



Statement of Intent Programmatic Cooperation on Food Security and Nutrition

We, the European Commission and the Rome-based United Nations Agencies, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the World Food Programme (WFP) and the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), are committed to mobilize our institutions and resources to harmonize and coordinate the implementation of our food security and humanitarian food assistance goals. We aim to address the food security needs of the most vulnerable populations, enhance local and national resilience in terms of food security and nutrition, including strengthening the capacity of national institutions to provide effective prevention and response to food crises and to strengthen global action, coherence, governance and institutional framework for food security and nutrition.

To this end, we are committed to building a strategic and programmatic cooperation to mobilize support for food security and nutrition activities benefiting the most vulnerable populations and countries. This cooperation is based on our existing collaboration, our respective strategic frameworks, plans and partnership agreements (including Memoranda of Understanding, MoU), humanitarian interventions, the successful experience with the European Union Food Facility (EUFF), the L'Aquila Food Security Initiative (AFSI) and other international, regional and national-level activities.

In line with our respective mandates, we aim to meet humanitarian and development needs and challenges, also contributing to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), climate change, human rights and peace and stability, within the aid effectiveness agenda and respecting humanitarian principles, in the most effective and efficient way, and in accordance with our respective strengths.

A Common Platform for Action

We recognize that strategic dialogue and engagement is an essential step that can be built upon as food security and nutrition efforts move toward programmatic cooperation, and we agree to the extent possible to:

1. Pursue a coherent, comprehensive approach, for joint or individual action, based on the proven programme and operational capacities and core competences of our organizations to contribute to concrete results within the range of activities covered by the European Union's Food Security and Humanitarian Food Assistance frameworks and the Linking Relief, Rehabilitation and Development (LRRD) strategy.
2. Communicate strategically and regularly at both headquarters and field level, and identify opportunities for joint initiatives to promote food security and nutrition where our concerted efforts may offer advantages and increase awareness of concrete contributions to the development process particularly within the context of LRRD and the Comprehensive Framework for Action (CFA).
3. Participate in the relevant in-country, regional and global planning processes and support the development and use of shared benchmarks/results frameworks and joint processes for monitoring and assessment of short-, medium- and long-term needs, trends and perspectives.
4. Support the development and use of common food security and nutrition policy and strategy options and advice and a shared approach to food security and nutrition planning.
5. Develop international instruments, norms, standards and training to improve the capacity of staff to deepen collective and institutional knowledge.
6. Work together to ensure close cooperation in existing coordination mechanisms and pursue new partnerships and alliances.
7. Monitor progress in the implementation of the common platform through a senior meeting that would take place once a year.

Rome, 27th of June 2011

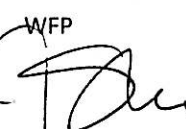
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Attachment to the Statement of Intent

European Commission-Rome based United Nations Agencies Programmatic Cooperation on Food Security and Nutrition

1. Background

The combined food, fuel and economic crises of 2007-2008 increased attention to global governance on food security and nutrition. It also increased the need to reinforce the institutional framework for food security and nutrition as called for by the G-8 Summit in L'Aquila and confirmed by the World Summit on Food Security in 2009 which is the platform of the evolving Global Partnership for Agriculture, Food Security and Nutrition.

Concurrently, increased aid effectiveness has become an overarching objective in development cooperation and humanitarian assistance in achieving goals with limited financial resources. Better division of labour between international institutions, strengthened ownership, alignment and harmonization at country level are fundamental to this agenda where food security and nutrition must find its place, supported by the international community.

