


June 2011

	منظمة الأغذية والزراعة للأمم المتحدة	联合国 粮食及 农业组织	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations	Organisation des Nations Unies pour l'alimentation et l'agriculture	Продовольствен ная и сельскохозяйств енная организация Объединенных Наций	Organización de las Naciones Unidas para la Agricultura y la Alimentación
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CONFERENCE

Thirty-seventh Session

Rome, 25 June - 2 July 2011

Draft Report of the First Meeting of the General Committee (Restricted)

A. Agenda for the Session ¹

1. The General Committee examined the Provisional Agenda for the Conference contained in document C 2011/1 and noted that,
 - Following the request made by Morocco as Chairperson of the Group of 77 ², there will be an additional Sub-item under Item 28 "Amendments to the Basic Texts", entitled "Proposed Amendment to the FAO Constitution on the Membership of the Council". The membership was notified of the request by circular letter ref. LE-81 on 25 February 2011.
 - As an outcome of the 141st Session of Council's consideration of the "Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Eco-system Services (IPBES)"³, a background paper and draft resolution had been submitted to the Conference.⁴ Hence there will be an additional Sub-item under Item 35 "Any Other Matters".
 - Following the request made by the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Bolivia,⁵ regarding the "Declaration of 2013 as the International Year of Quinoa", there will be an additional Sub-item under Item 35 "Any Other Matters".
2. The Committee recommends that the Provisional Agenda, including the proposed additional Sub-items mentioned above, be adopted by the Conference, and that the proposed additional Sub-item on "Amendments to the Basic Texts" be considered in Plenary, and those on IPBES and the "Declaration of 2013 as the International Year of Quinoa" be considered in Commission I.
3. Having noted that the Provisional Agenda included subjects on which information documents were tabled, the Committee also recommends that delegates wishing to comment on these documents be given an opportunity to do so under Item 35 "Any Other Matters".

¹ C 2011/1; C 2011/12 Rev.1; C 2011/INF/4.

² C 2011/LIM/14.

³ CL 141/REP, para 49.

⁴ C 2011/LIM/19.

⁵ C 2011/LIM/17

B. Establishment of Commissions and Tentative Timetable of the Session ⁶

4. At its 140th (29 November - 3 December 2010) and 141st (11-15 April 2011) Sessions the Council formulated proposals concerning the organization of, and timetable for, the 37th Session of the Conference. These proposals were communicated to all FAO Members and observers in documents C 2011/12 Rev.1 and C 2011/INF/1. The Committee recommends that the Conference establish two commissions to consider and report respectively on the "Substantive and Policy Matters" and "Programme and Budgetary Matters" sections of the Agenda respectively.

5. The Committee noted that, since the Tentative Timetable was approved by the Council at its 141st Session, it had become advisable or necessary to:

- Reschedule Item 25 "Report of the Open-ended Working Group on measures designed to increase the efficiency of Governing Bodies, including representation" and item 26 "Multi-Year Programme of Work of the Council" from the afternoon meeting of Commission II on Wednesday 29 June to the afternoon of Monday 27 June to enable Commission II to deal first with items not directly related to the Programme of Work and Budget and then concentrate on the draft resolution on the budget level;
- Reschedule Item 14 "Declaration on Rinderpest Eradication" from the end of the morning meeting of Commission I on Tuesday 28 June to the start of the same meeting, given the expected presence of high level speakers for this item at that time;
- Add Item 35.8 "Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Eco-system Services (IPBES)" after item 16 in Commission I on the afternoon of Tuesday 28 June;
- Add Item 35.9 "Declaration of 2013 as the International Year of Quinoa" after Item 18 in Commission I on the morning of Wednesday 29 June;
- Reschedule the Papal Audience from the morning of Thursday 30 June to the morning of Friday 1 July for logistical reasons; and consequently,
- Reschedule the items from the afternoon Plenary meeting of Thursday 30 June to the morning Plenary meeting of the same day;
- Reschedule Item 28, "Amendments to the Basic Texts", including the sub-item on the "Proposed Amendment to the FAO Constitution"; Item 29 "Other Constitutional and Legal Matters", and "Adoption of Commission II Report on item 23 (PWB 2012-13), from the morning of Friday 1 July to the afternoon Plenary meeting of the same day, with the vote on the budget level scheduled at the start of the meeting.

6. With the above changes, the Committee recommends that the Conference approve the Tentative Timetable proposed by the Council and set out in document C 2011/INF/1. It is understood that a Revision of this Timetable will be issued, and that this may be subject to modification according to progress made in meetings of Plenary and the Commissions.

