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The role of FAO and the intergovernmental process to develop voluntary guidelines for the right to adequate food²

I. Introduction

At the World Food Summit Five Years Later held in June 2002, States invited the Council of the United Nations Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO) to establish an intergovernmental working group (IGWG) to elaborate, with the participation of stakeholders, over a period of two years, a set of voluntary guidelines to support states' efforts to achieve the progressive realization of the right to adequate food in the context of national food security.³ The IGWG was established by the FAO Council on 29 October 2002. This paper will give an overview of FAO's activities leading to the establishment of the IGWG and the rationale behind developing voluntary guidelines and the IGWG itself.

II. FAO and the right to food

1. Early developments

FAO is the primary provider of global information and technical assistance in matters related to food and agriculture. Since its foundation it has been FAO's mandate to raise levels of nutrition and standards of living, to secure improvements in the efficiency of the

1. The views expressed in this paper are the author's and do not necessarily reflect the official views of FAO.

2. Paper presented at the "National Seminar on the Implementation of the Right to Adequate Food in Uganda" held in Jinja, Uganda, 22–24 January 2003.

3. Declaration of the World Food Summit Five Years Later, Operative Paragraph 10, <http://www.fao.org/DOCREP/MEETING/005/Y7106E/Y7106E09.htm>. All web pages quoted in this paper were last accessed on 25 January 2003.

production and distribution of all food and agricultural products, to better the conditions of rural populations and to thus contribute towards an expanding world economy.⁴

FAO's promotion of food rights began in 1963 when the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR) was drafted by the United Nations General Assembly's Third Committee. FAO's then Director-General Binay Ranjan Sen, assessing the draft, noted in a speech before the Third Committee "the absence of an urgent call to mankind through the [Universal] Declaration [on Human Rights] to regard freedom from hunger as one of mankind's first freedoms".⁵ He urged the Third Committee to include in the draft Covenant a concrete and precise formulation of the right to food and the measures conducive to its achievement. He suggested the following:

1. 1. The States Parties to the present Covenant recognize the right of everyone to be free from hunger. They undertake, individually and through international cooperation, to develop programmes aimed at achieving freedom from hunger within the shortest possible time.
2. 2. The States Parties to the present Covenant recognize that, with a view to achieving the full realization of this right, national and international action should be geared to the realization of this right by paying particular attention to:
 3. (a) Policies to ensure that the world food supplies are shared on a rational and equitable basis;
 4. (b) Economic, technical and other measures to increase the production of food;
 5. (c) The adaption of existing institutions, including systems of land tenure and land use, to the requirements of economic and social progress;
 - (d) The promotion and full realization of scientific and technical knowledge and a massive education of the population in order to improve methods of production, conservation and distribution of food.⁶

The substance of this proposal became the basis of Article 11 Paragraph 2 ICESCR, which reads:

The States Parties to the present Covenant, recognizing the fundamental right of everyone to be free from hunger, shall take, individually and through international cooperation, the measures, including specific programmes, which are needed:

- (a) To improve methods of production, conservation and distribution of food by making full use of technical and scientific knowledge, by disseminating knowledge of the principles of nutrition and by developing or reforming agrarian systems in such a way as to achieve the most efficient development and utilization of natural resources;

4. Constitution of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, Preamble.

5. Speaking notes of Dr. B. R. Sen, Director-General of FAO, 15 October 1965, on file with author.

6. *Id.*

(b) Taking into account the problems of both food-importing and food-exporting countries, to ensure an equitable distribution of world food supplies in relation to need.⁷

In 1965, the FAO Council noted that the draft Covenant formally recognized humanity's fundamental right to freedom from hunger. The Council was of the opinion that, while the FAO Constitution clearly stated that freedom from hunger was the ultimate aim of all the work of FAO, the Preamble of the FAO Constitution should not be any less specific on such a problem than the proposed Covenant.⁸ Following a proposal by the Council, the FAO Conference amended the preamble of the FAO constitution at its 13th Session in 1965.⁹ Since then, "ensuring humanity's freedom from hunger" is one of FAO's explicit purposes.¹⁰

2. The World Food Summit 1996 and the World Food Summit Five Years Later

Among the right-to-food activities that have taken place since 1965 are the Rome World Food Conference of 1974, which adopted the Universal Declaration on the Eradication of Hunger and Malnutrition in which an "inalienable right to be free from hunger and malnutrition" was recognized¹¹; the appointment of a Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food, Mr. Asbjørn Eide, by the United Nations Sub-Commission on the Prevention of Discrimination and the Protection of Minorities in 1983, who submitted his groundbreaking final report in 1987¹²; and the International Conference on Nutrition convened by FAO and the World Health Organization, which recognized that access to

7. On the history of Article 11 Paragraph 2, see Philipp Alston, International Law and the Human Right to Food, in: Alston, Philip and Katarina Tomaševski, (eds.), *The Right to Food*, 1984, p. 9; Craven, *The International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights – A Perspective on its Development*, 1995, pp. 297–299.