The European Commission is a major development and humanitarian actor in the global arena. The European Consensus on Development adopted in 2005 provides a comprehensive policy on development. The European Consensus on Humanitarian Aid provides a common European Union vision and approach and guides action in the provision of humanitarian assistance. It confirms the European Union's commitment to uphold and promote the fundamental humanitarian principles. The European Commission also has a global presence with backup from an extensive network of European Union Delegations and humanitarian field presence. It has a prominent role within the European Union, shaping policy, delivering aid resources for the Union and implementing the development cooperation policy for the Union. The Lisbon Treaty, which entered into force in December 2009, formally incorporated development cooperation and humanitarian aid in the framework of principles and objectives of the European Union's external action. It also institutionalized Policy Coherence for Development whereby all European Union external policies shall take into account the need for the reduction and eradication of poverty and hunger in the world.

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) signed an MoU with the European Commission in September 2004 establishing a strategic partnership in development and humanitarian assistance. The Partnership aims at fostering closer collaboration in food security and nutrition and reducing rural poverty by providing a more interactive, transparent, financially predictable and easier to monitor framework for cooperation. The FAO 2010-2019 Strategic Framework provides a results-based approach in achieving its vision of a world free of hunger and malnutrition where food and agriculture shall contribute to improving the living standards of all, especially the poorest, in an economically, socially and environmentally sustainable manner.

The International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and the European Commission have been collaborating over the last five years through the Consultative Group of International Agricultural Research (CGIAR), support for farmer organizations, project co-

financing, and the European Union Food Facility (EUFF) and intend to strengthen their relationship further. The IFAD 2011-2015 Strategic Framework emphasizes agricultural development, empowering poor rural people focusing on smallholder farmers and the development of profitable and sustainable farm and non-farm enterprises integrated into market and value chains and involving public-private sector partnerships. Collaboration with the European Commission shall be pursued in CGIAR-led agriculture research in development, private sector investment in rural development, strengthening farmer organizations, responsible investments in land and rural finance, climate change, water management, gender and non-traditional sources of financing.

The World Food Programme (WFP) signed in September 2005 a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the European Commission establishing a strategic partnership in humanitarian and recovery assistance. The partnership aims at enhancing common goals and actions on saving lives and livelihoods in humanitarian crises, emergencies and protracted crises marked by food insecurity to assist the most vulnerable and poor populations. It also ensures transition from emergencies and relief to recovery and development restoring and rebuilding lives and livelihoods from post conflict and crisis situations. The WFP 2008-2013 Strategic Plan further supports measures on disaster preparedness and mitigation; post-disaster or transition situations; and on strengthening capacities to reduce chronic hunger and malnutrition through hand-over strategies.

The Rome-based UN agencies, together with the European Commission, confirm, through this Statement of Intent, to the largest extent possible, their resolve, to work towards a programmatic framework for cooperation capitalizing on complementarity of priorities based on comparative advantages. They also confirm the shift from a project-oriented approach of bilateral cooperation towards a programmatic multilateral approach wherever this is feasible. This innovative multilateral partnership shall foster coherence, complementarity and coordination at both strategic and operational levels, achieving more predictable aid funding.

2. Rationale

The European Union policy frameworks for food security and humanitarian food assistance adopted through Council Conclusions of 10 May 2010 provide a strategic and programmatic focus for the cooperation between the European Commission and the Rome-based Agencies to increase the impact on MDG#1 related to poverty and hunger reduction. This programmatic framework shall build upon the commitment to address acute food insecurity of the most vulnerable and promote food security, on the one hand and the comparative advantages and core strengths of the agencies, on the other. It should also take into account the emerging multilateral process of linking relief, rehabilitation to development (LRRD) and on the UN Comprehensive Framework for Action (CFA) and other initiatives.

The European Union policy frameworks for food security and humanitarian food assistance address key challenges in developing countries across the internationally recognized four pillars: (1) increasing availability of food; (2) improving access to food; (3) improving consumption and the nutritional adequacy of food; and (4) enhancing food crisis prevention and management.

