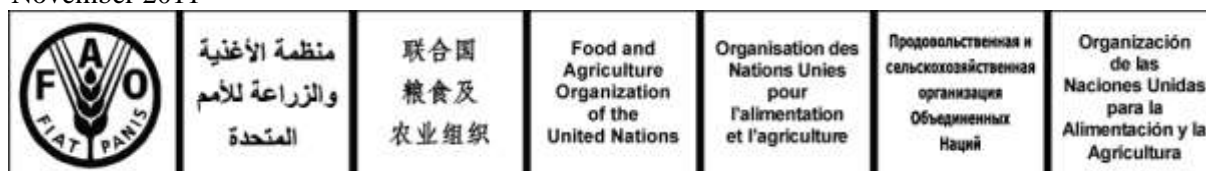


November 2011

E



COUNCIL

Hundred and Forty-third Session

Rome, 28 November - 2 December 2011

**Report of the Joint Meeting of the Hundred and Ninth (Special) Session of the Programme Committee and the Hundred and Forty-first (Special) Session of the Finance Committee
(Rome, 3 November 2011)**

Table of Contents

	Pages
Adoption of the Agenda.....	2
Adjustments to the Programme of Work and Budget 2012-13.....	2
Progress Report on the Immediate Plan of Action Implementation.....	3
Any Other Business	4

**REPORT OF THE JOINT MEETING OF THE HUNDRED AND NINTH (SPECIAL)
SESSION OF THE PROGRAMME COMMITTEE AND
THE HUNDRED AND FORTY-FIRST (SPECIAL) SESSION OF THE FINANCE
COMMITTEE**

Rome, 3 November 2011

INTRODUCTION

1. The Joint Meeting submitted its Report to the Council.
2. In addition to the Chairperson, Mr MOUNGUI MÉDI (Cameroon), and Her Excellency Cecilia NORDIN VAN GANSBERGHE (Sweden) Chairperson of the Programme Committee, the following representatives of Members were present:

Mr R. Ayazi (Afghanistan)	Ms S. Nilsson (Germany)
Mr M. Mellah (Algeria)	Mr S.K. Pattanayak (India)
Mr G.O. Infante (Argentina)	Mr H. Yamada (Japan)
Ms E. Collins (Australia)	Ms M. Sabah Mohammad Al-Sabah (Kuwait)
Ms S. Afroz (Bangladesh)	Ms C.C. de Mauleon Medina (Mexico)
Ms M. van Dooren (Belgium)	Mr F. Lekjaa (Morocco)
Mr O. Vieira (Brazil)	Ms E. van-Woersem (Netherlands)
Mr L.D. Couliadiati (Burkina Faso)	Ms C. McGregor (New Zealand)
Mr M. Valicenti (Canada)	Ms L. Nero Rivera (Panama)
Mr H. Guo (China)	Mr V.V. Kuznetsov (Russian Federation)
Mr E.O. Fayed (Egypt)	Ms K.E. Johnson (USA)
Mr A.G. Aseffa (Ethiopia)	

Adoption of the Agenda¹

3. The Agenda for the session was approved.

Adjustments to the Programme of Work and Budget 2012-13²

4. After receiving oral summary reports on the deliberations in the two Committees, the Joint Meeting considered the Adjustments to the Programme of Work and Budget 2012-13.
5. The Joint Meeting appreciated the document, noting that it broadly incorporated the guidance and decisions of the Thirty-Seventh Session of the Conference in July 2011, and was satisfied with the proposed adjustments. The Joint Meeting:

underlined that the gender measures undertaken, while being satisfactory, were dependent also on the overall success of the FAO culture change efforts and the way in which gender mainstreaming would be implemented throughout the Organization; and requested that the recruitment of the second tranche of professionals for the Junior Professionals Programme (JPP) be undertaken expeditiously in better alignment with the priorities defined in the Programme of Work and Budget, and that more information be provided in future reports on this programme, in particular on geographical and occupational placement of Junior Professionals.