8. Report of the 44th session of the Council of the FAO, p. 26.

9. The FAO Conference adopted on 1.12.1965 Resolution No. 12/65. In the Resolution it considered that it was the ultimate aim of all of the Organization's work, as reflected in its purposes, functions and responsibilities embodied in the Constitution of the Organization, to ensure the fundamental right of everyone to be free from hunger and decided to amend the preamble of the FAO constitution, Report of the 13th session of the FAO Conference, 1965, p. 77.

10. Constitution of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, Preamble.

11. UN Doc. E/CONF.65/20; FAO Doc. C 75/INF/5.

12. Published as: Asbjørn Eide, *Right to Adequate Food as Human Right*, United Nations Study Series No. 1, United Nations, New York 1989.

nutritionally adequate and safe food was the right of every individual.¹³ An even stronger interest in food as a human right became apparent at the World Food Summit, convened at FAO headquarters in Rome in 1996. At that time, a number of NGOs had begun to call for a rights-based approach to food security¹⁴ and had promoted the idea of developing a Code of Conduct that was supposed to spell out in detail the obligations of different actors regarding the right to food and to enhance governments' commitment to the implementation of the right. This idea was widely supported during the parallel NGO-Forum to the World Food Summit and was included in their statement to the World Food Summit, where NGOs called for the development of "a Code of Conduct to govern the activities of those involved in achieving the Right to Food, including national and international institutions as well as private actors, such as transnational companies".¹⁵ This idea of developing a code of conduct was not endorsed by governments in the final declaration of the Summit itself. Nevertheless, some of the first steps towards the elaboration not of a code of conduct, but of voluntary guidelines, were taken at this summit.

First, in the final Rome Declaration on World Food Security¹⁶ adopted at the Summit, States "*reaffirmed* the right of everyone to have access to safe and nutritious food, consistent with the right to adequate food and the fundamental right of everyone to be free from hunger" (emphasis added). Second, in conjunction with the Rome Declaration, a Plan of Action was adopted spelling out specific objectives and actions. It was in this document that *governments* for the first time considered the idea of developing a voluntary instrument, namely voluntary guidelines.¹⁷ Objective 7.4 of the Plan of Action aims to

clarify the content of the right to adequate food and the fundamental right of everyone to be free from hunger, as stated in the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and other relevant international and regional instruments, and to give particular attention to implementation and full

13. World Declaration on Nutrition, Paragraph 1, <http://www.fao.org/docrep/U9920t/u9920t0a.htm>.

14. According to the Rome Plan of Action adopted at the World Food Summit, food security exists when all people, at all times, have physical and economic access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food to meet their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life (Operative Paragraph 1), http://www.fao.org/wfs/index_en.htm.

15. Statement by the NGO Forum to the World Food Summit, <http://www.fao.org/wfs/begin/paral/cngo-E.htm>.

16. Rome Declaration on World Food Security, Paragraph 1, http://www.fao.org/wfs/index_en.htm.

17. Rome Plan of Action, Objective 7.4, Paragraph 61, http://www.fao.org/wfs/index_en.htm.

and progressive realization of this right as a means of achieving food security for all.¹⁸

Among other rights to food commitments States invited in the Plan of Action

the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, ..., to better define the rights related to Article 11 of the Covenant and to propose ways to implement and realize them ... *taking into account the possibility of formulating voluntary guidelines for food security for all* (emphasis added).¹⁹

The main thrust of Objective 7.4 was to call for clarification of the content of the right to food and its implementation, because one of the objections to a Code of Conduct had been that the normative content and effective ways of implementation of the right were not sufficiently clear.