C. Appointment of the Chairpersons and Vice-Chairpersons of the Two Commissions ⁷

7. In accordance with Rules VII and XXIV-5(b) of the General Rules of the Organization (GRO) and as indicated in document C 2011/LIM/6 Rev.1, the Council at its 140th Session proposed the following candidates as Chairpersons of the Commissions:

Commission I:	Ms Hedwig Wögerbauer (Austria)
Commission II:	Mr Yaya Olaniran (Nigeria)

The Committee recommends that the Conference adopt the Council's proposal.

8. In accordance with Rule X-2(c) of the GRO the Committee recommends that the Vice-Chairpersons of the Commissions be as follows:

Commission I:	Mr Achmad Suryana (Indonesia)
	Mr Astrid Jakobs (Germany)

⁶ C 2011/12 Rev.1; C 2011/INF/1.

⁷ C 2011/LIM/6 Rev.1.

Commission II: Ms Agnes van Ardenne-van der Hoeven (Netherlands)
Mr Ahmad Al Bakry (Oman)

D. Resolutions Committee

9. The Council at its 140th Session recommended the establishment of a Resolutions Committee of the Conference consisting of seven members, one from each FAO region⁸. The Criteria for Conference Resolutions as well as the functions and operating procedures of the Resolutions Committee are described in document C 2011/12 Rev.1, Appendix C.

10. The Committee recommends that the following Member Nations, identified by the region to which they belong, form the membership of the Resolutions Committee:

Australia: Southwest Pacific

China: Asia

Greece: Europe

Brazil: Latin America and the Caribbean

Mauritania: Africa

Syrian Arab Republic: Near East

United States of America: North America

E. Credentials Committee

11. The Council at its 141st Session recommended the establishment of a Credentials Committee and nominated the following Members, for confirmation by the Conference:

- Austria
- Bangladesh
- Czech Republic
- Equatorial Guinea
- Nicaragua
- Oman
- San Marino
- Thailand
- United States of America

F. Admission of Observers from Applicant for Associate Membership⁹

12. As is customary, the Director-General has provisionally invited the applicant for associate membership to be represented by observers until a decision has been taken on their application. The Conference will wish to confirm the invitation in respect of Tokelau (Applicant Associate Member).

G. Admission of New Associate Member⁹

13. In conformity with the provisions of Rule XIX of the General Rules of the Organization, the application for associate membership by Tokelau had been received by the deadline of 26 May 2011.

14. Under Article II-2 of the Constitution, the Conference decides on the admission of additional Associate Members by a two-thirds majority of the votes cast, provided that a majority of the Member Nations of the Organization is present; "votes cast" means affirmative and negative votes and does not include abstentions or defective ballots (Rule XII-4(a) of the GRO). Membership becomes effective on the date when the Conference approves the application.

⁸ C 2011/12 Rev.1; C 2011/LIM/6 Rev.1.

⁹ C 2011/10.

15. The Committee recommends that the Conference hold the vote for the admission of Tokelau at the plenary meeting on the afternoon of Saturday 25 June. The result of the vote will be announced later in the same meeting; followed by the admission ceremony. As is customary, the Chairperson will welcome the new Associate Member, which may make a brief statement.

H. Contributions of New Associate Member

16. In accordance with Regulation 5.8 of the Financial Regulations, the Conference determines the amount of the contribution to be paid by the newly admitted Associate Member, beginning with the accounting period in which the application is approved.

17. According to the established principles and customs, the minimum contribution due from Tokelau for the last half of 2011 is provisionally:

Contribution - Last half 2011	
EURO	US \$
626.51	642.97

I. Appointment of the Director-General ¹⁰

18. By the date established by the Council, i.e. 31 January 2011, the following six nominations had been received for the post of Director-General:

Austria	Mr Franz Fischler
Brazil	Mr José Graziano da Silva
Indonesia	Mr Indroyono Soesilo
Iran (Islamic Republic of)	Mr Mohammad Saeid Noori Naeini
Iraq	Mr Abdul Latif Rashid
Spain	Mr Miguel Ángel Moratinos Cuyaubé

These nominations were notified to all Members by Circular Letter C/CF 4/2 on 4 February 2011.

19. Under the terms of Rule XXXVII.1(d) of the GRO, the General Committee determines and announces the date of the election, it being understood that the appointment of the Director-General at a regular Session shall begin and be effected within three working days following the opening date of the Session. The election is by secret ballot. The candidate who obtains the required majority of votes cast, i.e. more than one half of the votes cast (abstentions and defective ballots not being counted), is elected, provided that a majority of the Member Nations of the Organization is present

20. Rule XXXVII.1(d) also stipulates that candidates shall address the Conference and respond to questions that Members may put to them, subject to such arrangements as the Conference may make consistent with the General Rules of the Organization aimed at ensuring equality among candidates. In this regard, the Committee notes the broad consensus for a suggestion made by the Chairpersons of the FAO Regional Groups that the addresses by candidates be streamlined in the interest of good time management. The Committee therefore recommends that candidates address the Conference for no more than 15 minutes rather than replicate the 45 minute address, questions and answers sequence followed by the Council in April 2011.