In order to maximize the effectiveness of European Commission and Rome-based Agencies' support and investment in food security, focus is required on three enabling conditions:

- a. Support for national and regional policies and reforms on agriculture and food security and related areas such as land, water, other natural resources and bio-energy taking full account of climate change challenges.
- b. Anchoring the approach to food security and food assistance in developing countries in the principles of the Paris Declaration on Effectiveness, the Accra Agenda for Action and the European Union Code of Conduct on Division of Labour.
- c. Improving the coherence of the international food security and nutrition governance system through the support of the reform of the Committee on World Food Security (CFS), as well as the Standing Committee on Nutrition (SCN), and through a rationalization of the programmatic priorities of the Rome-based Agencies and by strengthening their cooperation to create synergies.

In order to maximise the effectiveness of support from the European Commission and the Rome-based Agencies for regarding humanitarian food assistance, the focus will be, *inter alia*, on the respect of the basic humanitarian principles, sound needs assessments, response analysis and the resulting choice of the most appropriate mix of tools, the involvement of beneficiaries and coordination.

The European Union policy framework prioritizes four broad and related dimensions: (1) improve smallholder resilience and rural livelihoods; (2) support effective governance; (3) support regional agricultural and food security policies; and (4) strengthen assistance mechanisms for vulnerable population groups.

A starting point for the Rome-based Agencies is their respective strategic frameworks as summarized above. In addition, the European Commission – Rome-based Agencies' programmatic framework will be based upon the comparative advantage and core strengths of each of the Rome-based Agencies to maximize complementarities and synergies amongst them. What follows is a summary description of each Rome-based Agency's comparative advantages.

The comparative advantage of FAO lies in its role as the world's agricultural knowledge agency for policy development, integrated capacity building, technical cooperation, response to agricultural emergencies and support to rehabilitation/recovery, support to rural and agricultural investment, collection and dissemination of global information and for the development and implementation of major international treaties and agreements.

The comparative advantage of IFAD is its experience in financing projects and programmes that are aligned with countries' own development strategies and enable poor rural people to increase agricultural production and overcome poverty, its knowledge of rural poverty and its exclusive focus on poor rural people and their livelihoods.

The comparative advantage of WFP is in emergency and post-crisis transitional situations and lies in its capacity for large-scale response, extensive field presence, logistics, telecommunications and procurement capacity, early warning, needs assessment and vulnerability analysis in support of targeted food assistance and nutrition interventions and

safety nets. The core mission of WFP is to provide life-saving humanitarian emergency relief and assistance to the most vulnerable food insecure populations as well as to promote the rehabilitation and recovery phase to pave the way for more sustainable longer-term hunger solutions.

Furthermore, the implementation of this programmatic cooperation will seek the widest participation possible of country stakeholders in order to ensure ownership and sustainability of development aid. It shall also promote synergy within the context of South-South and decentralized cooperation in strengthening food security governance.

The development-related aspects of the programmatic framework shall be guided by the principles relating to gender equality, participation and empowerment of vulnerable groups, environmental protection, employment creation and institutional capacity to develop transparency, accountability and responsive governance, supporting the realization of the Right to Food.

The humanitarian aspects of the framework aid will be based on the fundamental humanitarian principles, notably of independence, neutrality and impartiality, in line with the European Consensus on Humanitarian Aid and with respect for the principles of Good Humanitarian Donorship.

A qualifying aspect of the programmatic framework is the recognition that a territorial perspective and approach to food security policies and governance systems would contribute to better address sub-national geographic disparities and uneven prospects to food security. In this connection, collaboration with local authorities (regions, districts, municipalities) may focus on the assistance to be provided for the formulation and implementation of policies referring to employment, training, investment promotion, migration and co-development (support to the investment of migrant's remittances in rural areas).

3. Rome-based Agencies' programmatic focus areas in support of the European Union policy priorities:

Work has been undertaken by the Commission and the Rome-based Agencies to develop a programmatic framework for strengthened collaboration building upon the European Union policy priorities and the Agencies' corporate strategic objectives and comparative advantages. This process has resulted so far in the identification of nine programmatic priority areas of the Rome-based Agencies aligned with the four priority objectives of the European Union policies for food security and humanitarian food assistance.

