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JOINT MEETING

**Hundred and Thirtieth Session of the Programme Committee and
Hundred and Eighty-fifth Session of the Finance Committee**

22 March 2021

FAO Awards

Queries on the substantive content of this document may be addressed to:

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This document outlines the proposal by FAO Management for the establishment of a new set of systematic and sustainable FAO Awards to invigorate the process leveraging the FAO brand. This proposal responds to Members' concerns regarding the effectiveness and sustainability of FAO's current awards, and has been informed by Members' inputs in the context of informal consultations carried out by the Independent Chairperson of the Council, most recently on 26 February 2021. This document also outlines the process foreseen, through informal consultations with Members and formal review by the Governing Bodies, leading to consideration and approval by the 42nd Session of the Conference.

GUIDANCE SOUGHT FROM THE JOINT MEETING

The Joint Meeting is invited to provide guidance, as deemed appropriate.

Draft Advice

The Joint Meeting:

- **welcomed the consultation process carried out by the Independent Chairperson of the Council on defining consistent and sustainable conditions for the award of prizes;**
- **took note of the Management Proposal for the establishment of a new set of systematic and sustainable FAO Awards to leverage the FAO brand to galvanize excellence in areas under FAO's mandate;**
- **appreciated the new FAO Awards are conceptualized around topics of institutional relevance and strategic importance to bolster the sustainability and continued pertinence of FAO's Awards; and**
- **invited the Council to support the Management Proposal for the establishment of new FAO Awards and submit it to the Conference at its 42nd Session.**

I. Background

1. The 41st Session of the Conference in 2019 endorsed the recommendation of its General Committee that “*the Independent Chairperson of the Council (ICC) should carry out inclusive consultations with Members with a view to defining consistent and sustainable conditions for the award of prizes, taking into account the global state of food and agriculture, including options for a phasing out of the oldest awards. The outcome of this process would be referred for the approval by the 42nd Session of the Conference*”.¹
2. The ICC has held consultations on this topic in the context of his monthly informal meetings with the Chairpersons and Vice-Chairpersons of the Regional Groups in September, October and November 2019, in January, February and October 2020, and in February 2021. Members have provided their inputs on numerous occasions, including in writing.
3. At the 23 October 2020 informal meeting of the ICC, Members supported maintaining the cash-element of FAO Awards and agreed on the need to identify alternative sources of funding for the Awards, such as through voluntary contributions. In this regard, Members noted their flexibility regarding the various options on how to implement this. FAO Management has developed a proposal for the FAO Awards, in line with Members’ guidance and inputs, while also considering the mandate and objectives of the Organization.
4. This document outlines the proposal by FAO Management for the establishment of a new set of systematic and sustainable FAO Awards to invigorate the process leveraging the FAO brand. This proposal responds to Members’ concerns regarding the effectiveness and sustainability of FAO’s current awards, and has been informed by Members’ inputs in the context of the ICC informal meetings, including the latest one on 26 February 2021. This document also outlines the process foreseen, through informal consultations with Members and formal review by the Governing Bodies, leading to consideration and approval by the 42nd Session of the Conference.

II. Management Proposal

5. The proposed new FAO Awards aim to leverage the FAO brand to galvanize excellence in areas under FAO’s mandate; and at the same time to use the recognition, through the Awards, of outstanding achievement in advancing the goals of the Organization to strengthen the FAO brand.
6. These Awards will serve to motivate FAO partners to support activities aimed at achieving FAO’s objectives; and in turn, the achievements of FAO partners will bolster the image of FAO itself. The new Awards will serve as an instrument to enhance the Organization’s efforts aimed at increasing FAO visibility, and at partnership building; and as such to make FAO more valuable to Members, more attractive to donors, more engaging to partners, and more meaningful to its employees.
7. The proposed new FAO Awards are conceptualized around topics of institutional relevance and strategic importance, and therefore aim to bolster the sustainability and continued pertinence of FAO’s Awards in line with the guidance provided by the Conference at its 41st Session.
8. The proposed new annual Awards will consist of a main FAO Champion Award, and four further Awards under the following categories: partnership, achievement, innovation, and employees. These Awards are aimed at replacing existing FAO Awards that are named after former Directors-General and funded through the Regular Programme Budget, to create a systematic, consistent and coherent set of awards. The list of these current FAO Awards is included in Annex 1 to this document. The new Awards will be conferred annually to a maximum of ten recipients each in the categories of partnership, achievement and innovation.
9. The new FAO Awards will be show-cased in an annual cycle, through high visibility ceremonies throughout the year, including during the FAO Conference and Council Sessions and World Food Day events. The proposed timing for each Award is included in the section below.