In the years following the 1996 Summit, and in response to the commitments undertaken at the Summit, a surge occurred in the number of right to food activities. The High Commissioner for Human Rights convened three Expert Consultations,²⁰ one of which was co-hosted by FAO; a coalition of NGOs drafted a Code of Conduct²¹; the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights adopted the landmark General Comment No. 12 on the Right to Adequate Food²² (see below); and the Human Rights Commission appointed a Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food²³. FAO contributed to a number of these activities and strengthened its ties with the High Commissioner for Human Rights. It signed a Memorandum of Understanding to ensure the effective implementation of the commitment entered into by the World Food Summit with respect to the right to adequate food and the fundamental right of everyone to be free from hunger.²⁴

When States reconvened at the invitation of the FAO for the World Food Summit Five Years Later in June 2002, the idea of developing a voluntary instrument on the right

18. *Id.*

19. *Id.* It should be noted that objective 7.4 speaks of voluntary guidelines for food security instead of voluntary guidelines for the right to adequate food.

20. The first was held in Geneva in December 1997 (E/CN.4/1998/21), the second in Rome in November 1998, co-hosted by FAO (E/CN.4/1999/45) and the third in Bonn in March 2001 (E/CN.4/2001/148).

21. FIAN International, WANHR and Institute Jacques Maritain International, International Code of Conduct on the Human Right to Adequate Food, <http://www.fian.org/COC.ENG.rtf>.

22. E/C.12/1999/5, 12 May 1999.

23. Commission on Human Rights resolution 2000/10,

[http://www.unhchr.ch/huridocda/huridoca.nsf/\(Symbol\)/E.CN.4.RES.2000.10.En?Opendocument](http://www.unhchr.ch/huridocda/huridoca.nsf/(Symbol)/E.CN.4.RES.2000.10.En?Opendocument).

to food had found the support of a number of governments. Although States did not agree to use the terminology of a “code of conduct”, they did invite the FAO Council in Operative Paragraph 10 of the Declaration of the World Food Summit Five Years Later “to establish at its 123rd Session an Intergovernmental Working Group, with the participation of stakeholders, ..., to elaborate, in a period of two years, a set of *voluntary guidelines* to support Member States’ efforts to achieve the progressive realization of the right to adequate food in the context of national food security” (emphasis added).²⁵

III. The rationale behind developing voluntary guidelines

Halfway between the two summits, the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (the Committee), the supervisory body of the ICESCR charged with monitoring the compliance of States Parties to the ICESCR with their obligations, adopted in May 1999 General Comment No. 12 on the Right to Adequate Food. For Member States of the Covenant this constitutes an authoritative interpretation of their obligation to progressively realize the right to adequate food as enshrined in Article 2 Paragraph 1 and Article 11 ICESCR. General Comment No. 12 defines the right to food as the right of everyone to have physical and economic access at all times to food in adequate quantity and quality or to means of its procurement.²⁶ It outlines in some detail the basic premises regarding the right to food, the normative content of the right, obligations, violations and implementation at the national level, and international obligations.

Given the fact that, with General Comment No. 12, a document had been developed that gives states guidance on how to implement the right to food, the necessity and usefulness of developing another international instrument with a largely overlapping

24. Memorandum of Understanding between the High Commissioner for Human Rights and the Director-General of the Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations, 29 May 1997, on file with author.

25. Norway added in an explanatory note on Operative Paragraph 10 that it would have preferred the expression “code of conduct” instead of “voluntary guidelines”. The United States of America made a reservation to Operative Paragraph 10 stating that the right to food was a goal or aspiration that does not give rise to any international obligation or any domestic legal entitlement and that a sterile debate over voluntary guidelines would distract attention from the real work of reducing poverty and hunger, Report of the World Food Summit Five Years Later, 10–13 June 1992, Annex II, Explanatory Notes/Reservation, http://www.fao.org/DOCREP/MEETING/005/Y7106E/y7106e03.htm#P192_62570.

26. E/C.12/1999/5, 12 May 1999, paragraph 6.

content might seem questionable or even risky. The voluntary guidelines might blur the line between binding obligations under the ICESCR and voluntary commitments. States might prefer to refer to the guidelines instead of to the ICESCR and refrain from acceding to the ICESCR if they have not yet done so, because the guidelines do not impose any binding obligations. Moreover the guidelines might become of little value if they contained only minimum consensus that does not reflect existing obligations.

On the other hand, the voluntary guidelines might also potentially strengthen the implementation of the right to food for a number of reasons. First, they are to be developed and negotiated by states themselves, hence by those who will be addressed by them, and not by a group of independent experts, as in the case of General Comment No. 12. This might increase states' commitment to the right to food and create a sense of "ownership". The process will at least increase awareness and understanding of the right to food. Second, the voluntary guidelines are intended only to complement the authoritative interpretation of the right given in the General Comment and will be based on it. They are to become neither an alternative nor a derogation of it. Rather, they shall, for example, support states that are already duty bound, *inter alia*, by Article 11 ICESCR in fulfilling their obligations by – ideally – spelling out in greater detail how they should proceed at the national and the international level in order to give full justice to the right.

