

G77 NEWSLETTER

Farewell Ambassador Muchada

By the Chair of the G77, Mr Ibrahim Abu Atileh



During the regular plenary meeting of the G77 on 12th of May 2010, H.E. Ambassador Mary Margaret Muchada from Zimbabwe informed the members of G77 that her term in Rome would be ending at the end of June. The G77 wishes H.E. Ambassador Muchada all the best as she continues her progress and success in the future. The group will always appreciate the many leadership roles H.E. Ambassador Muchada has taken over the past ten years defending the interests of her country, the Africa Group, and the Group of 77. Most notably, she has Chaired the Group of 77, African Regional Group, has been active in the CoC, FAO Council, and the WFP Executive Board.

In all the meetings, she has always advocated for the rights of the rural poor, their needs to access to food, and the need of developing the agricultural sector in developing countries. The impact she has had in Rome, is one that will never be forgotten, and one that we will all strive to replicate.

Preparations for the 22nd Session of COAG

By Mr. Fazil Düsünçeli

The 22nd session of COAG will be held on 16 – 19 June 2010 and the preparatory work is in progress. Consultations are ensured through functioning of the ad-hoc extended bureau which includes a member from each geographical region. Through the work, an effective communication line has been established and as a result, annotated agenda items and timetable have been produced by the secretariat.

A number of significant matters have also been discussed in relation to reform and new responsibilities given to the committee and bureau/ steering committee, as well as to fulfill the recommendations of the last session. As a result, it is recommended that the agenda item 7 (Priorities paper) should be the first substantive item to be discussed and next session should be run with present office members to facilitate the holding of the election at the end of the session. Discussions are continuing on how item 7 could be handled for a productive discussion.

Regarding the extension of the bureau to have up to 7 members to ensure adequate regional representation, a draft text*¹ has been produced in consultation with Legal Office being consistent with the texts of other technical committees. Consultations on this matter are still continuing and if a consensus can be reached during the first week of May it will be possible to place an agenda item to amend the related rule and establish the bureau with up to 7 members during the upcoming 22nd session, provided that it would be approved by the committee itself.

.....
*¹ [At the first session in each biennium, the Committee shall elect a Chairperson, a first Vice-Chairperson a second Vice-Chairperson and up to four other vice chairpersons from among the representatives of its Members, who shall remain in office until the election of a new Chairperson and new Vice-Chairpersons and who will act as bureau during sessions and during intersessional periods] (Underlined texts are amendments).

33RD SESSION OF IFAD GOVERNING COUNCIL MARKS A MILESTONE IN IFAD'S HISTORY

This session was The first Council to be held in IFAD's new headquarters. This Council also marks the beginning of the Eighth Replenishment period, when IFAD shall strive to significantly increase its outreach to poor rural women and men.

The Council approved the administrative budget of IFAD for 2010, in the amount of US\$131.99 million inclusive of PDFFF expenditures. It also approved the capital budget of IFAD for 2010 in the amount of US\$3.53 million. The Council further approved the administrative budget of IFAD's Office of Evaluation for 2010 in the amount of US\$6.2 million.

In approving the Revision of IFAD's Lending Policies and Criteria, the Executive Board shall submit to the thirty-fourth session of the Governing Council in 2011 revised Lending Policies and Criteria.

The Forum underlined the need for continued support of smallholder farmers around the world, and recognized IFAD's role as an important and active partner in this regard.

As well, During this Governing Council, IFAD also displayed a high degree of responsiveness in organizing a side event on the situation in Haiti.

Open Ended Working Group on measures designed to increase efficiency of Governing Bodies and increase Council Seats

The meeting for the establishment of the Open Ended Working Group for increased efficiency for Governing Bodies and increase Council Seats was held on Friday 9 April in the Green Room at FAO Headquarters.

The Membership reviewed the arrangements for the OEWG. It was decided regarding the Membership that the OEWG would have one Chair and two Vice-Chairs as well as a Bureau, consisting of one Member from each region. However, each region will have the opportunity to nominate the country to represent their region in the Bureau.

On Functions, it was agreed that: "The OEWG shall review and make recommendations regarding the measures designed to increase the efficiency of the Governing Bodies, including representation. In this context, the OEWG shall examine inter alia the membership of the Council and may recommend changes in the number of Council seats."

Under the Methods of Work, the Membership favoured that all countries have the right to speak in the OEWG rather than nominating spokespersons, as it may restrict participation.

Concerning Reporting, Members referred to the Conference report which gave the OEWG authority to report to the Conference through the Council directly and preferred to follow the reporting procedure specified in that document.

The Independent Chair of the Council was appointed as Chairperson of the Bureau, while the Netherlands and Tanzania were appointed as Vice-Chairs. The indicative schedule of the OEWG meetings is: 13 July 2010, 23 September 2010 and 22 February 2011.

103rd Session of the Programme Committee

The new Programme Committee met for the first time on 12-16 April, with active engagement of all members, and a number of silent observers participating.

The agenda contained several evaluation-related issues. Besides discussing three recently completed evaluations (one on water, one joint FAO and WFP evaluation on information systems for food security, and one on FAO operational capacity in emergencies) the meeting endorsed the Charter for the Office of Evaluation.

