



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

172nd session of the FAO Council

(24-28 April 2023)

Item 10: Reports of the 195th (13-17 March 2023) Session of the Finance Committee

Mr Chair,

- 1. I am honoured to speak on behalf of the European Union and its 27 Member States.**
- 2. The following FAO Members align themselves with this statement: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Iceland, Moldova, Montenegro, the Republic of North Macedonia, San Marino, Serbia, Türkiye and Ukraine.**
- 3. We would like to start by thanking the Chair of the Finance Committee Ms Imelda Smolčić Nijers for her engaging and efficient leadership of the Committee, which contributed to an effective meeting with a constructive exchange between members, as well as with Management.**
- 4. We will provide only a few remarks, since some issues will be discussed under other agenda items. Overall, we welcome the report.**

- 5. We welcome the improvements reported under the responsibility of the Division of Human Resources and Office of Ethics, which contribute to fostering an ethical, safe and inspiring work environment. We congratulate FAO for the positive result reported in the 2022 Employee Satisfaction Report. We encourage Management to continue its efforts to make recruitment procedures more efficient in order to substantially reduce vacancy rates and speed up recruitment time and also efforts to reach gender parity targets, especially at the senior level.**

- 6. We share the concern of the Committee regarding the high number of overdue internal and external audit recommendations, and urge Management to prioritise the implementation, especially of long outstanding high-risk recommendations, and to continue to strengthen internal control in decentralised offices. We note the increase in resources to the office of the inspector general, while recognising that the workload of the OIG continues to increase in volume as well as in complexity. We encourage Management ensure that oversight and supporting administrative functions can be adequately resourced to effectively manage risks.**

- 7. Finally, we look forward to future updates on how the ongoing JIU administrative review can contribute to further improvements in FAO.**

- 8. With these remarks we endorse the reports of the Finance Committee.**

Thank you, Mr Chair.
