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Продовольственная и
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Organización
de las
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y la
Alimentación

COUNCIL

Hundred and Fortieth Session

Rome, 29 November – 3 December 2010

Report of the Joint Meeting of the 104th Session of the Programme
Committee and the 135th Session of the Finance Committee
Rome, 27 October 2010

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REPORT OF THE JOINT MEETING OF THE PROGRAMME AND FINANCE COMMITTEES

Rome, 27 October 2010

INTRODUCTION

1. The Joint Meeting submitted its Report to the Council.
2. In addition to the Chairperson, Ms R. Laatu (Finland), and Mr Y.A.R. Sorour (Egypt), Chairperson of the Finance Committee, the following representatives of Members were present:

Mr R. Ayazi (Afghanistan)	Ms S. Nilsson (Germany)
Mr C.A. Amaral (Angola)	Mr S.K. Pattanayak (India)
Ms M. del Carmen Squeff (Argentina)	H.E. J.S. Tavakolian (Islamic Republic of Iran)
Ms E. Collins (Australia)	Mr C. Miscia (Italy)
Ms S. Cowan (Australia)	Mr K. Shioya (Japan)
Ms S. Afroz (Bangladesh)	H.E. J.E. Chen Charpentier (Mexico)
Ms M. van Dooren (Belgium)	Mr R. Elkhuizen (Netherlands)
Mr M. Valicenti (Canada)	Mr G. Vega Berrio (Panama)
H.E. Li Zhengdong (China)	Ms L.H. Coronel Correa (Paraguay)
Mr M. Hosni Abdel Aziz (Egypt)	Mr M. Eltayeb Elfaki Elnor (Sudan)
H.E. C. Obama Ondo (Equatorial Guinea)	Mr R. Sabiiti (Uganda)
Mr L. Charicauth (Gabon)	Mr M. Glover (USA)

3. The Joint Meeting appreciated the opening address from the Director-General, the full text of which may be found on FAO's Permanent Representatives' Web site [HTTP://PERMREPS.FAO.ORG](http://PERMREPS.FAO.ORG)

Item 1: Adoption of the Agenda¹

4. The Agenda for the Joint Meeting was approved.

Item 2: Programme Implementation Report 2008-09²

5. The Joint Meeting endorsed the Programme Implementation Report 2008-09 for transmission to the Council.

Item 3: Results-based Work Planning, Monitoring and Reporting System³

6. The Joint Meeting welcomed the proposed monitoring and reporting arrangements under the new FAO results-based framework, and endorsed the three main elements comprising the system: i) *Work plan monitoring*; ii) the *Mid-term review*; and iii) the *End-of-biennium assessment*.
7. The Joint Meeting emphasized the crucial role of performance monitoring as a source of timely information, a tool for in-course correction and for assisting forward planning. In this regard, the Joint Meeting stressed the importance of timing the *Mid-term review* process so that lessons learned could be used as input for the preparation of the Programme of Work and Budget.

¹ JM 2010.2/1

² C 2011/8

³ JM 2010.2/2

8. The Joint Meeting recommended that the Secretariat continue elaborating the formats of the *Mid-term review* report and Programme Implementation Report, based on the draft annotated outlines provided in document JM 2010.2/2 and considering the proposals made regarding:

- a) the level of detail to be provided in the *Mid-term review* report, in particular taking into account best practices in the UN system as regards financial information;
- b) more information on the regional and subregional dimension;
- c) time series and comparability of information in successive reports;
- d) information on efficiency savings;
- e) possibilities of incorporating lessons learned from Evaluations and their follow-up actions, with assistance from the Office of Evaluation.

9. The Joint Meeting further recommended that additional information be provided to the entire membership on the transition to a full results-based management system, including on priority-setting and budgeting.

Item 4: Progress on implementation of the TCP⁴

10. While noting the progress made on the implementation of the TCP in the new decentralized environment, the Joint Meeting recommended that the Secretariat ensure that:

- a) all countries receive the necessary information on the revised procedures for TCP;
- b) all decentralized offices have sufficient, cost-effective capacities to ensure that the countries they cover can benefit fully from the TCP;
- c) gender issues are fully taken into account in the implementation of the TCP;
- d) information on TCP results be included in relevant FAO reports to the governing bodies.

Item 5: Resource mobilization and management strategy⁵

11. While noting the progress in implementation of the elements of the resource mobilization and management strategy, the Joint Meeting requested to receive an outline of the corporate resource mobilization and management strategy, and the strategy for partnerships with the private sector, at its next session.

12. The Joint Meeting recommended that:

- a) the informal meeting of interested Members and other potential sources of voluntary funds and partnerships on 1 March 2011 should aim at informing about the funding situation and enhancing adequate voluntary contributions directed to priority work in the MTP/PWB through the Impact Focus Areas, also promoting better alignment of partner contributions to FAO's funding requirements;
- b) the nature of the informal meeting should be of 'information sharing', including the resource needs of FAO's priorities and the status of Impact Focus Areas;
- c) the Member States and other resource partners should be given an opportunity to inform about their expectations and priorities in the area of FAO's mandate;

⁴ JM 2010.2/3

⁵ JM 2010.2/4

- d) **the Secretariat should provide the wider membership with updated information on the funding situation of FAO on priorities, through the established communication channels.**

Item 6: Progress on decentralization⁶

13. The Joint Meeting reviewed the report on progress on decentralization. It acknowledged that the various actions taking place as a result of the IPA were changing how the Organization is functioning. In addition, actions agreed as a result of recent Evaluations, such as on country programming and capacity development, would further impact the functioning of decentralized offices (DOs), as well as their interaction with headquarters.

14. **The Joint Meeting, noting the progress on decentralization, requested that:**

- a) **the Secretariat present to the Programme and Finance Committees, as well as the CoC-IEE, a comprehensive vision of the effective and efficient functioning and benefits of FAO's network of decentralized offices, reflecting IPA actions on decentralization and any other pertinent initiatives being taken;**
- b) **the vision document should include comprehensive, structured information, covering:**
- **the roles, mandates and functions of regional, subregional and country offices;**
 - **the relationship between headquarters and DOs with FAO functioning as one;**
 - **human resources matters affecting decentralized offices, such as terms of reference, rotation policy and training;**
 - **the status and benefits of increased delegation of authority to the DOs;**
 - **the level of resources, including extrabudgetary resources handled through the DOs network;**
 - **the foreseen timetable of decentralization reform at FAO.**

Item 7: Savings and efficiencies in governance

15. There was no discussion under this item.

Item 8: Any other business

16. As agreed at the previous Joint Meeting, the Chairpersons of the Committees reported on collaboration in handling matters of joint interest, which had been facilitated by two informal coordination meetings convened by the Independent Chairperson of the Council also involving the Chairs of the Technical Committees, as well as information consultations among the Chairpersons as needed.

⁶ JM 2010.2/5