

177th Session of the Council

Written Correspondence Procedure – inputs from Members - Original version

Item 17 – Developments in *fora* of importance for the mandate of FAO

Member Name	Comments
United Kingdom (Friday, 21 March 2025 – 17.37)	The UK welcomes the regular updates to members on FAO's work in <i>fora</i> of importance to the Organization's mandate. It is vital that FAO continues to use its knowledge and technical expertise to shape and support other relevant international entities, meetings and processes. This means moving away from siloed and sectoral ways of working, towards approaches that coordinate and complement, to transform food systems for people, planet and prosperity. <u>The Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme</u> The UK has been supporting the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) process that led to the Kampala Declaration through engagement in the Development Partners Coordination Group (DPCG). In addition, the UK has been providing funding support to CAADP through AGRA that is supporting food systems transformation programmes in Africa. In support of the renewed 10-year CAADP Strategy and Action Plan 2026-2035, the UK will continue to collaborate with the African Union, the Africa Continental Free Trade Agreement (AfCFTA) Secretariat, Regional Economic Communities (RECs), African institutions and stakeholders, to ensure the domestication and implementation of the CAADP Action Plan. At the Kampala Summit, both the UK and FAO signed a positive and forward-leaning Joint Development Partner Statement, which provided a common position for development partners to support the African vision and strategy for African agrifood system transformation and re-affirmed a joint commitment to support key actions under the new CAADP. The UK encourages FAO to further support the domestication of the CAADP framework in readiness for its implementation and would like to ask what specific plans FAO has to do so and how progress on this will be regularly reported. <u>Update on UNFCCC COP29 and on Climate Actions under the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development</u> The UK welcomes the update on the ways in which FAO is supporting key outcomes from UNFCCC COP29. We note that a fuller presentation on COP29 and its sister COPs across biodiversity and desertification was given to the FAO Programme Committee at its 140th Session, and that the Programme Committee appreciated FAO's efforts in advocating for the implementation of agrifood systems solutions under the COPs and encouraged FAO to take an integrated approach to support Members in implementing sustainable and coordinated actions across these conventions. The UK joins these calls and notes the criticality of the next six months as countries update their new Nationally

	Determined Contributions (NDCs) ahead of COP30 in Brazil. The UK was proud to announce our own NDC target at COP29, to reduce all greenhouse gas emissions by at least 81 percent by 2035 compared to 1990 levels. The UK requests more information from FAO on: (i) what support FAO is providing to countries in this regard; (ii) what analysis FAO has done of its successes in supporting integration of agrifood issues into NDCs; and (iii) what tools and knowledge products can FAO offer its Members to support the process. For example, we welcome FAO's work as part of the Global Alliance Against Hunger and Poverty on developing guidance for countries and other actors on why, and how, to include climate-sensitive programmes addressing hunger and poverty in NDCs. As a Vice-Chair of the Core Group of the Alliance, the UK looks forward to seeing the blueprint and to working together to socialise its findings. The UK has already submitted views in relation to the June workshop for the Sharm el-Sheikh joint work on implementation of climate action on agriculture and food security. We hope that this workshop can be used to discuss adaptive, low carbon, and nature positive approaches to agriculture, as well as the enabling environment needed for implementation such as policy reform and investment from all sources. We note that FAO has also already submitted views on the workshop and welcome the overlapping themes across our submissions. Finally, we note that the 2025 Forum of the Standing Committee on Finance of the UNFCCC will take place in Rome in September, with the theme of Accelerating Climate Action and Resilience through Financing for Sustainable Food Systems and Agriculture and ask FAO what support they are providing to the Forum, whether through analysis or support to Members' submissions. <u>The G7 and G20</u> The UK strongly values FAO's work in support of G7 and G20 Presidencies. Specifically, we welcome the strong linkages between proposals under the G7, under the Presidency of Canada, on definitions for food systems financing and FAO's work, including through SOFI 2024. Similarly, we also welcome FAO's strong participation in the G20 Agriculture and Food Security Task Force meetings and believe that FAO should be a key knowledge partner in the studies proposed to inform the G20 Food Security Task Force discussions this year, under the Presidency of the Republic of South Africa. We further note the relevance also to FAO's key role in the knowledge pillar of the Global Alliance Against Hunger and Poverty. <u>Other</u> Notwithstanding all of the positive views expressed above, the UK had hoped to see an information document that also looked ahead to important fora this year. Notably, we would welcome improved communication with Members on FAO's role at the fourth Financing for Development (FfD4) Summit in Seville, in July 2025, and the UN Food Systems Summit +4 Stocktake in Addis Ababa, also in July 2025, as well as at the 2025 Nutrition for Growth Summit to take place 27-28 March in Paris, amongst other relevant events and processes.
European Union (Monday, 24 March 2025 – 10.53)	I am honoured to write to you on behalf of the European Union and its 27 Member States. The EU and its Member States thank FAO for the information provided. We note the multiple uncertainties and challenges that threaten food security and once more express our concern over the global food security situation. We emphasise the importance of joint action by countries and international and regional organisations to realize the right to