21. Furthermore, the Committee recommends that the addresses by candidates be made on the afternoon of Saturday 25 June and that lots be drawn by the Chairperson to determine the speaking order of all six candidates.

¹⁰ C 2011/14; C 2011/LIM/16; C 2011/LIM/18.

22. The Committee recommends that secret balloting for the appointment begin on the morning of Sunday 26 June 2011 and continue until a candidate reaches the majority, as is envisaged in document C 2011/INF/1 "Provisional Timetable for the Thirty-seventh Session of the Conference".

J. Appointment of the Independent Chairperson of the Council ¹¹

23. By the date determined by the Council, i.e. 11 April 2011, one nomination had been received for election to the office of Independent Chairperson of the Council for the period July 2011 - June 2013, namely: Mr Luc Guyau (France). This nomination was notified to all Members by circular letter ref. C/CF 4/3 on 18 April 2011.

24. Under the terms of Rule XXIII-1(b) of the GRO, the General Committee determines and announces the date of the election. The Committee recommends that the election be held in the afternoon of Friday 1 July 2011. Although only one candidate was nominated, an election by secret ballot must be held in accordance with Rule XII, paragraph 10 (a) of the General Rules of the Organization.

K. Election of Members of the Council ¹²

25. Rule XXII-10(a) of the GRO provides that the Conference, on the recommendation of the General Committee, shall, not later than the end of the third day of the Conference Session, decide the date of election of members of the Council and the date by which nominations are to be submitted.

26. The Committee accordingly recommends that:

- a) the election be held in the afternoon of Friday 1 July 2011; and
- b) nominations for the Council seats to be filled at the present session be communicated to the Secretary-General of the Conference and Council (A-139) by 12.00 hours on Monday 27 June 2011.

27. In this connection, the Conference will note in particular the following provisions of paragraphs 3, 4, 5 and 7 of Rule XXII of the GRO:

“3. In selecting Members of the Council, the Conference shall give due consideration to the desirability of:

- a) including in its membership a balanced geographical representation of nations interested in the production, distribution and consumption of food and agricultural products;
- b) ensuring the participation in the work of the Council of such Member Nations as contribute in a large measure toward the success of the Organization;
- c) giving to the greatest possible number of Member Nations an opportunity, by rotation of membership, to serve on the Council”.

4. Member Nations shall be eligible for re-election”.

5. No Member Nation shall be eligible for election to the Council if it is in arrears in payment of its financial contributions to the Organization in an amount equal to or exceeding the contributions due from it for the two preceding calendar years”.

“7. A Member of the Council shall be considered to have resigned if it is in arrears in payment of its financial contributions to the Organization in an amount equal to or exceeding the contributions due from it for the two preceding calendar years, or if it has not been represented at two consecutive sessions of the Council”.

¹¹ C 2011/9; C 2011/12 Rev.1.

¹² C 2011/11.

L. Right to Vote

28. The General Committee notes that the Member Nations listed in Annex 1 to this Report have not paid a sufficient amount of their assessed contributions to retain their vote in the Conference.

29. Article III.4 of the Constitution states: “A Member Nation which is in arrears in the payment of its financial contribution to the Organization shall have no vote in the Conference if the amount of its arrears equals or exceeds the amount of the contributions due from it for the two preceding calendar years. The Conference may, nevertheless, permit such a Member Nation to vote if it is satisfied that the failure to pay is due to conditions beyond the control of the Member Nation”.

30. The Committee decided that the Member Nations in arrears that had requested restoration of voting rights (Dominican Republic, Guinea Bissau, Kyrgyzstan, Liberia, Peru, Sao Tome and Principe, and Somalia) be authorized to vote on "Applications for Membership in the Organization" (Item 5, scheduled for the afternoon meeting of 25 June) and agreed to reconvene later in the day to consider such letters.

M. Right to Reply

31. At its previous sessions, the Conference had decided that, if delegates wished to reply to criticisms of their Governments, they should preferably do so on the day on which such criticism had been voiced after all those wishing to participate in the discussion had had an opportunity to speak.

32. The Committee recommends that these same arrangements be followed at the present session.

N. Verbatim Records

33. Rule XVIII-1 of the GRO lays down that verbatim records shall be kept for all Conference Plenary and Commission meetings. The right of delegates to check the accuracy of the record of their interventions is recognized in Rule XVIII-2 of the GRO.

