendation	Status
<p>The Committee (on the <i>Progress Report on an Accountability and Internal Control Framework</i>) <u>requested</u> the Secretariat to present a report on implementation of the Accountability Policy at the Spring 2015 meeting of the Finance Committee and on the Internal Control Framework at the Spring 2016 meeting of the Finance Committee - paragraph 32.</p>	<p>Report on Accountability Policy to be presented to the spring 2015 sessions of the FC (item 15).</p> <p>Report on Internal Control Framework to be presented to the spring 2016 sessions of the FC.</p>
<p>The Committee (on the <i>Status of Implementation of JIU Recommendations</i>) <u>requested</u> that the next annual report to the Committee on implementation of JIU recommendations include a list of those recommendations not yet implemented - paragraph 34</p>	<p>Information will be provided in the Annual Report to be presented to the autumn 2015 session of the FC.</p>
VI. WORKING METHODS OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE	
Report of the 156th Session of the Finance Committee – document CL 150/4	
<p>The Committee <u>requested</u> the Secretariat to organize informal meetings of the Committee before its next regular session in Spring 2015 to review matters related to the Medium Term Plan and Programme of Work and Budget 2016-17 and the Review of Article XIV Statutory Bodies with a view to allowing them to exercise greater financial and administrative authority while remaining within the framework of FAO - paragraph 39</p>	<p>Informal meetings will be scheduled prior to the spring 2015 session of the FC.</p>
VII. ANY OTHER MATTERS	
Report of the 156th Session of the Finance Committee – document CL 150/4	
<p>The Committee <u>requested</u> the Secretariat to present a detailed report on the financial and budgetary aspects of ICN2 (Rome, 19 - 21 November 2014) at its next regular session in spring 2015. - paragraph 42</p>	<p>Information will be provided to the spring 2015 session of the FC</p>