	adequate food and ensure food security and nutrition, and encourage FAO to increase its efforts to address key agrifood system challenges that hinder progress towards SDG 2 and to attempt to find solutions to these challenges. We take note of the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) and appreciate the efforts made to seek sustainable and resilient agrifood systems for a healthy and prosperous Africa. The CAADP is in line with the global agrifood systems agenda and offers opportunities for stronger collaborations and partnerships at a global, national and regional level. We acknowledge FAO for its participation in the context of the Group of Twenty and Group of Seven Presidencies in 2024 and emphasise the importance of integrating and promoting sustainable development in economic, social, environmental and other sectorial policies, eradicating hunger and poverty, and improving health and well-being. We also recognise the main role that energy-smart agrifood systems, innovative practices such as agroecological practices, and the bioeconomy play in ensuring global food security and nutrition. We also thank FAO for informing the Membership about the updates on the 29th Session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and on climate actions under the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. We recognise the importance of enhancing climate finance from all sources for building climate change-resilient and sustainable food systems. We note that agriculture and food systems remain significantly underfunded. We acknowledge FAO's role in the international climate context and welcome its effort to improve the quality and quantity of climate finance for agriculture and food systems, also through the Food and Agriculture for Sustainable Transformation (FAST) partnership. We also welcome that FAO is hosting this year's UNFCCC Standing Committee on Finance forum on "Accelerating climate action and resilience through financing for sustainable food systems and agriculture".
Mexico (Tuesday, 25 March 2025 – 11.35)	Valoramos las sinergias y complementariedades entre la FAO y los diversos foros multilaterales como el G20, G7 y la Convención Marco de las Naciones Unidas sobre el Cambio Climático, donde se abordan retos estructurales vinculados a financiamiento climático, bioeconomía y transición energética. En este contexto se sugiere reforzar el papel de la FAO en el seguimiento a los compromisos del artículo 6 del Acuerdo de París, con énfasis en agricultura, ganadería y uso del suelo. Asimismo, se subraya la necesidad de una representación activa de América Latina y el Caribe en el diseño de políticas e instrumentos financieros en mercados de carbono.
Australia (Thursday, 27 March 2025 – 18.51)	Australia notes FAO's engagement in the 29th Session of the Conference of Parties (COP 29) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, COP16 to the Convention on Biological Diversity and COP16 to the UN Convention to Combat Desertification. Australia strongly supports FAO's efforts to position agriculture as part of the solution to addressing climate change, conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, and to combat desertification, and we welcome FAO's active engagement in relevant processes. We look forward to further updates on these matters tracking developments in 2025. Australia notes FAO's engagement with the G20 across key agrifood issues, including the G20 initiative on bioeconomy. Australia is supportive of the definition of a bioeconomy outlined by FAO, and we welcome the significant opportunities for the agriculture, fisheries and forestry sectors presented by the development and application of technologies, innovation and bioresources under the bioeconomy paradigm. We emphasise that there must be a "no

	one-size-fits-all” approach to developing agricultural sustainability, and that the bioeconomy approach must be outcomes-focussed and science- and evidence-based.
--	--