3.1 European Union Policy Objective I: Improve smallholder resilience and rural livelihoods

3.1.1 Sustainable intensification of smallholder agriculture

Intensification of agriculture shall use the ecosystem approach promoting sustainability of the farming systems and market-oriented agriculture. Complementary measures will include crop protection through integrated pest management; improved management of trans-

boundary plant pest and aquatic animal disease; agricultural biodiversity and ecosystem services.

There is a pressing need to develop investment strategies and programmes that enable smallholders to produce more profitably the foods in quantity, quality and variety needed for achieving increased income, improved food and nutrition security in a sustainable manner. Improving resilience of vulnerable populations through the promotion and restoration of sustainable livelihoods through productive safety-net programmes draws marginalized regions and groups into mainstream growth and development processes.

Initiatives in this programmatic area should aim to enable farmers to gain skills to increase the productivity and quality of their crops; build capacity for profitable market engagement, provide access to a wide range of financial services; and better agricultural technologies and practices. An important contribution towards long-term solutions to hunger and poverty is to procure food in developing countries where possible, without creating local price inflation, including leveraging local purchase to support smallholder farmers, to strengthen and deepen developing country agricultural markets.

3.1.2 Effective response to food and agricultural threats and emergencies

Targeted food assistance and emergency nutrition interventions, based on accurate needs assessments, are first-response tools when acute hunger is life-threatening. With its transformation to food assistance, WFP is applying new tools such as cash and vouchers, and is putting more emphasis on local/regional procurement and on the nutritional quality of the food. In humanitarian crises, FAO is leading the response to protect and restore agriculture, fisheries and pastoral-based livelihoods, supporting affected populations' survival strategies and allowing to rebuild back better. WFP and FAO co-lead the Global Emergency Food Security Cluster to further enhance a coordinated response among all humanitarian partners.

WFP will continue to provide emergency logistics, Information and Communication Technology (ICT), depots, air services and other capabilities that help to save lives, reduce costs and decrease response time. Provision of services, including cluster lead for logistics and emergency telecommunications to the global humanitarian system enhances the effectiveness and delivery of aid and humanitarian action.

Proactive national strategies are essential for vulnerable countries to avoid large-scale loss of life, destruction of the environment, infrastructure and economic activity, and degradation of livelihoods and nutrition. Building recovery and resilience includes scaling up social protection and safety net initiatives and also supporting comprehensive disaster risk management through strengthening of early warning systems and better linkages with assessment tools to improved adaptation practices and better contingency and response management plans.

Where conditions allow, we will ensure that one harmonized and nationally-led needs assessment and recovery planning process for food security is made. This will identify and capture the needs of the people, damage to physical assets, subsequent economic losses, social dimension and sector aspects of the recovery needs and the evolving local socio-

economic and institutional contexts. Using this information, a single national recovery framework/plan for food security will be prepared. This will have defined harmonized and shared priorities to be supported by national and international actors together, taking into account the existing capacities to respond to needs.

The phasing of the relief/early recovery/long-term sustainable recuperation and reconstruction cycles will also ensure strong coordination and coherence. Therefore, we will apply to the largest extent possible the principle of LLRD as a priority more systematically and in a programmatic way to better address humanitarian food assistance and food security in crisis situations, with the integration of nutrition.

3.1.3 Adaptation to and mitigation of climate change for food security

Adaptation to climate change is vital for reducing vulnerability and achieving food security. Increasing the resilience of production and livelihoods systems requires improved management of natural resources and strengthening of rural institutions. Measures for adaptation and food security are often in synergy with mitigation measures on climate change. Efforts would include enhancing countries' capacities to implement community-based programmes reducing social and environmental vulnerabilities of food insecure households and communities. Transforming smallholder production and marketing systems to meet challenges requires increased knowledge on synergies between adaptation, mitigation and food security and nutrition and capacities for implementation. Sustainable development and research on adaptation and mitigation can diminish climate change related threats to nutrition. Adaptation and mitigation measures should be part of development programmes, including national and regional food and nutrition policies, strategies and action plans.

