



ALAWUC/NE/12
May 2012

**REPORT OF
THE SEVENTH SESSION
(Special Meeting)**

**AGRICULTURE AND LAND AND WATER USE
COMMISSION FOR THE NEAR EAST
(ALAWUC)**

Cairo, Egypt

8-9 May 2012

**Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
Regional Office for the Near East**

LIST OF ALAWUC MEMBER COUNTRIES

AFGHANISTAN

BAHRAIN

CYPRUS

EGYPT

IRAN

IRAQ

JORDAN

KUWAIT

LEBANON

LIBYA

MAURITANIA

MOROCCO

OMAN

PAKISTAN

QATAR

SAUDI ARABIA

SOMALIA

SUDAN

SYRIA

TUNISIA

TURKEY

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

YEMEN

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FAO/RNE 2012

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SUMMARY OF MAIN RECOMMENDATIONS

1. **Called upon** Member countries to assign a senior level National Focal Point who is tasked with coordination and follow-up of the ALAWUC affairs.
2. The Commission requested the Organization to establish a *Trust Fund Account* for deposition of Member Countries annual contributionins for the Commission programme of work and activities;
3. The Commission **called upon** Member Countries to identify their voluntary annual contribution and to express their commitment to the established TF Account that ensures the Commission sustainability;
4. The Commission **called upon** the Regional Conference to review and endorse the Seventh Session report and to forward the “Proposed Statutes of ALAWUC (Annex 1) to the FAO Council through the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters, for approval; taking into consideration the amendments stated in Annex-2 to the Session Report”..
5. The Commission **urged** countries of the Region who attended Session as Observers to be full members to broaden the membership base.

I. INTRODUCTORY ITEMS

A. Organization of the Commission

1. The Seventh Session (Special Meeting) of the FAO Agriculture and Land and Water Use Commission for the Near East (ALAWUC) was held in Cairo, Egypt, during 8-9 May 2012. The Opening Ceremony of the Commission was attended by (35) persons, including (20) participants from (13) Member Countries, (3) Observers representing regional organizations in the Near East; in addition to (2) Observers from Algeria and Palestine.

B. Inaugural Ceremony

2. The Session was inaugurated by Mr. Abbas El-Shennawi, Head of the Agricultural Services and Follow-up Sector on behalf of the Ministry of Agriculture and Land Reclamation in Egypt and by Mr. Moujahed Achouri, Deputy Regional Representative, OiC of the FAO Assistant Director General and Regional Representative on behalf of the FAO Regional Office for the Near East.

3. Mr. El-Shennawi welcomed the participants and expressed his thanks to FAO and to ALAWUC Member Countries for holding the Commission's Seventh Session in Egypt. He recalled that most countries of the Near East are faced water scarcity with heavy reliance on groundwater for food production. He noted with appreciation FAO efforts in addressing outstanding issues related to agriculture and land and water in the Region. He pointed out the importance of regional cooperation among countries; calling the Commission to reach some recommendations that are up to the expectations of Member Countries. Mr. El-Shennawi ended by expressing his wishes for a successful meeting and for the safe return of delegates.

4. Mr. Shoki Al-Dobi, Acting Secretary of ALAWUC Commission gave a short brief about this Seventh Special Session reviewing the past achievements of the Commission. He expressed his thanks, on behalf of the Commission, to Egypt for holding this meeting and for Mr. Ghassan Hamdallah, FAO Consultant and Ex- Secretary of the Commission and to Ms. Manuella Cuvi, Legal Officer from the Legal Office in Rome for their participation and contribution to this Session.

5. Mr. Moujahed Achouri, Deputy Regional Representative, OiC of the FAO Assistant Director General and Regional Representative for Near East welcomed the participants and conveyed to them the wishes of the FAO Director-General, Mr. José-Graziano Da Silva, for a fruitful and successful meeting. He expressed his thanks and appreciation to the Egyptian Government, represented by the Ministry of Agriculture and Land Reclamation, for their hospitality and their efforts and for convening this Commission Session in Cairo. He pointed out the importance of convening this Session of ALAWUC, particularly for discussing the Commission Statutes.