Thus the guidelines might contribute to closing some of the lacunae in implementation to be found in a number of cases. One example is the field of legislative measures where more is needed than recognition of the right to food at the constitutional level, which is what has been achieved so far in a number of states. The General Comment recommends considering, in addition to the constitutional level, a framework law as well as the adoption of rights-based legislation in a number of fields in line with the requirements of the right to food. Food safety law, for example, serves to protect the right to food by regulating the safety and quality of foodstuffs that are brought on the market by private actors.

A comprehensive assessment and adjustment of national legislation will pose a great challenge. Implementation-oriented voluntary guidelines might help to meet this challenge by specifying in detail the requirements that framework legislation and other national legislation should fulfil. The General Comment explicitly mentions FAO's

expertise and knowledge concerning legislation in the field of food and agriculture.²⁷ FAO offers legal advisory services in a number of relevant fields such as food safety, land tenure, water rights, administration and irrigation, agriculture and environmental law, which can assist countries in fulfilling their obligation to respect, protect and fulfil the right to adequate food. The voluntary guidelines should address these issues and make recommendations. They should be specific enough to give guidance, but general enough to allow for implementation adapted to the different concerns of states as regards their various developmental situations as well as their regional differences.

Whether a *voluntary* instrument can achieve such ambitious aims and contribute to the ultimate objective of improving the realisation of the right to adequate food remains an open question, as the outcome and success of this specific instrument cannot be foreseen. While a minority of states shows a very reluctant attitude towards the whole process of strengthening economic, social and cultural rights, other states and NGOs have indicated a clear interest in the development of voluntary guidelines. In other fields, FAO has had positive experiences with voluntary instruments that were developed with its support. Examples are the Code of Conduct on Responsible Fisheries and the International Code of Conduct on the Distribution and Use of Pesticides. Both have served as guidelines for states, and are *de facto* used by them as yardsticks for their national policies and laws. Ideally, the voluntary guidelines on the right to food will become a vehicle to bridge the gap between the abstract binding obligations of public international law on the one hand, and the need for more concrete guidance on how to deal with the multifaceted realities at the national level on the other. Depending on the quality and the acceptance of the outcome of the work of the IGWG, they might even constitute a first step in a process of developing detailed binding international rules.

IV. Establishment of the Intergovernmental Working Group on the Right to Food

The voluntary guidelines are to be developed by the IGWG as established by the FAO Council on 29 October 2002 during its 123rd session as requested in Operative Paragraph

27. E/C.12/1999/5, 12 May 1999, para. 30.

10 of the Declaration of the World Food Summit Five Years Later (see above, p. 1).²⁸
The IGWG is a subsidiary body of FAO's Committee on World Food Security.

All Members of FAO and all Member States of the United Nations can become Members of the IGWG. Relevant international and regional institutions, as well as non-governmental organizations – here the term is meant to cover also civil society groups, parliamentarians, academic institutions and foundations and the private sector – are invited to participate in the work of the IGWG as observers provided they fulfil two criteria. First, their work must be related to the food security mandate of the Committee on World Food Security, and second, they must be international in character. The latter can be demonstrated through being part of a network of affiliated branches in different countries or through an international board of directors or both. Only members, hence states, will be able to take decisions, but observers can participate fully in the discussions, *i.e.*, without having to wait until all Members have spoken.

The IGWG will elect a bureau consisting of a chair and six vice-chairs. FAO will provide the secretariat to the IGWG and will service the IGWG through an *ad hoc* unit set up for this purpose. It will organize the sessions and prepare reports and other documentation. It will assist the IGWG in close collaboration with relevant treaty bodies, agencies and programmes of the United Nations system. FAO will work closely in particular with the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food as well as the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and the World Food Programme (WFP).