There is enormous potential to scale up sustainable agricultural investments that deliver climate resilience, food security and low carbon benefits to the rural poor through programmatic approaches, projects and investments led by national governments. IFAD's Climate Change Strategy and forthcoming Environment and Natural Resource Management Policy set out a plan for scaling up. This includes areas such as sustainable land management, conservation agriculture, agro-forestry and index-based weather insurance through its rigorously community-based, participatory approaches.

The Rome-based Agencies will work together to strengthen and mainstream disaster risk reduction in their actions and cooperate closely with the lead UN agencies in charge of disaster risk reduction and adaptation to climate change, including in areas such as sustainable land management, land rehabilitation and irrigation systems, conservation agriculture, agro-forestry and index-based weather insurance, through community-based, participatory approaches.

3.1.4 Increased public-private sector partnerships and new financing instruments

Addressing the food and nutrition security situation in many countries cannot and will not depend upon the public sector only. It is recognized that private-sector partnerships create opportunities. IFAD's strategic framework clearly states that investing in small farmer agricultural development is investing in making small farmers more profitable as a business.

Therefore, it is necessary to promote new instruments (e.g. equity funds, micro-credits, seed capital or access to rural finance and credits) or join successful initiatives that provide the opportunity for engaging the private sector to invest in rural businesses of small farmers.

The growing importance of migration and remittances (USD 325 billion in 2010) is changing the socio-economic scenario of the agro rural sector in most developing countries. In particular, labour movement and corresponding changes in relative wages due to migration and remittance in-flows for family support and other purposes are affecting agricultural production, relative competitiveness of agriculture, as well as social safety net issues. FAO and IFAD have already started a dialogue on how the positive effect of remittances on poverty and food insecurity, including investment in productive agro rural activities, can be effectively enhanced and the negative impacts minimized through policy intervention. The investment of remittances by migrants in their countries of origin in climate-smart agricultural projects/business can also be promoted through co-funding and remittances matching programmes. This will also benefit employment creation in the rural areas and thus improve food security of those that may not have access to land.

WFP is continuing to build stronger partnerships with the private sector, including with major international companies providing expertise and financial support to help expanding implementation capacity, enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of WFP's logistics supply chain, food and nutrition assistance operations, and increase awareness and visibility of these interventions.

FAO's new framework for cooperation with the private sector will create shared value in agricultural food chains, promote food security, and enhance sustainable business practices. FAO will focus on policy advice and capacity building of producers' organizations and cooperatives, business and industry particularly small and medium-size enterprises in developing countries.

3.1.5 Promote demand driven agricultural research

There is a continued need to improve the responsiveness of National Agricultural Research Systems (NARS), and the reformed CGIAR to demands of small farmers e.g. developing adequate technologies, innovations and scaling up their applications. This improvement can also benefit from strengthened partnerships between these research systems - the NARS of developing countries and the reformed CGIAR - and the Advanced Research Institutions of the European Research Area. IFAD has been investing since its existence in the CGIAR and provides a gateway through the country programmes directed at small farmers for testing and wider application of demand led research in these areas. FAO provides valuable expertise in support of NARS and CGIAR and government institutions. Increased synergies between international and national actors should lead to the promotion of sustainable technologies. WFP's local and regional food purchases can contribute to improved incentives for market-oriented research investments.

3.2 European Union Policy Objective II: Support effective governance

3.2.1 Strengthened collaboration between the Rome-based Agencies

Collaboration among the Rome-based Agencies shall be pursued within the (i) overall UN efforts of system-wide coherence; (ii) the context of the directions for collaboration agreed by their respective governing bodies according to their comparative advantages as articulated in the joint FAO/IFAD/WFP strategy Document entitled “*Directions for Collaboration among the Rome-based Agencies*”; (iii) the UN Comprehensive Framework of Action on Food Security and Nutrition; and (iv) the humanitarian cluster system.