6. Mr. Achouri noted the past achievements accomplished by ALAWUC in addressing issues of priority to the Region and indicated that this Session recommendations and findings will be reviewed and adopted by the next Regional Conference to be convened in Rome between 14-18 May 2012. He added that ALAWUC is instrumental in identifying priority areas, specially those of regional dimensions to be focused on by FAO future programme of work.

7. Mr. Achouri ended his remarks by expressing the FAO readiness to cooperate with Member Countries in implementing the recommendations reached by the Commission, within the Organization's available resources.

C. Election of Chairperson, Vice Chairpersons and Appointment of Rapporteur

8. The Commission unanimously elected Mr. Hany Ramadan, Director of the Land, Water and Environment Research Center in Egypt as its Chairperson and Mr. Mahmoud Al Fraihat, from Jordan was appointed as Rapporteur. It was further agreed that the Heads of Delegations from all other participating Member Countries would serve as Vice-Chairpersons.

D. Adoption of the Agenda and Timetable

9. The Commission considered the Provisional Agenda (ALAWUC/NE/12/1) and Provisional Timetable (ALAWUC/12/INF/2) and approved them without any changes.

II. ISSUES FOR DISCUSSION

A. ALAWUC: A Background Review

10. The document (ALAWUC/NE/12/4) was presented by the Secretariat. The Commission was briefed on the ALAWUC establishment, following the merging of the past two Regional Commissions (the Commission on Agriculture/COAG and the Land and Water Use Commission/LWUC) by virtue of the FAO Council Decision 13/97. A brief on the previous six sessions was given, including the main outcomes of each session and the recommendations taken. Of particular importance was the reference to the Sixth Session, held in Khartoum in 2010 which recommended preparing the *Commission Statutes*.

11. The document presented some proposed actions for the Commission to reactivate its role, broaden members participation, as well as strengthening ALAWUC as a Regional Statutory Body to address outstanding issues in the Region, in addition to suggest some steps to increase its financial resources. Below are the Commission endorsement of these suggested actions:

- i. Requesting Member Countries to present a written report on the action taken responding to recommendations of each ALAWUC Session;
- ii. Member Countries are to assign the adequate number of officials with expertise relevant to Commission mandate in order to ensure effective participation in Commission Sessions;
- iii. Commission Members and the Organization are requested to open channels with potential donors and regional and international funding institutions, such as EU, Islamic Bank, IFAD and others to support the Commission activities;
- iv. Member Countries are called to assign a senior level National Focal Point who is tasked with coordination and follow-up of the ALAWUC affairs.

B. Review of the draft Proposed Statutes of the Agriculture and Land and Water Use Commission (ALAWUC)

12. The Commission reviewed the draft of the proposed Statutes of the Commission (Annex 1) prepared by FAO Legal Office (LEGA) and suggested certain amendments stated in the (Annex-2) to this Report. The Commission endorsed the proposed Statutes and requested that, the proposed Statutes to be forwarded to the FAO Council through the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters for approval.

11. On the financial contributions, the Commission decided to establish a Trust Fund to accept annual voluntary contributions from Members, instead of entering in an International Agreement under Article XIV of the FAO Constitution.

13. On Election of the Commission Officers and Bureau Members,

The delegates have elected by consensus, the following persons for the cited positions:

- Mr. Salah El-Hajj Hassan, from Lebanon, as Chairperson;
- Mr. Khader Atroosh, from Yemen, as Vice-chairperson;
- Mr. Abdallah Cherid, from Tunisia, as Vice-chairperson;
- Mr. Bulent Sonmez, from Turkey, as a member; and
- Ms. Widad Mutwakil Saadalla, from Sudan, as a member.

C. Brief on the FAO Activities implemented during 2010/2011 Biennium

15. The Commission considered the document (ALAWUC/NE/12/5) that summarized the FAO activities achieved in support of the Agriculture and Land and Water issues. The Commission welcomed the Organization's efforts that assisted Member Countries to address such challenging matters.

III. CONCLUDING REMARKS

A. Information Notes

16. The following two FAO documents were circulated for information:
- i. State of Land and Water Resources (SOLAW),
 - ii. Save and Grow.

