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Продовольственная и
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Объединенных Наций

Organización de las
Naciones Unidas para la
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منظمة
الغذية والزراعة
للأمم المتحدة

COMMITTEE ON COMMODITY PROBLEMS

Seventy-first Session

Rome, 4–6 October 2016

NAME OF THE COMMITTEE ON COMMODITY PROBLEMS

Suggested action by the Committee

The Committee is invited to consider the proposal to change its name.

Queries on the substantive content of the document may be addressed to:

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1. The Committee on Commodity Problems (CCP) was established by the FAO Conference at its Fifth Session (1949) to work under the supervision of, and be responsible to, the Council. By decision of the Conference at its Ninth Session (1957), it became a Committee of the Council. It is the oldest technical committee of FAO, with its First Session held in January 1950.
2. The CCP normally meets once every two years, while additional sessions may be held upon request by Members. It is open to all Members who notify the Director-General in writing of their desire to become Members of the Committee and their intent to participate in its work.
3. The terms of reference of the Committee include the following functions:
 - To keep commodity problems of an international character affecting production, trade, distribution and consumption, and related economic matters under review;
 - To prepare a factual and interpretative survey of the world commodity situation, which would be made available directly to Member Nations; and
 - To report and submit suggestions to the Council on policy issues arising out of its deliberations, and to avail these reports and those of its Subsidiary Bodies to Member Nations for their information.
4. At its 68th Session (Rome, 14–16 June 2010), the Committee considered the roles and working arrangements of the CCP itself and its subsidiary bodies. Members agreed to form an Open-Ended Working Group (OEWG) to consider various issues relating to the functioning of the Committee. This included reviewing the name of the Committee.
5. During the work of the OEWG, several Members expressed a preference to have the name changed. Of particular concern was the word “Problems” in the name, which was viewed as giving a negative message about commodities and a restrictive scope of the wide range of the Committee’s work. It was felt that the name should better reflect the work of the terms of reference of the Committee. The OEWG agreed to put forward for consideration by the Committee three options, as follows: i) change the name to Committee on Agricultural Commodities; ii) change the name to Committee on Commodities and Trade; or iii) keep the name unchanged.
6. The Committee considered this at its 69th Session in 2012. Given that there was no consensus on the need to change the name or on which alternative name might be preferable, it was decided to keep the matter under review.
7. At its 70th Session in 2014, the Committee agreed that the Bureau of the CCP should examine the name of the Committee and present its conclusion to the next Session of the CCP in 2016.
8. The CCP Bureau considered this matter, and the name *Committee on Commodity Perspectives* has emerged. Following consultations, the CCP Bureau agreed to present this alternative name to the Members of the Committee, for decision.
9. Another alternative name that may be considered is *Committee on Commodities*. This would be in line with the names of the other FAO technical committees: Committee on Agriculture; Committee on Fisheries; and Committee on Forestry. It would also be consistent with the name of the Committee in French.
10. The Committee is invited to consider the above proposals for the possible change of its name.
11. Should the Committee agree to this proposal, its implementation would involve an amendment to the Basic Texts of the Organization, with particular reference to the Constitution and the General Rules of the Organization. These amendments would be processed separately, through established procedures to that effect, through the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters, the Council and the Conference.