The Rome-based Agencies and the European Union are actively supporting effective global governance through the Committee on World Food Security, the CFS, in order to help countries and regions reduce hunger and malnutrition more quickly and effectively. The reform of the CFS aims to establish a multiple stakeholder platform open to member countries and representatives of local authorities and civil society, the private sector, the research community and the UN System.

As part of the joint CFS secretariat and as members of the CFS advisory group, RBA will contribute in ensuring coherence of the international governance system by, (i) supporting national initiatives; (ii) ensuring a democratic and participatory process in policy debates; (iii) strengthening linkages at all levels; and (iv) basing decisions on scientific evidence and knowledge-based analyses.

Good governance for food security and nutrition is fundamentally about the national government’s ability to address hunger, malnutrition and food insecurity, its capacity to carry out public functions to address these challenges, effectively manage available, and often scarce, public resources, articulate priorities taking into account the needs of the poorest and most vulnerable and ultimately, account for results to its citizens in a transparent manner.

The need to strengthen food security governance is increasingly receiving attention at global, regional and national levels and these efforts should continue and be strengthened under this cooperation. But governance and political economy factors play a central role also in shaping policies and determining development outcomes for food security as a sector. Constraints and obstacles to progress in food security and nutrition at national level can thus depend on issues that financial support and technical solutions alone cannot address. Initiatives in this area should focus on strengthening the Rome-based Agencies' capacities to better address governance and political economy and hence achieve better results in their work.

3.2.2 Secure and equitable access to land for small farmers

Over the last decade increased emphasis has been given to provide advice and share good practices that improve the policy framework for protection of land rights and secure access to land for small-scale farmers. Most recently increased efforts have been undertaken to define a governance framework that provides guidance, a set of agreed principles and good

practices for sustainable large-scale investment in farm land. Existing collaboration between FAO and IFAD and other partners, including the International Land Coalition, will be strengthened in support of regional (e.g. African Union) and national initiatives, as well as for the implementation of the UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD).

3.3 European Union Policy Objective III: Support regional agriculture and food security policies

3.3.1 Policy assistance and statistics to guide investment

Decision-making for the sustainable management of agriculture, natural resources, food security, nutrition and poverty and hunger alleviation must rely on evidence-based analysis using data generated by strong and sustainable information systems. In order to operate in a sustainable way at regional, national and sub national levels, data, information, analysis and policy recommendations must be accompanied by activities that develop capacity and improve governance mechanisms able to address territorial disparities. A key cross-cutting FAO strategic objective is to improve food security and nutrition through strengthening of information systems, food and nutrition security analysis and policy research capacity, overall food and nutrition security governance and support to the progressive realization of the Right to Adequate Food.

In addition to WFP's Early Warning and Vulnerability and Analysis Mapping (VAM) analyses, Comprehensive Food Security Assessments and Joint Food Crop Supply assessment missions should enable early forecasting of potential risks to crop production and the associated vulnerability it will create, as well as contribute to international monitoring and managing of food market volatility. IFAD through its strategic objective to increasingly scale up innovative agricultural investment programmes will need, with the support from FAO and other partners, to provide the necessary evidence to national policy-makers to promote needed policy changes that favour growing investments in small-farmer agriculture and rural development in countries.

3.4 European Union Policy Objective IV: Strengthen assistance mechanism for vulnerable population groups

3.4.1 Productive and social safety nets to address nutritional security of children, women and vulnerable groups

We recognize that safety nets should be an integral part of social protection programmes, designed to protect the poor and vulnerable from both chronic food insecurity and transitory food insecurity caused by disaster – economic and natural, sudden and slow onset. Ideally they are designed *ex ante* rather than *ex post* so that they can be scaled up in times of crisis. Scaling up support through safety-nets such as maternal/child health and nutrition programmes, school feeding and public works and asset creation schemes help governments prevent longer-term consequences to health, human, social and economic development. FAO and WFP have a history of working extensively with partner governments to increase strategic capacity for the design and implementation of these essential instruments. Building on recognized principles of ownership, alignment, harmonization, management for results and mutual accountability and depending on the causes and state of

food insecurity in the country, such interventions have the longer-term objective of being managed by country stakeholders (government, local authorities, the private sector and/or civil society). Consistent with this approach, close attention is paid to knowledge sharing and capacity strengthening to prepare for, assess and respond to acute hunger arising from disasters.