B. Subjects for Discussion at the Eighth Session

17. The Commission established a working group composed of delegation of Lebanon, Tunisia, Yemen and Secretariat representative to review and enrich the list of topics proposed during the last Sixth Session. The Commission discussed the list of topics prepared by the working group and selected the following topics to be discussed during the coming Eighth Session:

Water

- 1- Reuse of treated wastewater in agriculture: Situation, constraints and prospects for improvement;
- 2- Water Use efficiency in the Near East;

Land issues

- 3- Land use planning in the Near East;

Agriculture

- 4- Management and valorization of agricultural production residues in the field;
- 5- Experience in agricultural products marketing in the Near East Region and training needs for capacity improvement in this area.

Climate change and drought

- 6- Impacts of climate change on water and crop production;

Policy

- 7- Experience in regulations and legislation of water use in agriculture;

C. Date and Place of the Next Session

18. The representative of Lebanon extended an invitation to host the next Eighth Commission Session in Beirut. The Commission received the invitation with appreciation and will convey this to the FAO Director-General to consider that when deciding on the place of the next session.

D. Adoption of the Report

19. The Rapporteur presented the Session Report and after due discussion, the Report was adopted unanimously by acclamation.

E. Closure of the Commission Session

20. On behalf of FAO, Mr. Shoki Al-Dobi, Acting Secretary of the Commission made a short closing remarks by thanking the participants for their valuable contributions and for the significant recommendations that they managed to reach. He also expressed sincere thanks to the Government of Egypt for their valuable cooperation. In addition, thanks were extended to the interpreters, Secretariat staff members for their hard work.

21. The Chairperson of the Session, after giving some concluding remarks, expressed his thanks to FAO and to the participants; declared the Commission Session closed at 17:00 hrs. on Wednesday, 9 May 2012.

APPENDIX (A):

Agenda

I. INTRODUCTORY ITEMS

1. Registration
2. Opening of the Session
 - Introduction to the Seventh Session by the ALAWUC Secretariat
 - Opening statement of the FAO ADG/RR for the Near East
 - Opening statement of Host Country Representative
3. ALAWUC Overview presentation
4. Election of the Chairperson and Vice-Chairpersons and Appointment of the Rapporteur
5. Adoption of the Agenda and Timetable

II. DISCUSSION ITEMS

6. Review and endorsement the draft Statutes of ALAWUC prepared by FAO Legal Office (LEGA)
7. Discussion and agreement on the countries' financial contribution to the ALAWUC
8. Election of the Bureau members
9. Recommendations and subjects for discussion decided during the 6th Session of ALAWUC
10. Action Taken by FAO in line with ALAWUC during the previous biennium 2010/2011
11. General discussion and proposals of topics for inclusion in the next ALAWUC Session

III. OTHER BUSINESS

12. Introduction to Save and Grow publication
13. State of Land and Water Resources (SOLAW) publication

IV. CONCLUDING ITEMS

14. Adoption of the Report
15. Closure of the Session

APPENDIX (B):

قائمة بأسماء المشاركين

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

الدول الأعضاء في الهيئة

MEMBER NATIONS OF THE COMMISSION

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البحرين

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مركز البحوث الزراعية
وزارة الزراعة واستصلاح الأراضي
القاهرة

IRAN, ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF

جمهورية إيران الإسلامية

IRAQ

العراق

JORDAN

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Land and Irrigation Department
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الأردن
محمود الفريجات
رئيس قسم مسح وتصنيف التربة وإستعمالات
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طرابلس

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وزارة التنمية الريفية
نواكشوط

MOROCCO

المغرب

OMAN, SULTANATE OF

سلطنة عمان

PAKISTAN

باكستان

QATAR

قطر

SAUDI ARABIA, KINGDOM OF

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Manager of Taif National Park
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Riyadh

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الرياض

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الخرطوم

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دمشق

غسان رستم
مستشار
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دمشق

تونس

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وزارة الزراعة والري
عدن

مراقبون من دول أعضاء من الإقليم

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Cairo, Egypt

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TAJIKISTAN

طاجيكستان

TURKEMISTAN

تركمنستان

UZBEKISTAN

أوزبكستان

مراقبون من دول أعضاء من خارج الإقليم
OBSERVERS FROM MEMBER NATIONS NOT IN THE REGION