34. The accuracy of the records may be maintained either by correcting typing and other errors, or by amending a word or phrase actually used. In practice such corrections or amendments to statements are accepted only from the delegation which made the statement, and should be submitted within 48 hours of publication of the draft verbatim record concerned.

35. In 1961 a procedure was formally adopted by the Conference whereby speakers who so desire may have their statements inserted in the record without delivering them in Plenary. This procedure is still followed and is recommended in the interests of saving time.

36. While the Committee sees no objection in principle to the insertion of statements in the records when time does not permit them to be delivered, it recognizes the difficulties which might arise if no occasion is given to delegates to exercise the “right of reply” to any criticism of their government’s policy made in the inserted statement.

37. The Committee therefore recommends that the Conference continue to permit the insertion of such statements on condition that:

- a) the Plenary, or the Commission concerned, is informed by its Chairperson that a statement not actually delivered, or a substantive addition to a statement that has been delivered, is being inserted in the record;
- b) the text handed over to the Chairperson for insertion should preferably be in digital format;
- c) the provisional verbatim record containing the additional statement is circulated before the close of the Session; and
- d) delegations attending the Session are able to avail themselves of the right of reply by having an opportunity to make, prior to the close of the Session, an intervention relating to the inserted statement.

O. Statements by Heads of Delegations

38. The Committee recommends that a list of speakers for the General Debate under Item 10, "Review of the State of Food and Agriculture", be published daily in the Journal of the Conference, in the order in which they will be called upon to take the floor by the Chairperson, and further recommends that statements be limited to a maximum of five minutes.

P. Admission of Observers from Intergovernmental and International Non-Governmental Organizations¹³

39. The list of Intergovernmental and International Non-Governmental Organizations which have been invited by the Director-General to be represented in an observer capacity at this session of the Conference is given in documents C 2011/13 and C 2011/13-Add.1. The invitations sent to Intergovernmental Organizations with which FAO does not have a formal agreement and to International Non-Governmental Organizations which do not have consultative status with FAO are extended on a provisional basis and are subject to approval by the Conference.

40. After having reviewed this list, the Committee recommends that the Conference confirm such provisional invitations.

Q. Informal Meeting of Observers from Non-Governmental Organizations

41. As at previous sessions of the Conference, it is proposed that observers from Non-Governmental Organizations be invited to attend an informal meeting, so that their advice and suggestions on the Organization's activities and programmes may be communicated to the Conference. It is suggested that this meeting take place on Saturday 25 June. The Committee recommends that the Conference accept this proposal.

R. Attendance by Liberation Movements

42. In conformity with the suggestion made by the Council at its 140th Session, Palestine has been invited to attend the Conference in an observer capacity. The Committee recommends that the Conference confirm this invitation.

S. Conclusion

43. The Committee recommends that the Conference confirm all the detailed arrangements for the Session and that the normal working hours for meetings of both Plenary and Commissions be 09.30 to 12.30 hours, and 14.30 to 17.30 hours. On Sunday 26 June 2011 it is proposed that the first meeting of the day open at 10.30 hours. Given the number of items on the Provisional Agenda, it is likely that the work of the Plenary and Commissions may need to continue after 17.30 hours.

¹³C 2011/12 Rev.1; C 2011/13; C 2011/13 Add.1.

Annex

Member Nations with Potential Voting Rights Problems at 24 June 2011

	Member Nation	Amount in Arrears US\$	Amount in Arrears Euro	Minimum Payment required to Ensure Vote in US\$
1	Antigua and Barbuda	\$ 331,389.22	€ 29,223.78	\$ 348,782.93
2	Comoros	\$ 281,344.35	€ 12,826.65	\$ 287,917.28
3	Dominican Republic	\$ 104,813.64	€ 253,570.80	\$ 197,960.79
4	Guinea-Bissau	\$ 109,054.97	€ 12,826.65	\$ 115,627.90
5	Kyrgyzstan	\$ 870,801.26	€ 1,832.40	\$ 863,252.50
6	Liberia	\$ 265,787.25	€ 10,738.28	\$ 269,467.79
7	Palau	\$ 12,800.85	€ 12,826.65	\$ 19,373.78
8	Peru	\$ 339,543.24	€ 618,723.43	\$ 397,865.05
9	Sao Tome and Principe	\$ 230,444.97	€ 12,826.65	\$ 237,017.90
10	Sierra Leone	\$ 2,495.91	€ 12,826.65	\$ 9,068.84
11	Somalia	\$ 354,468.97	€ 12,826.65	\$ 361,041.90
12	Tajikistan	\$ 112,869.79	€ -	\$ 103,140.47
13	Turkmenistan	\$ 483,307.19	€ 62,991.80	\$ 506,117.66
		\$ 3,499,121.61	€ 1,054,040.39	\$ 3,716,634.76