4. Operationalization of the Rome-based Agencies-European Commission programmatic framework

4.1 Process

Based on the respective mandates, policies and priorities, as well as the strategic objectives and organizational results defined by the governing bodies of the four institutions whose increased cooperation will be guided by the programmatic framework, clearly identifiable and measurable deliverables will be identified in the aforementioned programmatic areas for individual or joint action, as appropriate.

Building on the lessons learned from the preparation and implementation of actions currently funded from the EU Food Facility, proposals to be considered for co-funding by the European Commission and the Rome-based Agencies will be developed in a demand-driven manner and by taking into account the respective comparative advantages of the four institutions.

Wherever possible and desirable, the projects and programmes resulting from this process will be jointly implemented and the parties will aim to harmonize and align their respective actions and resources towards maximum impact at minimum costs and in support of countries' efforts to attain the MDGs.

A policy dialogue will be started, upon signature of the Statement of Intent by the heads of the three Rome-based Agencies and the European Commissioner for Development and the European Commissioner for International Cooperation, Humanitarian Aid and Crisis Response. This dialogue will be pursued at global, (sub) regional and (sub) national levels in a subsidiary manner, depending on the nature and scope of the issues to be addressed, and it will involve all relevant stakeholders. European Union Delegations should also be actively involved in this process. Once a year, a high-level meeting will be organized at global level to jointly review the state of play of the cooperation and to take stock of the emerging issues to be addressed. The European Union Member States will be invited to these consultations as observers, with a view to eventually involving them in the cooperation, following the Paris and Accra agendas as well as the principles of the European Consensus on Development and the European Consensus on Humanitarian Aid.

In relation to cooperation with third countries and any other issue that regards the strategic relationship between the EU and FAO, WFP and IFAD, the European Commission will work in close cooperation with the European External Action Service.

4.2 Modalities

In the priority areas of the European Commission-Rome-based Agencies programmatic framework, there will be two types of cooperation modalities, i.e. policy dialogue and cooperation in operational activities.

The policy dialogue, including exchange of knowledge and information, will be the starting point for the cooperation. It will contribute to enhanced coherence between the various institutions involved in terms of policy approaches in priority areas of common interest and in support of development processes in selected countries. To maximize impact of operational activities to be developed jointly or individually, it is important that this dialogue leads to common principles in the relevant areas. Regular meetings at political and/or technical levels will be organized to discuss shared objectives, common approaches, indicators, etc., in the various priority areas. This will require involvement of external expertise and peers in meetings to be organized at global, (sub) regional and (sub) national levels, as required.

Collaboration through operational activities will be promoted in the priority areas of common interest and capacity and where there is opportunity for added value and impact. Operational cooperation at global, (sub) regional and (sub) national levels will typically follow from the aforementioned policy dialogue.

4.3 Funding

In addition to the resources that are available from the respective programmes of work and budget of the three Rome-based Agencies the programmatic cooperation between the three RBA and the European Commission is expected to eventually attract strategic and predictable funding support from various European Union funding instruments although in itself it does not constitute an agreement to finance.

4.4 Communication and Visibility

The European Commission-Rome-based Agencies programmatic framework is also a good opportunity to raise awareness among the beneficiary population and/or in Europe of how the European Commission and the three work together to support food security and nutrition. In support of this, joint or individual visibility initiatives on the partnership will be undertaken, to the extent possible, in the beneficiaries' country and/or in Europe.