



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 7: Report of the Joint Meeting of the 134th Session of the Programme Committee and 194th Session of the Finance Committee (November 2022).

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, North Macedonia, Republic of Moldova, San Marino, Serbia, Türkiye and Ukraine align themselves with this statement.
3. We would like to start by thanking the chair of the Joint Meeting Her Excellency Ambassador Rubinstein for her excellent leadership of the Joint Meeting.
4. The European Union and its Member States welcome the open and comprehensive review of the TCP. We consider positively the evolution of the principles of distribution of the regional **Technical Cooperation Programs (TCP)** resource shares, according to criteria shared by all (universality, LDCs, undernutrition, poverty, inequality, vulnerability). We recommend Council to approve the resource shares agreed by the Joint Meeting, while recalling that we need to maintain the focus of the Technical Cooperation Programmes on the LDCs as reflected in the weighing of the criteria.
5. On **Country Programming Frameworks (CFP)**, the European Union and its Member States support the request of the Joint Meeting to FAO [to ensure transparency by making all CPFs available to Member States on a single place on the FAO website.] The publication of these crucial documents is a standard practice in almost all UN agencies and, in fact, used to be the practice in FAO. The publication of all CPFs will greatly improve transparency, accountability and oversight of FAO's work on the ground and allow for a better coordination between donors in this regard.
6. The European Union welcome the Progress Report on **Rome Based Agencies (RBAs)**.

The European Union and its Member States encourages efforts for stronger collaboration, especially at country level and on current issues related to the war in Ukraine and food security.

7. We welcome the progress made and the annual report on Corporate Policy, Processes and Measures on the Prevention of Harrassment, Sexual harassmet and sexual exploitation and abuse. These are matters of high priority to the EU and we encourage management to continue to strengthen its work to ensure result at all levels in the organisation as well as with FAO partners.
8. **The European Union and its Member States take note of the Strategic policy framework for multilingualism.** We welcome the progress made by the formalisation of this strategy and the appointment of a Corporate Coordinator for Multilingualism.
9. **The European Union and its Member States support the establishment of the Sub-Committes on Fisheries Management, on the** proposal of the 35th Committee on Fisheries. We stress the importance of allowing the most fragile countries to fully participate in this sub-committeeIn this regard we support the creation of the multi-donor fund to enable the full operation of the Sub-Committee, and thanks the countries, notably Norway, that have also pledged contributions.
10. **We emphasise our full support in enhancing better collaboration of the UN Food systems coordination hub and ,** the Committee on World Food Security (CFS).
11. With these comments, we endorse the Report of the Joint Meeting of the 134th Session of the Programme Committee and the 194th Session of the Finance Committee.

Thank you, Mr Chair.