FRANCE

UNITED KINGDOM

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

ممثلو الأمم المتحدة والوكالات المتخصصة
REPRESENTATIVES OF THE UNITED NATIONS AND SPECIALIZED AGENCIES

مراقبون عن منظمات حكومية دولية
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APPENDIX C

LIST OF DOCUMENTS

| Document Number | Title |
|------------------------|--|
| ALAWUC/NE/12/1 | Provisional Agenda |
| ALAWUC/NE/12/2 (E) | Statutes of the Agriculture and Land and Water Use Commission for the Near East (ALAWUC) |
| ALAWUC/NE/12/3(A) | Statutes of the Agriculture and Land and Water Use Commission for the Near East (ALAWUC) |
| ALAWUC/NE/12/4 (E) | ALAWUC: A Background Review |
| ALAWUC/NE/12/4 (A) | ALAWUC: A Background Review |
| ALAWUC/NE/12/5 | Activities of FAO implemented during the Biennium 2101-11 for supporting ALAWUC and recommendations and subjects for discussion decided during the 6 th Session of ALAWUC |
| ALAWUC/NE/12/INF/1 | Information Note |
| ALAWUC/NE/12/INF/2 | Provisional Timetable |
| ALAWUC/NE/12/INF/3 | Provisional List of Documents |
| ALAWUC/NE/12/INF/4 (E) | Introduction to Save and Grow publication |
| ALAWUC/NE/12/INF/4 (E) | Introduction to Save and Grow publication |
| ALAWUC/NE/12/INF/5 | State of Land and Water Resources (SOLAW) publication |
| ALAWUC/NE/12/INF/5 | List of papers prepared and discussed during all the previous Sessions of ALAWUC |

ANNEX (1)

PROPOSED STATUTES OF THE
AGRICULTURE AND LAND AND WATER USE COMMISSION FOR THE NEAR
EAST (ALAWUC)

Article I. Membership

1. The Agriculture and Land and Water Use Commission for the Near East (hereinafter “the Commission”) is open to all Member Nations of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (hereinafter “the Organization”) whose territories are situated wholly or partly in the Near East Region as defined by the Organization (hereinafter “the Region”) or which are serviced by the Organization’s Regional Office for the Near East. Eligible Member Nations shall notify the Director-General of their desire to be considered as members.
2. Each Member of the Commission shall communicate to the Director-General the name of its representative who should, as far as possible, participate in the sessions of the Commission in a continuing capacity and have responsibilities related to the coordination between the Commission and his country in agriculture, land and water use issues.

Article II. Objectives

The objectives of the Commission shall be:

- a. to provide a forum for Members to share information and experiences in the fields of agriculture, land and water use in the Region;
- b. to promote joint programmes at regional and sub-regional levels for the complementarity of resources; and
- c. to assist the Organization and potential donors in identifying outstanding issues, problems and future work programmes in the Region.

Article III. Terms of Reference

The terms of reference of the Commission shall be:

- (a) to conduct periodic reviews and appraisals of important issues and concerns in the Region relating to agriculture, land and water use;
- (b) to strengthen the multidisciplinary approach and programmes of integrated and comprehensive agricultural and rural development;
- (c) to undertake a joint programme of work among Members of the Commission;
- (d) to assist the Organization in identifying and addressing issues of common interest to Members of the Commission;
- (e) to assist the Organization in formulating future work programmes including promotion of regional and sub-regional cooperation to overcome problems on water resources management, sustainable land use and completion of data relating to development and conservation of the land and water resources in the Region;
- (f) to promote the formulation of programmes in the Region on food production, plant protection, animal health and livestock production, development of agricultural research systems, and identification of efficient agricultural services to farmers; and

- (g) to assist Members of the Commission in preparing project documents to be submitted to donors, particularly those related to priority areas and transboundary issues

