



**Statement on behalf of the European Union and its 27 Member States**  
**172nd session of the FAO Council**  
**(24-28 April 2023)**

**Item 3: Medium Term Plan 2022-25 (Reviewed) and Programme of Work and Budget (2024-25)**

Madam/Mr Chair,

1. I am honoured to speak on behalf of the European Union and its 27 Member States.
2. We take note of the presentation of the Medium-Term Plan (MTP) and the Programme of work and Budget (PWB) for the next biennium.
3. We support the conclusions of the joint meeting of the Programme and Finance Committees calling for an inclusive process with members to ensure a consensus decision at the Conference. Additional budget scenarios and briefings with the broad membership are an important means to reach ownership of the final decision. We thank Management for the additional information provided in writing at the request from the Committees and from Members.
4. We recognise the need for members to better understand the consequences of different scenarios and choices to be made, possible efficiency savings, necessary cuts to activities or postponements of new activities or the creation of new posts, in order to provide guidance to the organisation on what we want FAO to do within the final budget. In a similar vein, budget allocations should rhyme with the shift in focus and should be communicated in all transparency, fostering a culture where Members are invested in the outcomes.
5. Today more than ever it is important that the core activities of FAO are at the forefront of the Programme of Work and Budget. We expect FAO to deliver, as a knowledge organisation, focusing on producing, managing, and sharing knowledge to enhance our understanding and ultimately achieve our common goals. This can be ensured not only by the Organisation's technical expertise, but also through supporting functions such as oversight, human resources and logistics.

6. FAO's comparative advantage must be guaranteed. We need to be able to count on FAO to fulfil its role in contributing to reaching the SDGs, to deliver safe and nutritious food to all, to work within a One Health approach, and to spearhead sustainable food systems transformation.
7. We welcome the full coverage by the regular budget of commitments to Conventions, Treaty bodies and UN cost-sharing. This funding is especially important for the delivery of the Organisation's public goods function.
8. We take note of the record-breaking result of attracting extrabudgetary funds for the 2022-23 period. Although voluntary funds account for 75% of the total budget, we need to be mindful of the stability and predictability of budget execution, enabling FAO to plan and implement the Programme of Work with greater certainty and consistency. We call for the development of a comprehensive vision for the funding of the Organisation, including the use of assessed and voluntary contributions, the management of the various funding arrangements and how these contribute to the achievement of the Organisation's objectives and the strategic framework in an effective, efficient and transparent way
9. We stand ready to continue to work with others in the run-up to the Conference, to provide guidance to the organisation and to arrive at a consensus-based decision.

Thank you, Madam/Mr Chair.

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