¹ Fourth Report of the General Committee of the 41st Session of the Conference, para 8

10. In line with Members' guidance, it is proposed to maintain the monetary value for all new Awards except for those in the employee category, or where an employee or FAO team is chosen for an Award in the other categories. In order to support the sustainability of the Awards, it is proposed to establish a new dedicated Trust Fund, with voluntary contributions by Members and other donors, including intergovernmental entities, foundations, civil society organizations and private sector entities, in line with FAO's guidelines on resources mobilization and private sector engagement. Contributions will be duly recognized.

11. Regular Programme resources for existing awards and prizes are envisaged to be retained as an important and small dimension for the new FAO Awards, which will be funded primarily through extrabudgetary resources. As indicated in Annex 1, the current total prize money from the Regular Programme comes to USD 95 000. In addition, the estimated travel related costs that have been included in PWB 2020-21 amount to just under USD 30 000. The current awards provide for travel of accompanying spouses and dependent children as well. Management proposes to cease this practice and provide for travel of the awardees only from the Regular Programme, with costs for spouse travel covered by alternative, voluntary sources. The average travel cost is USD 1 500 per person, based on the actual expenses of the past three biennium cycles.

III. The New FAO Awards

FAO Champion Award

12. The FAO Champion Award will be awarded annually, either during the regular Conference Session or during the first regular Council Session in non-Conference years. It will be the highest corporate Award, recognizing significant and outstanding contribution towards advancing the overall goals of the Organization, including the achievement of the 2030 Agenda Sustainable Development Goals. The Award may be conferred mainly upon Members, and institutions or individuals. Its monetary value will be set commensurate with its status as the premier FAO Award. It is proposed that the prize be set at USD 50 000. For context, three of the current awards have their prize money set at USD 25 000.

FAO Award for Partnership

13. The FAO Award for Partnership will recognize outstanding cooperation with FAO in advancing the Organization's work by Members, other UN agencies or international institutions, academic or research entities; and civil society or private sector entities, including media outlets for outstanding coverage of food and agricultural issues. This Award will be conferred at the first session of the Council every year. With respect to non-state stakeholders, the usual due diligence processes would be applied with respect to any prospective recipient, to minimize reputational risks. It is proposed that the prize be set at USD 10 000 per awardee.

FAO Award for Achievement

14. The FAO Award for Achievement will recognize specific professional achievements in various sectors and programmes related to the work of the Organization, with due regard paid to areas where FAO carries out extensive work, such as fisheries, forestry, climate, land and water, animal and plant health, to name but a few. It would be conferred upon any entity or individual, including FAO teams or employees, for example, for outstanding technical cooperation or humanitarian work at country level (akin to the existing B.R. Sen Award). This prize would be awarded during the annual World Food Day celebrations, starting this year (15 October 2021). It is proposed that the prize be set at USD 10 000 per awardee.

FAO Award for Innovation

15. The FAO Award for Innovation will be conferred for ground-breaking innovation in areas under FAO's mandate to a broad spectrum of awardees. This could include but not be limited to, for example, innovations on agri-food systems, digital agriculture, advances in biotechnology, innovation in sustainable production practices such as agroecology, new business models, etc. The Award could be conferred upon a Member or non-state partners. Recipients would also include FAO teams or employees. Out of a total of ten Awards conferred each year, approximately two-thirds would be

conferred upon partners and one-third upon FAO teams or employees. This Award would be granted annually during the second regular sessions of the Council. It is proposed that the prize be set at USD 10 000 per awardee. FAO employees or teams will not receive cash prizes.

FAO Award for Employees

16. The FAO Award for Employees will be conferred upon FAO teams for exceptional effectiveness and accomplishment in serving the Organization. It will also encompass the established employee awards for individuals, such as the Best Young and the Best Young at Heart Awards, best FAO Representatives and others. These awards would be conferred at a dedicated, annual FAO Employee Recognition Award ceremony. There would be no cash prize.

IV. Selection Criteria and Processes

17. The selection criteria and processes for the current awards are listed in Annex 1. FAO Management does not propose deviations from the current practices which have served the Organization well. Once the Conference has decided on a set of new awards in the categories as approved, Management will develop detailed criteria and processes for each new award category, in the spirit of the Conference resolution and based on the current good practices.