Article IV. Bureau

1. The Commission shall elect, at the end of every regular session, a Chairperson, two Vice-Chairpersons and two members from among the representatives which collectively shall constitute the Bureau of the Commission. The Chairperson and Vice-Chairpersons shall be elected for a term of office of two years and shall not be eligible for re-election immediately thereafter, provided that the Vice-Chairpersons shall be eligible for election as Chairperson.. The term of office of the elected members shall be for a period of two years and they shall be eligible for re-election for up to two additional two-year terms. In order to ensure both rotation of members and continuity of service, when electing members of the Bureau, due consideration shall be given to the desirability of replacing no more than three members at the same time.
2. The Chairperson, or in his absence one of the Vice-Chairpersons, or in their absence one of the elected members, shall have the following functions:
 - (a) preside at meetings of the Commission and Bureau;
 - (b) liaise with the Chairperson of the Regional Conference regarding the work programmes of the Commission;
 - (c) as required or appropriate, convene informal consultations with representatives of Member Nations on issues of an administrative and organizational nature for the preparation and conduct of Commission sessions and meetings of the Bureau;
 - (d) liaise with the secretariat and other officials of the Organization in respect of any concerns of the membership; and
 - (e) exercise such other functions as may be required to facilitate the work of the Commission or the Bureau.
3. The Vice-Chairperson or elected member acting as Chairperson shall have the same powers and duties as the Chairperson.
4. In the event that the Chairperson, the two Vice-Chairpersons and the two elected members are unable to serve, the Director-General of the Organization or his representative shall act as Chairperson, until an *ad hoc* Chairperson is elected.
5. The Commission may elect one or more rapporteurs from among the representatives.
6. The Bureau shall, between sessions of the Commission, act on behalf of the Commission as its executive body. In particular, it shall submit to the Commission proposals concerning the general orientation of the Commission's activities and its programme of work; it shall investigate particular problems and help to ensure implementation of the programme approved by the Commission. It shall periodically inform all Members of the Commission, through the Director-General, of any decisions taken. Such decisions shall be subject to confirmation by the Commission at its next session.
7. The Director-General may convene the Bureau as often as required, after consulting with the Chairperson. The Bureau shall meet whenever the Commission holds a session.8. The Director-General shall appoint from among the staff of the Organization a Secretary of the Commission who shall be responsible to him.

Article V. Sessions

1. The Commission shall normally hold only such sessions in each biennium as are listed in the Programme of Work of Budget of the Organization for the relevant period. However, the Director-General may make exceptions when in consultation with the Commission and in his view, such action is necessary for the fulfillment of the Programme of Work and Budget as approved by the Conference. Such exceptions shall be reported to the session of the Council immediately following such action.

2. The sessions of the Commission shall be convened by the Director-General, who shall decide on the place where they are to be held, in consultation with the Chairperson and the competent authorities of the host country, taking into account the views expressed by the Commission.

3. Notice of the date and place of each session of the Commission shall normally be communicated at least three months before the opening of the session is scheduled to take place to all Members of the Commission.

4. Each Member of the Commission shall have one representative who may be accompanied by alternates and advisers. An alternate or adviser shall not have the right to vote except when substituting the representative.

5. Meetings of the Commission shall be held in public unless the Commission decides otherwise.

6. A majority of the Members of the Commission shall constitute a quorum that is half the number of Members plus one.

Article VI. Agenda

1. The Director-General, in agreement with the Chairperson of the Commission, after having examined the proposals of the Bureau shall prepare a provisional agenda for each session of the Commission.

2. The first item in the provisional agenda shall be the adoption of the agenda. No matter referred to the Commission by the Conference or Council or the Organization may be omitted from the agenda.

3. Any Member of the Commission may request the Director-General to include specific items in the provisional agenda at any time before the circulation of the agenda.

4. The provisional agenda shall be circulated by the Director-General at least two months before the date on which the opening of the session is scheduled to take place, to all Members of the Commission.

5. Any Member of the Commission and the Director-General may, after the dispatch of the provisional agenda but not later than one month before the date on which the opening of the session is scheduled to take place, propose the inclusion of specific items in the agenda. Such proposals shall be accompanied by a written explanation of the reasons why the inclusion of the

items in the agenda is considered desirable. These items shall be placed on a supplementary list, which shall be dispatched by the Director-General to all Members of the Commission, failing which the items shall be communicated to the Chairperson for submission to the Commission.