The committee also decided on the next strategic evaluations for 2010-11: (1) gender aspects of FAO's work, (2) FAO's work on nutrition, and (3) land tenure and access to land.

Four more evaluations were endorsed to start in 2011-12: (1) policy assistance at country level, (2) Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries, (3) sustainable management of forests and trees, and (4) regional and sub-regional offices for Africa.

Discussions on the prioritization of the technical work of FAO started with a process oriented debate which led to a number of concrete recommendations for the forthcoming FAO meetings. While the present biennium is one of transition, a systematic approach should be put in place by the next biennium.

The committee also approved its own multi-year programme of work for 2010-13, a new initiative agreed on in the IPA. It also agreed on how to improve its own working methods.

Ms Riikka Laatu

68th Session of the Committee on Commodity Problems (CCP)

The 68th Session of the Committee on Commodity Problems (CCP) will be held 14-16 June in the Green Room. The CCP's terms of reference focus on reviewing commodity market developments and related policy issues.

The agenda for this Session includes a review of the situation and outlook for all major agricultural commodities, an assessment of the status of the Doha Round negotiations and reporting of the Secretariat's analytical work on the impacts of the financial crisis and on managing wide international price movements. Issues surrounding foreign investments in developing country agriculture will also be discussed. There will be the opportunity to discuss work priorities in the area of competence of the CCP more generally.

Finally, the 68th Session will see the start of a review of the CCP itself. The major changes that have taken place in international commodity markets since the CCP was established make it timely to review its roles and working arrangements and to consider how the CCP can be strengthened as the major global forum for discussion of commodity market issues and for driving a global policy agenda. The latest FAO-OECD Agricultural Outlook will be launched at a press conference by The Director-General and the Secretary-General of OECD. There will also be a side event on market volatility to address concerns about the growing susceptibility of international and domestic markets to volatility and discuss policies that could be pursued to manage an increasingly unpredictable environment.

Mr David Hallam

WFP Emergency Relief in Haiti

Since the earthquake in Haiti, WFP has reacted rapidly by implementing projects with an estimated time frame from January to December 2010. Currently, WFP has delivered food to nearly 3 million people. Amongst those people, WFP is reaching school-age children with a daily hot meal through 107 school sites.

Food Assistance Programmes that WFP is actively working on include: Targeted general food distributions; Food for Work and Cash for Work; Blanket Supplementary Feeding (BSF); and Meals for school-age children.

For detailed project information go the www.wfp.org and search the following projects:

- Logistics and Telecommunications Augmentation and Coordination for Relief Operations in Response to the Earthquake in Haiti
- Provision of Humanitarian Air Services in Response to the Earthquake in Haiti
- Food Assistance to Earthquake Affected Populations in Haiti

Chairs and Vice-Chairs for 2010

	GROUP OF 77 (2010)	AFRICA (2010)	ASIA (1st semester 2010)	NEAR EAST (2010)	LATIN AMERICA AND CARIB- BEAN (GRULAC) (1st semester 2010)
Chairpersons	Mr Ibrahim Abu Atileh (Jordan)	H.E. Moham- med Ashraf Gmal Eldin Rashed (Egypt)	Mr Rahim Kayat Qureshi (Pakistan)	H.E. Hassan Janabi (Iraq)	Ms María del Carmen Squeff (Argentina)
Vice- Chairpersons	Representation of Cameroon	H.E. Wilfred Joseph Ngirwa (United Republic of Tanzania)	Mrs Maran Ja Taung (Myanmar)	Mr Bashar Akbik (Syrian Arab Republic)	H.E. (Mrs) Gladys Urbaneja Duran (Venezuela) Mr Carlos Ben- tancour (Uruguay)

Upcoming Meetings

- **Thirty-first Regional Conference for Latin America and the Caribbean (LARC)** Apr 26 – 30 2010, Panama City
- **90th Session of the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters (CCLM)** Apr 28 – 29 2010, FAO Rome
- **Twenty-sixth Regional Conference for Africa (ARC)** May 3 – 7 2010, Luanda, Angola
- **Twenty-seventh Regional Conference for Europe (ERC)** May 10 – 14 2010, Yerevan, Armenia
- **139th Session of FAO Council (CL)** May 17 – 21 2010, FAO Rome
- **Annual Session of WFP Executive Board** Jun 7 – 11 2010, WFP Rome
- **68th Session of the Committee on Commodity Problems** Jun 14 – 16 2010, FAO Rome
- **22nd Session of the Committee on Agriculture (COAG)** Jun 16 – 19 2010, FAO Rome

IFAD Executive Board 99th Session

Apr 19 – 23 2010, IFAD Rome

The Executive Board is the Fund's second main Governing Body, consisting of 18 elected Members and 18 Alternate Members. The Members and Alternate Members are elected for a three-year term of office within their respective Lists and Sub-Lists.

The Board addressed the following issues for approval in the 99th session: IFAD Climate Change Strategy, IFAD Policy on the Disclosure of Documents, Membership of the Evaluation Committee, An IFAD structure for permanent debt relief in Haiti, and Project/programme and budget proposals.

Click on the [link](#) for the Agenda.

G77 NEWSLETTER – Editorial Board

G77 Consultants, Editors
G77 Chair, Adviser

Office A-129 bis
06-5705-4882
G77-Consultants@fao.org
www.fao.org/g77