


February 2011

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	منظمة الأغذية والزراعة للأمم المتحدة	联合国 粮食及 农业组织	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations	Organisation des Nations Unies pour l'alimentation et l'agriculture	Продовольствен ная и сельскохозяйств енная организация Объединенных	Organización de las Naciones Unidas para la Agricultura y la Alimentación
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# COUNCIL

## Hundred and Forty-first Session

Rome, 11 - 15 April 2011

Report of the Hundred and Fifth Session of the Programme Committee  
Rome 8 - 9 February 2011

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## REPORT OF THE HUNDRED AND FIFTH SESSION OF THE PROGRAMME COMMITTEE

8 – 9 February 2011

### Introduction

1. The Committee submitted to the Council the following report of its Hundred and Fifth session.
2. In addition to the Chairperson, Ms Riikka Laatu (Finland), the following representatives of Members were present:  
Mr A.R. Ayazi (Afghanistan)  
Mr C.A. Amaral (Angola)  
Ms M. del Carmen Squeff (Argentina)  
Mr T. Power (Australia)  
Ms S. Afroz (Bangladesh)  
Ms M. van Dooren (Belgium)  
Mr M. Valicenti (Canada)  
Mr M. Hosni (Egypt)  
H.E. C. Obama Ondo (Equatorial Guinea)  
Ms S. Nilsson (Germany)  
Mr K. Shioya (Japan)  
Ms L.H. Coronel Correa (Paraguay)

### Item 1: Adoption of the Agenda and Timetable<sup>1</sup>

3. The Agenda and Timetable for the meeting were approved.

### Programme Planning and Priority Setting

#### Item 2: Priorities for the technical work of the Organization in the 2012-13 biennium<sup>2</sup>

4. The Committee called the attention of Council to the very late receipt of the document for this item from the Secretariat, which had prevented Members from undertaking regional consultations prior to the session and therefore from providing considered reactions to the Secretariat's proposals. While acknowledging that the process of prioritization was a work in progress, the Committee reiterated to the Secretariat the obligation of providing documentation within the agreed timeframes. Moreover, it is of utmost importance to have the papers provided in all languages on time.
5. The Committee appreciated the interactions with Strategy Team Leaders and the fruitful exchange that added a lot of useful information. Likewise, it requested greater consistency between Strategy Team Leaders' presentations and the document presented.
6. The Committee appreciated the progress being made by the Secretariat to define the priorities for the technical work of the Organization. However, it found the presentation of priorities in the document was uneven among some strategic objectives, that strategic objectives presentations did not sufficiently reflect the outcomes of the Regional Conferences and Technical Committees and focussed more on areas of emphasis than de-emphasis, and was lacking the necessary information on connections between the strategic objectives. The Committee concluded that significant improvements were needed, in line with the guidance that it had provided at its 104<sup>th</sup> session, which had been endorsed by Council.

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<sup>1</sup> PC 105/1; PC 105/INF/1

<sup>2</sup> PC 105/2

7. The Committee appreciated the interaction with the Strategy Team Leaders and urged the Strategy Teams to intensify their Organization-wide consultations, including the decentralized offices, in finalizing their contributions to the formulation of the PWB 2012-13. The Committee, in providing comments and receiving clarifications on aspects of proposed emphasis and de-emphasis, reviewed proposals for each strategic objective and noted that for many strategic objectives, the work on proposed areas for emphasis and de-emphasis, and their implications, was not sufficient.

8. In preparing the PWB 2012-13, which would be made available on 7 March 2011, for consideration at its 106<sup>th</sup> Session (21-25 March 2011), the Committee urged the Secretariat to ensure that the outcome of the discussion and exchanges with Strategy Team Leaders be reflected in the PWB. The Committee recommended that the Secretariat:

- a) further elaborate the areas of commonality emerging from the recommendations and guidance on priorities received from the Regional Conferences, Technical Committees and other governing bodies (i.e. the Council) and integrate them as appropriate in the areas of emphasis and de-emphasis under the strategic objectives;
- b) improve the presentation and implications of proposed areas of emphasis and de-emphasis within and between strategic objectives and organizational results using a uniform structure and terminology, and clearly taking account of the guidance from the Regional Conferences and Technical Committees, lessons learned based on the Mid-term Review 2010, the results of evaluations, and collaboration with key partners;
- c) clearly show, through the regional results, the focus within strategic objectives related to guidance from the Regional Conferences;
- d) reflect the main shifts in emphasis between strategic objectives and organizational results in the comparative resource tables for net appropriation and extra-budgetary resources, including the role of the Impact Focus Areas in mobilizing resources;
- e) address across the strategic objectives the coordination of cross-cutting issues (such as climate change, requirements for smallholder farmers, rural development, capacity development, nutrition, land and water, and gender).

9. The Committee was informed that the PWB document would also include sections on the application of core functions, resource mobilization including Impact Focus Areas, and regional dimensions including regional results.

10. The Committee looked forward to reviewing improved proposals in the PWB 2012-13, taking account of the areas of commonality presented in the document.

11. In establishing a coherent set of priorities for future biennia, the Committee recalled that it had previously recommended measures to promote more structured guidance on priorities from the Regional Conferences and Technical Committees. Having considered the document provided on priorities for 2012-13, the Committee recommended that in planning for future biennia the Secretariat also:

- a) identify emerging issues to inform the review and refinement of the Medium Term Plan for the 2014-17 period;
- b) address across the strategic objectives the coordination of cross-cutting issues to help drive priority setting;
- c) clarify the roles and collaboration of headquarters and decentralized offices in planning and implementing the technical Programme of Work and Budget in the context of the vision on decentralization;
- d) highlight the comparative advantage of FAO with other organizations.

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## Standing Items

### **Item 3: Review of progress on the Multi-year Programme of Work for the Committee<sup>3</sup>**

12. The Committee discussed progress on its Multi-year Programme of Work and requested the Chairperson to prepare a report on progress for consideration at its next regular session in March.

### **Item 4: Date and place of the Hundred and Sixth Session**

13. The Committee was informed that the Hundred and Sixth Session of the Programme Committee was scheduled to take place in Rome from 21 to 25 March 2011.

### **Item 5: Any Other Business**

14. There was no discussion under this item.

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<sup>3</sup> PC 105/INF/3