6. Documents to be submitted to the Commission at any session shall be furnished by the Director-General to the Members of the Commission and to the other Members of the Organization attending the session and to the non-Member Nations and international organizations invited to the session, at the time the agenda is dispatched or as soon as possible thereafter.

7. Subject to paragraph 2 above, the Commission may, at any session, decide by a two-thirds majority to amend the agenda by the deletion, addition or modification of any item. Formal proposals relating to items on the agenda and amendments thereto shall be introduced in writing and handed to the Chairperson, who shall circulate copies to the representatives.

Article VII. Voting and Procedures

1. Each Member of the Commission shall have one vote.

2. Decisions of the Commission shall be taken by a majority of the votes cast, unless otherwise provided.

3. Any Member of the Commission may request a roll-call vote, in which case the vote of each Member shall be recorded.

4. When the Commission so decides, voting shall be by secret-ballot.

5. Voting shall be carried out in accordance with the pertinent provisions of Rule XII of the General Rules of the Organization, as appropriate.

Article VIII. Subsidiary bodies and *ad hoc* meetings

1. The Commission may establish such subsidiary bodies as it deems necessary for the accomplishment of its task.

2. Membership in subsidiary bodies may be made up of all or selected Members of the Commission or of individuals appointed in their personal capacity.

3. The Commission may recommend to the Director-General the convening of *ad hoc* meetings, either of representatives of Members of the Commission or of experts serving in individual capacity, in order to study issues that because of their specialized nature could not fruitfully be discussed during the normal sessions of the Commission.

4. Experts who are to serve in their personal capacity as members of any subsidiary body or who are to be invited to attend *ad hoc* meetings shall be chosen by the Commission unless the Commission decides otherwise, and shall be appointed by the Director-General in accordance with established procedures.

5. The terms of reference of the subsidiary bodies and the questions to be discussed by *ad hoc* meetings shall be determined by the Commission.

6. The establishment of subsidiary bodies and the convening of *ad hoc* meetings shall be subject to the availability of the necessary funds in the relevant chapter of the approved budget of the Organization. The determination of such availability shall be made by the Director-General. Only such sessions of subsidiary bodies and *ad hoc* meetings shall be convened in each biennium as are listed in the Programme of Work and Budget of the Organization for the relevant period, subject, however, to the authority of the Director-General to make exceptions when in his view such action is necessary for the fulfillment of the Programme of Work and Budget as approved by the Conference; these exceptions being reported to the Session of the Council immediately following such action.

7. Before taking any decision involving expenditures in connection with the establishment of subsidiary bodies or the convening of an *ad hoc* meeting, the Commission shall have before it a report from the Director-General on the administrative and financial implication thereof.

8. The Statutes of the Commission shall apply to its subsidiary bodies, as appropriate.

Article IX. Records and Reports

1. At each session, the Commission shall approve a report embodying its views, recommendations and decisions, including, when requested, a statement of minority views. Such other records for its own use as the Commission may on occasion decide shall also be maintained.

2. The report of the Commission shall be transmitted to the Director-General of the Organization at the close of each session, who shall circulate them to Members of the Commission, and observers that were represented at the session for their information and, upon request to other Member Nations and Associate Members of the Organization.

3. The Director-General shall bring to the attention of the Conference any recommendations adopted by the Commission which have policy or regulatory implications and to the Council any recommendations which may affect the programme or finances of the Organization.

4. The Director-General of the Organization may request Members of the Commission to supply the Commission with information on actions taken on the basis of recommendations made by the Commission.

Article X. Expenses

1. The expenses of the Secretariat of the Commission shall be determined and paid by the Organization within the limits of the relevant appropriations in the approved budget of the Organization.

2. Expenses incurred by representatives of Members of the Commission, their alternates or advisers, when attending sessions of the Commission, their Bureau, its subsidiary bodies or *ad hoc* meetings, as well as expenses incurred by observers at sessions, shall be borne by the respective governments or organizations.

3. Expenses incurred by experts invited by the Director-General to attend sessions or meetings in their individual capacity shall be borne by the Organization.
4. Any financial matter relating to the Commission and its subsidiary bodies shall be governed by the appropriate provisions of the Financial Regulations of the Organization.