Annex 1: Current FAO Conference Awards

Award	Conference Resolution	Recipient	Eligibility	Criteria	Time frame	Selection Process	Prize
B.R. Sen	33/67	For field officers during their country assignments.	Any FAO field officer who has served under any of the programmes operated by FAO during the years for which the Award is made is eligible for nomination. This includes international field project officers, National Professional Officers (NPOs), FAO Officers in Regional and Sub regional Offices, and FAO Representatives. Officers in this context refer to staff members in the professional category. In exceptional circumstances, nominations may be based on service prior to the year for which an Award is to be considered, either for service performed no earlier than the previous biennium (in such cases, although the Award is given for a specific year in accordance with the Award schedule, the year for which performance is being recognized will be indicated), or for an overall career achievement. In the latter case, part of that service has to have been performed within the current biennium.	A nominee must have made an outstanding contribution to the advancement of the country or countries to which he or she was assigned, in particular in the fields of sustainable agricultural and rural development or food security. This contribution must be clearly identifiable and may take the form of technical innovations in agriculture, fisheries or forestry; institutional or administrative improvements; discoveries of new resources as a result of research, surveys or other investigations; establishment of training and research institutions; or achievements in any of the many other tasks assigned to FAO personnel.	One Award is conferred for each year of the biennium so one for each year. In the case of a joint award the prize is divided among the winners.	<p>Technical screening done by the technical department.</p> <p>Screening Committee: Chairperson DDG-T, ADGs at regional level and the FAO Core leadership.</p> <p>Selection Committee: Chaired by the Director-General and composed of the Secretary of the awards DDG-T, the Independent Chairperson of the Council, the Chairpersons of the Programme and Finance Committees.</p> <p>The process has been streamlined for all awards. By introducing an electronic voting system and a simple and transparent scoring system based on a weighted average. The process has improved workflow, which resulted in a significant reduction of staff and related operational costs. The process is managed by the FAO Awards Secretariat.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scroll describing the field officers achievements and/or an award. • Cash prize of USD 5 000 per year so a total of USD 10 000 • A roundtrip fare to Rome and associated travel expenses for the Award recipient and spouse, and young children who cannot be left unattended at the duty station.

