

April 2013

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	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	Продовольственная и сельскохозяйственная организация Объединенных Наций	Organización de las Naciones Unidas para la Alimentación y la Agricultura
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## COUNCIL

### Hundred and Forty-sixth Session

Rome, 22-26 April 2013

### Arrangements for the 38<sup>th</sup> Session of the FAO Conference Awards

1. A proposal to review the Awards Ceremony held at each session of Conference was discussed at informal meetings convened by the Independent Chairperson of Council with the Chairpersons and Vice-chairpersons of Regional Groups held on 27 February and 3 April 2013.
2. Past practice has been for the Awards Ceremony to be held on the afternoon of the opening day of Conference, and for the Awardees to make a brief address to the Conference, receive a scroll and a medal and a cash prize for the Awards given in recognition of the work of past Directors-General: B.R. Sen (1956-67); A.H. Boerma (1968-75); Edouard Saouma (1975-93) and Jacques Diouf (1993-2011).
3. The Margarita Lizárraga Medal is also awarded at the Conference and consists of a medal and scroll given to a person or organization that has served with distinction in the application of the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries of FAO.
4. Further to discussion of the merits of moving the Awards Ceremony from the Conference Agenda to make it a self-standing event, it was decided to circulate a draft resolution before the 146<sup>th</sup> Session of Council to enable members to ascertain whether there is consensus on the proposal to hold the Awards Ceremony as a non-Conference event.
5. It should be noted that the Council at its 145<sup>th</sup> Session (3-7 December 2012) approved the draft Provisional Agenda for the 38<sup>th</sup> Session of Conference (15-22 June 2013), and that the above-mentioned Awards are included in the draft. Should the Council decide to propose an alternative approach to the Awards Ceremony, the following draft Conference Resolution will be presented to the General Committee of the Conference before being submitted for adoption by the Conference on the afternoon of Saturday 15 June, i.e. the opening day of the Session.
6. The draft resolution sets out the advantages of the proposed new approach in terms of media attention and better time management during the Conference. It should be noted that most of the Awards were established in a period when the Conference session was considerably longer than the present seven working days, and that the format of the ceremony has basically remained unaltered.
7. The Conference itself has the prerogative to decide its Agenda. Hence, at the Informal Meeting chaired by the Independent Chairperson of the Council on 3 April 2013, it transpired that

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unanimous support would be required within the membership for one of three possible courses of action:

- a) Apply the proposed new approach to the Awards Ceremony as of the June 2013 session of Conference.
- b) A decision by the Conference in June 2013 to change the timing of the Awards Ceremony as of June 2015, i.e. the Awards Ceremony would be held for the last time at the 38<sup>th</sup> Session of the Conference.
- c) No change to the present set up, i.e. Awards Ceremony to be held on Saturday 15 June as part of the ceremonial proceedings of the first day of the Conference.

8. The Council may wish, therefore, to consider the following Draft Resolution, and to decide whether the proposal would be applicable as of the 38<sup>th</sup> Session of Conference (June 2013) or the 39<sup>th</sup> Session of Conference (June 2015), or maintain the present set up.

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**Draft Conference Resolution .../2013****Awards Ceremony****THE CONFERENCE,**

**Recalling** its previous Resolutions, which established prizes in recognition of the achievements of former Directors-General of the Organization:

- a) B.R. Sen Award (Resolution 33/67);
- b) A.H. Boerma Award (Resolution 1/75);
- c) Edouard Saouma Award (Resolution 2/93); and
- d) Jacques Diouf Award for Food Security (Resolution 1/2011);

**Recalling** Conference Resolution 18/97, which established the Margarita Lizárraga Medal as a biennial award to be made by the Conference;

**Appreciating** that the above Awards were established as a tribute to the unique contribution made by B.R. Sen, A.H. Boerma, Edouard Saouma, Jacques Diouf and Margarita Lizárraga in working towards a world free from hunger and malnutrition;

**Noting,** in the context of FAO's transformational process and related efforts to achieve greater efficiency in the Governing Bodies, the merits of:

- a) Giving greater public visibility of the Awards and Awardees;
- b) Increasing the time available during Conference sessions to focus on substantial agenda items;
- c) Streamlining selection processes and timelines; and
- d) Taking advantage of synergies with an existing FAO event, to attract more international media attention for the Awards;

**Recognizing** that the imperative of achieving food security needs to be kept high on the global agenda, and that the achievements of exceptional individuals and institutions in working towards the eradication of hunger, food insecurity and malnutrition is of considerable interest to international media networks;

**Decides** to establish a single, recurring prestigious event, "The FAO Awards", with no incremental costs being incurred compared to the Awards Ceremony previously held at sessions of Conference;

**Agrees** that the Awards for the 2012-13 biennium be given on the occasion of World Food Day 2013 rather than at the 38<sup>th</sup> Session of Conference;

**Further decides** to review this new approach to FAO Awards at the 39<sup>th</sup> Session of the Conference in June 2015.

(Adopted on .. June 2013)