Article XI. Observers

1. Any Member Nation or Associate Member of the Organization that is not a Member of the Commission but has an interest in the work of the Commission may, upon its request and in consultation with the Commission, be invited by the Director-General to attend meetings of the Commission or its subsidiary bodies, as well as *ad hoc* meetings in an observer capacity.
2. Non-Member of the Organization that are members of the United Nations, any of its Specialized Agencies or the International Atomic Energy Agency may, upon their request and with the approval of the Council of the Organization, be invited to attend meetings of the Commission or its subsidiary bodies and *ad hoc* meetings in an observer capacity, in accordance with the provisions relating to the granting of observer status to nations adopted by the Conference of the Organization.
3. The Director-General may invite international organizations to attend sessions of the Commission in an observer capacity. Participation of international organizations in the work of the Commission and the relations between the Commission and such organizations shall be governed by the relevant provisions of the Constitution of the Organization and the General Rules of the Organization as well as by the general regulations of the Organization on relations with international organizations. All such relations shall be dealt with by the Director-General of the Organization.

Article XII. Languages

1. The working languages of the Commission shall be Arabic and English.
2. The Commission may decide, in consultation with the Secretariat, which of these languages will be used by its subsidiary bodies or at the *ad hoc* meetings. Any representative using another language shall provide for interpretation in one of the working languages.

Article XIII. Amendments to the Statutes

The Commission may suggest amendments to these Statutes which shall be in conformity with the Constitution and the General Rules of the Organization and with the Statement of Principles Governing Commissions and Committees adopted by the Conference. Any proposal for such amendments must be transmitted to the Director-General in time for inclusion in the agenda of the Council or Conference as appropriate.

Annex 2.

Amendments suggested by the commission on the Proposed ALAWUC Statutes

The Commission suggested the following changes to the document on its “Proposed Statutes”.

1. To add definitions of the terms “Commission”, “Organization” and “Region” to the Statutes.
2. To modify the Article on “Membership” as follows:
 - Paragraph (1): “The Commission is open to all Member Nations of the Organization whose territories are situated wholly or in part in the Near East Region as defined by the Organization or which are serviced by the Organization’s Regional Office for the Near

East. Eligible Member Nations shall notify the Director-General of their desire to be considered as members.”

- Paragraph (2): “Each Member of the Commission shall communicate to the Director-General the name of its representative who should, as far as possible, participate in the sessions of the Commission in a continuing capacity and have responsibilities related to the coordination between the Commission and his country in agriculture, land and water use issues”.

3. To add a new Article on “Objectives”, which were identified as follows:
 - a. to provide a forum for Members to share information and experiences in the fields of agriculture, land and water use in the Region;
 - b. to promote joint programmes at regional and sub-regional levels for the complementarity of resources; and
 - c. to assist FAO and potential donors in identifying outstanding issues, problems and future work programmes in the Region.
4. To modify the Article on “Terms of Reference” as follows:
 - a. to move paragraphs (c) and (d) to the new Article on “Objectives”.
 - b. to add a new paragraph as follows: “to assist Members of the Commission in preparing project documents to be submitted to donors, particularly those related to priority areas and transboundary issues.”
5. To merge the Articles on “Officers” and “Bureau” making the necessary changes, including:
 - a) to specify that “the Chairperson and Vice-Chairpersons shall not be eligible for re-election immediately thereafter”.
 - b) to refer to the two Vice-Chairpersons without distinguishing between a “first” and a “second” Vice-Chairperson.
 - c) To draft terms of reference or functions for the Chairperson.
6. To modify the Article on “Voting and Procedures” as follows:
 - a) to move paragraph (5) to the Article on “Agenda”.
 - b) paragraph (6): to replace the reference to “*mutatis mutandis*” for “as appropriate”.
7. To modify the Article on “Subsidiary Bodies and Ad-Hoc Meetings” as follows: to replace the reference in paragraph (8) to “*mutatis mutandis*” for “as appropriate”.
8. To modify the Article on “Observers”, paragraph (1), so that invitations be sent “in consultation with the Commission”.