¹ JM 2011.3/1

² CL 143/3; CL 143/3 Add.

6. The Joint Meeting considered that further budgetary transfers could arise as a result of work planning, as well as from using the most efficient and effective modalities of implementation during the biennium. It also noted that the ongoing discussion of the structure and functioning of decentralized offices could impact resource allocations, as could any identification of further efficiency savings. In this regard, the Joint Meeting:

recalled the guidance of the Joint Meeting at its session on 12 October 2011, which rejected the proposal to automatically allocate eventual additional savings, if any, under Functional Objectives X and Y to the decentralized offices;³

stressed that any further PWB adjustments should be addressed in accordance with agreed procedures; and

recalled that within Chapter transfers and transfers from one Chapter to another required to implement the proposals during the biennium would be handled in accordance with Financial Regulation 4.5.

Process for review of the Strategic Framework and preparation of the Medium Term Plan 2014-17⁴

7. The Joint Meeting considered the proposed process for the review of the Strategic Framework and preparation of the Medium Term Plan 2014-17 and was briefed on the conclusions of the Programme Committee on this matter. The Joint Meeting received a presentation by the Deputy Director-General (Knowledge) on preliminary ideas emerging from initial consultations within the Secretariat for revisioning the Strategic Framework. The Joint Meeting:

expressed satisfaction with the document reviewed and complimented the Secretariat for taking a proactive approach;

endorsed the five Guiding Principles set forth in the document;

emphasized the need to include in the planning process global, regional, subregional and country considerations;

emphasized the need to improve the prioritization process, through measures previously recommended by FAO governing bodies;

encouraged FAO to consult the work of the two other Rome-based agencies in the review of the Strategic Framework and the formulation of the MTP 2014-17;

generally agreed on the proposed process and provisional timeline, which were in line with the cycle of governing body review, as set forth in the Basic Texts; and

emphasized that the process should be sufficiently inclusive of all relevant stakeholders, and requested the Secretariat to organize an informal consultation for all Members in 2012.

Progress Report on the Immediate Plan of Action Implementation⁵

8. After receiving oral summary reports on the deliberations in the two Committees, the Joint Meeting considered the progress report on the Immediate Plan of Action as at September 2011. The Joint Meeting:

acknowledged that IPA implementation had reached a critical stage, with some of the most difficult IPA actions in terms of complexity, risk and interdependencies carrying forward to 2012-2013;

encouraged the Secretariat to continue to place emphasis on IPA risk management and mitigating measures, and take into account the human, financial and programmatic risks;

reiterated the critical importance of culture change for a reformed FAO and, whilst recognizing the ongoing nature of required individual and collective behavioural changes especially with regard to gender, and that much had been achieved, stressed the need to further pursue this aspect;

³ CL 143/9, paragraph 9e)

⁴ JM 2011.3/2

⁵ CL 143/10; CL 143/10 Add.

reiterated the importance of human resources reform;
stressed the importance of breaking down of silos across organizational units and geographic locations;
noted with concern that the Employee Survey had revealed a perception of a slow pace of change and that the personnel were not positive on culture of trust and fairness, and expressed hope that the next survey to take place prior to 2015 would show tangible improvements in this area; and
looked forward to receiving a full report on IPA progress for 2011, including the financial and programmatic aspects of IPA implementation.

Any Other Business

9. The Joint Meeting discussed matters relating to improve efficacy and efficiency of its own methods of work, including potential future use of informal meetings, special sessions, and enhanced coordination of Agendas of sessions of the Finance, Programme and Joint Meetings.
10. In this regard, the Joint Meeting requested the Chairpersons of the two Committees to consult with each other, as well as with the Independent Chairperson of the Council in an effort to ensure that the same Agenda items were not unnecessarily discussed in both Committees and in the Joint Meeting.