



Statement on behalf of the European Union and its 27 Member States

171st Session of the Council of the FAO

(5–9 December 2022)

Item 19: Strategic policy framework for multilingualism

Mr. Chair,

1. I am honoured to speak on behalf of the European Union and its 27 Member States.
2. Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Iceland, Montenegro, The Republic of North Macedonia, San Marino, Türkiye and Ukraine align themselves with this statement.
3. The EU and its Member States have always supported multilingualism at FAO and elsewhere. In this context, we are fully aligned with the conclusions on the importance of multilingualism expressed in the Report of the 166th Session of the Council held in 2021, and welcome the progress reports on the subject, requested at that session, including the strategic framework.
4. We appreciate the integrated approach to the five multilingual groups of products and services that FAO has made available. This approach takes into consideration the importance of optimising limited resources, both financial and human, in order to meet the growing demand of products and services.
5. We fully agree with the importance of accuracy and quality in language products. With this in mind, we highlight the role that FAO's terminology databases and the FAO Term Portal can play to facilitate accurate communication about food and agriculture at FAO level and elsewhere.
6. We also welcome the commitment to the continual enhancement of multilingualism. To that end, dedicated staff who can adequately support the delivery of the Strategic policy framework are needed. Moreover, we agree that the use of non-FAO languages is important, especially in local contexts, to enable efficient communication with partners and recipients, ensuring that audiences have access to the latest information and expertise. Accordingly, it is also relevant to seek the integration of innovative technologies (such as Artificial Intelligence and Computer-Assisted Interpretation (CAI)) once those tools shall be sufficiently developed.
7. Further to this document, which presents FAO's approach to multilingualism, we look forward to follow-up on monitoring the implementation of the strategic policy framework and the progress of multilingualism at FAO.

8. Finally, we look forward to knowing how the Strategic policy framework for multilingualism will be addressed in the next medium-term plan and in the programme of Work and Budget 2024-25.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.