

176th Session of the FAO Council

Item 8: Report of the Joint Meeting of the 139th Session of the Programme Committee and 202nd Session of the Finance Committee (Rome, 11 and 15 November 2024)

Chairperson, Members of the Council,

I am pleased to present the Report of the Joint Meeting of the 139th Session of the Programme Committee and 202nd Session of the Finance Committee. This Report is submitted to the Council in document CL 176/8.

I would like to highlight the following matters for your attention, recognizing that two items (the “Reviewed Strategic Framework 2022-31 and outline of Medium Term Plan 2026-29” and the “Update on FAO’s collaboration with other UN system entities”) will be reviewed by the Council as standalone items.

The Joint Meeting welcomed the *Reviewed Strategic Framework 2022-31 and outline of Medium Term Plan 2026-29*, noted the document was presented in line with the established planning and programming cycle, appreciated the comprehensive process to review and update the key planning documents, and welcomed the updates and technical refinements to the results framework presented.

The Joint Meeting welcomed the verbal update on the way forward under the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) Country Office Network, underscored the importance of safeguarding technical capacity and institutional memory on the ground, encouraged Management to continue with inclusive, effective, transparent and iterative consultations with Members, in particular the host countries, and looked forward to further discussions on the topic.

The Joint Meeting recognized the challenges and opportunities in strengthening United Nations (UN) collaboration, and encouraged FAO to deepen its partnerships within the UN system, expanding access to pooled funding mechanisms and enhancing the capacity of UN Country Teams to design and implement joint programmes, and to foster synergies, including across humanitarian-development-peace nexus, for agrifood systems transformation, as appropriate, aligned with national development priorities.

The Joint Meeting welcomed the update provided in the *Annual Report on Corporate Policy, Processes and Measures on the Prevention of Harassment, Sexual Harassment and Sexual Exploitation and Abuse*, appreciated the efforts and expressed the support for FAO’s comprehensive approach, as well as encouraged FAO to continue its efforts in advancing its zero tolerance policy on sexual harassment and sexual exploitation and abuse.

Finally, the Joint Meeting also welcomed the verbal update on the World Food Forum.

Dear Members of the Council, I would like to invite you to review the full Report of the Joint Meeting of the 139th Session of the Programme Committee and 202nd Session of the Finance Committee. For your convenience, this report includes an executive summary and suggested action.

I am pleased to provide any further explanations you may have regarding this Report.

Ms Yael Rubinstein, Chairperson of the Joint Meeting of the 139th Session of the Programme Committee and 202nd Session of the Finance Committee.