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Investing in rural people

## **Progress Report on Rome-based Agencies collaboration**

### **Addendum**

Executive Board — 128<sup>th</sup> Session  
Rome, 10-12 December 2019

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For: **Approval**

# Progress Report on Rome-based Agencies collaboration

## Addendum

- 1. Purpose.** Within the broader context of Rome-based agencies (RBA) collaboration, the purpose of this addendum to the Progress Report on RBA Collaboration (EB 2019/128/R.52) is to seek coherence among the Governing Bodies of the Rome-based agencies in their decisions with respect to the aforementioned progress report. In tabling this addendum, IFAD aligns itself with recent similar decisions taken by the Governing Bodies of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the World Food Programme (WFP) set forth below.

### Decisions of the FAO Council and WFP Executive Board

2. Based on recommendations captured in the Council agenda item on the report of the joint meeting of the 127<sup>th</sup> session of the Programme Committee and the 178<sup>th</sup> session of the Finance Committee, at the 163<sup>rd</sup> session of the FAO Council (2-6 December 2019) the following decisions were adopted. The Council:
- commended the progress, and exhorted continued efforts in the Organization's corporate zero-tolerance policy, processes and measures on the prevention of harassment, sexual harassment and authority abuse, as well as on protection against sexual exploitation and abuse; and looked forward to: a strengthened Key Performance Indicator (KPI) in the 2020-2021 results framework; a related staff satisfaction survey for all employees of FAO; and an analysis regarding the potential added value of making available for all three Rome-based Agencies (RBAs) a common specialized expertise on investigative functions related to allegations of sexual harassment, sexual exploitation and sexual abuse.
  - looked forward to further discussion on RBA collaboration within the repositioning of the United Nations development system, and progress on strengthened partnerships and collaboration, including in strategic, administrative and financial areas; and requested FAO together with WFP and IFAD to provide a first assessment regarding the feasibility of integrating administrative functions, and greater collaboration in some oversight functions, to be submitted to the 2020 end of year sessions of the FAO Council and the Executive Boards of IFAD and WFP for consideration.
  - acknowledging the necessary active role of the RBAs in preparing for the World Food Systems Summit (WFSS), under the direct leadership of the UN Secretary-General, the Council likewise emphasized the need for FAO Members to be fully involved in the preparatory process from the beginning.
3. At its second regular session from 18-21 November 2019, the WFP Executive Board took key decisions related to RBA collaboration. In particular, the Board:
- welcomed the pilot joint country strategies and looked forward to the reporting on these pilots and the preparation of more such strategies and noted the information that there were 34 new United Nations common country analyses in preparation for 2020.
  - appreciated the continued strong commitment of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and WFP to strengthen the partnerships and

collaboration focusing on the synergies and complementarities of the RBAs and asked for more visibility on concrete achievements, especially at the country level.

- requested that in future reports RBA Management focus on strategic issues and lessons learned, challenges faced, impacts, concrete achievements and financial benefits arising from RBA collaboration, particularly at the country level.

Following up on the discussions at the Third Annual Joint Informal Meeting of the three RBA Governing Bodies on 13 September 2019, in particular on the agenda item concerning "common services", requested WFP management, together with FAO and IFAD, to provide a first assessment regarding the feasibility of integrating administrative functions and greater collaboration in some oversight functions. This assessment should also encompass an analysis of the potential added value of a common specialized expertise for all three RBAs on investigative functions related to allegations of sexual harassment, sexual exploitation and sexual abuse.

- requested WFP management to report back at the Executive Board Second Regular Session in 2020.
- acknowledging the necessary active role of the Rome-based agencies in preparing for the World Food Systems Summit under the direct leadership of the United Nations Secretary-General, likewise emphasized the need for Member States to be fully involved in the preparatory process from the beginning.

4. **Recommendations to the IFAD Executive Board.** Consistent with the spirit and letter of the decisions taken by the FAO Council and WFP Executive Board, the IFAD Executive Board is invited to take the following three decisions:

- (i) request that in future reports RBA Management focus on strategic issues and lessons learned, challenges faced, impacts, concrete achievements and financial benefits arising from RBA collaboration, particularly at the country level.
- (ii) request IFAD Management, together with FAO and WFP, to provide a first assessment regarding the feasibility of integrating administrative functions and greater collaboration in some oversight functions, to be submitted to the 2020 end of year sessions of the IFAD and WFP Executive Boards and FAO Council for consideration. This assessment should also encompass an analysis of the potential added value of a common specialized expertise for all three Rome-based agencies on investigative functions related to allegations of sexual harassment, sexual exploitation and sexual abuse.
- (iii) acknowledging the necessary active role of the Rome-based agencies in preparing for the World Food Systems Summit (WFSS), under the direct leadership of the United Nations Secretary-General, likewise emphasize the need for Member States to be fully involved in the preparatory process from the beginning.