<p>A.H. Boerma</p>	<p>1/75</p>	<p>For journalists who have successfully steered public attention towards food security topics.</p>	<p>Journalists or group of journalists (press, television or radio) from around the world who through their work have helped to focus public attention on important aspects of the world food problem particularly relating to agricultural and rural development.</p>	<p>For journalists who have successfully steered public attention towards food security topics.</p>	<p>One Award per biennium. In the case of a joint award the prize is divided among the winners.</p>	<p>Technical screening done by the technical department.</p> <p>Screening Committee Chairperson DDG-T, ADGs at regional level and the FAO Core leadership.</p> <p>Selection Committee: Chaired by the Director-General and composed of the Secretary of the awards DDG-T, the Independent Chairperson of the Council, the Chairpersons of the Programme and Finance Committees and the FAO Awards Secretariat (OCC).</p> <p>The process has been streamlined for all the awards. By introducing an electronic voting system and a simple and transparent scoring system based on a weighted average. The process has improved workflow, which resulted in a significant reduction of staff and related operational costs. The process is managed by the FAO Awards Secretariat.</p>	<p>•Personalized scroll and/or award.</p> <p>•Cash prize of USD 10 000.</p> <p>A roundtrip fare to Rome and associated travel expenses for the Award recipient.</p>
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<p>Edouard Saouma</p>	<p>2/93</p>	<p>For institutions that have created true impact in the efficient execution of FAO TCP Projects</p>	<p>Any national or regional institution that has implemented with particular efficiency a project funded by the Technical Cooperation Programme of FAO. The Award considers projects that were implemented in the course of the biennium preceding the Conference.</p>	<p>In the spirit of Conference Resolution 2/93 the winning institution should be one that has implemented a TCP-funded project having a model character and which has either:</p> <p>a) allowed the rapid mobilization of resources or responded efficiently to emergency situations; and/or</p> <p>b) filled a critical gap and met successfully short-term technical assistance needs which could not be covered by other sources of support; and/or</p> <p>c) produced sustainable outcome and outputs and had particular catalytic effects such as increased mobilization of investment funds, large-scale follow-up action, policy and institutional changes; and/or</p> <p>d) contributed to the strengthening of the beneficiary country's capacities to ensure that the critical gap and problem faced would either not appear again or could be resolved effectively at the national or regional level. Particular emphasis will be given to the nature, the sustainability and the replicability of the achievements and the catalytic effects generated compared with the inputs provided by the Technical Cooperation Programme.</p>	<p>One Award per biennium. In the case of a joint award the prize is divided among the winners.</p>	<p>Technical screening done by the technical department.</p> <p>Screening Committee Chairperson DDG-T, ADGs at regional level and the FAO Core leadership.</p> <p>Selection Committee: Chaired by the Director-General and composed of the Secretary of the awards DDG-T, the Independent Chairperson of the Council, the Chairpersons of the Programme and Finance Committees and the FAO Awards Secretariat (OCC).</p> <p>The process has been streamlined for all the awards. By introducing an electronic voting system and a simple and transparent scoring system based on a weighted average. The process has improved workflow, which resulted in a significant reduction of staff and related operational costs. The process is managed by the FAO Awards Secretariat.</p>	<p>•Personalized scroll and/or award.</p> <p>•Cash prize of USD 25 000.</p> <p>A roundtrip fare to Rome and associated travel expenses for the Award recipient.</p>
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<p>Jacques Diouf</p>	<p>1/2011</p>	<p>Any individual, national, regional or global institution</p>	<p>Any individual, national, regional or global institution that has, in the course of the biennium preceding the Conference, made a significant contribution to the improvement of global food security.</p>	<p>In the spirit of Conference Resolution 1/2011 the winning individual or institution should be one that has</p> <p>a) developed suitable analyses of the causes of food insecurity and successfully advocated for consistent measures that have been adopted and applied, on a large scale, by governments, civil society organizations and/or private enterprises, through programmes aimed at fighting hunger and malnutrition, and/or;</p> <p>b) mobilized resources and led to the implementation of large-scale programmes for fighting hunger and malnutrition that have demonstrated sustainable impact.</p>	<p>One Award per biennium. In the case of a joint award the prize is divided among the winners.</p>	<p>Technical screening done by the technical department.</p> <p>Screening Committee: Chairperson DDG-T, ADGs at regional level and the FAO Core leadership.</p> <p>Selection Committee: Chaired by the Director-General and composed of the Secretary of the awards DDG-T, the Independent Chairperson of the Council, the Chairpersons of the Programme and Finance Committees.</p> <p>The process has been streamlined for all the awards. By introducing an electronic voting system and a simple and transparent scoring system based on a weighted average. The process has improved workflow, which resulted in a significant reduction of staff and related operational costs. The process is managed by the FAO Conference Awards."</p>	<p>•Personalized scroll and/or award.</p> <p>•Cash prize of USD 25 000.</p> <p>A roundtrip fare to Rome and associated travel expenses for the Award recipient.</p>
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<p>Graziano Da Silva</p>	<p>1/2019</p>	<p>A civil society organization with major achievements in promoting Zero Hunger best practices.</p>	<p>Any national, regional or global civil society organization that has, in the course of the biennium preceding the Conference, made a significant contribution to the improvement of global food security and Zero Hunger.</p>	<p>In the spirit of Conference Resolution 06/2019 the winning organization should be one that can:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • demonstrate that it has engaged local communities and relevant stakeholders and aims to improve people’s lives and respond to their needs and rights. It should enhance the contribution to the realization of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and Zero Hunger. • present an innovative idea, a new approach, or a unique policy implemented in order to realize Zero Hunger and the SDGs. • appear to be adaptable to other contexts (e.g. cities, countries or regions). There should ideally be evidence that it has inspired similar innovations in other public-sector institutions within a given country, region or at the global level. • The initiative shows some evidence of impact on improving people’s lives. 	<p>One Award per biennium. In the case of a joint award the prize is divided among the winners.</p>	<p>Technical screening done by the technical department.</p> <p>Screening Committee: Chairperson DDG-T, ADGs at regional level and the FAO Core leadership.</p> <p>Selection Committee: Chaired by the Director-General and composed of the Secretary of the awards DDG-T, the Independent Chairperson of the Council, the Chairpersons of the Programme and Finance Committees.</p> <p>The process has been streamlined for all the awards. By introducing an electronic voting system and a simple and transparent scoring system based on a weighted average. The process has improved workflow, which resulted in a significant reduction of staff and related operational costs. The process is managed by the FAO Awards Secretariat.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Personalized scroll and/or award. •Cash prize of USD 25 000. A roundtrip fare to Rome and associated travel expenses for the Award recipient.
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