The calendar of work of the IGWG foresees at least three sessions. The first session of the IGWG will take place from 24–26 March 2003 in Rome. At this session, Members and observers will present and discuss proposals regarding elements of the voluntary guidelines. Both Members and observers are invited to submit comments and views, including proposals for elements for inclusion in the voluntary guidelines. FAO will prepare a synthesis report of submissions received at least 40 days before the session. Submissions received at least ten days in advance of the session will be made available to

28. Report of the Council of the FAO, CL123/REP-Rev, Appendix D,
<http://www.fao.org/docrep/meeting/005/Y8271e/Y8271e00.htm>.

the IGWG in the language in which they are received. The second session of the IGWG will take place in September 2003 and will continue the debate and seek consensus on specific issues. The third session, to be held in February or March of 2004, or any other additional sessions the IGWG may decide to convene will make decisions on the elements to be included in the voluntary guidelines and finalize the draft. In addition to these sessions, other specialized, thematic and/or regional consultations and meetings could be held, including consultations on specific unresolved issues. The IGWG will report on its work to the Committee on World Food Security at its regular sessions in May 2003 and September 2004.

Conclusion

FAO has played an important role in advancing the right to adequate food over the past decades. From its initiative in the 1960s, when it contributed to shaping what is now Article 11 Paragraph 2 ICESCR, to its role as convenor and host of the World Food Summit and the World Food Summit Five Years Later, it has sought to advance the discussion around the right to food and to contribute its expertise and accumulated knowledge in the fields of agriculture and food security. The decision of states at the World Food Summit Five Years Later to call the establishment of an intergovernmental working group with the mandate to develop voluntary guidelines is an important step forward in the process of realising the right to food. FAO as the service organization of the IGWG will be a key actor in the process of developing the voluntary guidelines. It is hoped that the expectations raised by the development of the voluntary guidelines will be justified and that the guidelines and the process that leads to them will indeed help to improve the implementation of the right to food.



CL 123/REP-Revised

REPORT

OF THE COUNCIL OF FAO

Hundred and Twenty-third Session
Rome, 28 October - 1 November 2002

APPENDIX D

ESTABLISHMENT OF THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL WORKING GROUP REQUESTED IN PARAGRAPH 10 OF THE DECLARATION OF THE WORLD FOOD SUMMIT: FIVE YEARS LATER

Establishment and Terms of Reference

1. Within the context of the World Food Summit (WFS) follow-up and in line with operative paragraph 10 of the Declaration of the World Food Summit: five years later (WFS:fyl), an Intergovernmental Working Group (IGWG) is hereby established to elaborate, with the participation of stakeholders, in a period of two years, a set of voluntary guidelines to support Member Nations' efforts to achieve the progressive realization of the right to adequate food in the context of national food security, and to report on its work to the Committee on World Food Security (CFS).
2. The IGWG will be established as a subsidiary body of the CFS and will conduct its business in accordance with the rules of procedure of the CFS.

Membership

3. Membership in the IGWG will be open to all Members of FAO and all Member Nations of the United Nations.

Stakeholder Participation

4. Relevant international and regional institutions, as well as non-governmental organizations, civil society groups, parliamentarians, academic institutions and foundations and the private sector will be invited to participate in the work of the IGWG, in accordance with the criteria governing the issuance of invitations to NGOs for sessions of the CFS. According to these criteria, non-governmental organizations can register as observers, provided that their work is related to the food security mandate of the Committee, is international in character, and demonstrates this through a network of affiliated branches in different countries, or an international board of directors, or both. For the work of CFS, the term NGO is understood to cover all forms of civil society or private sector organizations.

Method of Work

5. At meetings of the IGWG, or of any subsidiary¹ bodies that it may create, stakeholders will participate fully² in the discussions. However, only Members have the right to make decisions. Stakeholders may participate as observers when decisions are being made.

6. The IGWG may decide on modalities to ensure the efficient and effective conduct of proceedings, ensuring that stakeholders can participate in a transparent and active way. Any designation of regional spokespersons or caucuses should be based on the principle of equitable geographical representation.

Organization

7. The IGWG shall elect a Bureau consisting of a Chair and six Vice-chairs at its first meeting. The Director-General will convene the first session of the IGWG. Arrangements for subsequent sessions of the IGWG and for any subsidiary bodies or other inter-sessional meetings that may be called for by the IGWG shall be decided by the Bureau or the Chair in consultations with the Director-General. The Bureau will liaise with the FAO Secretariat when the IGWG is not in session.

Calendar

8. At the first session of the IGWG, which could take place in March or April 2003, Members and stakeholders will present views and proposals as to the elements of the draft voluntary guidelines on the progressive realization of the right to adequate food within the context of national food security. The second session in September 2003 would continue the open debate and seek consensus on specific issues. The third session in February or March 2004 or any additional sessions the IGWG may decide to convene would make decisions on the elements to be included in the draft voluntary guidelines, and finalise the draft. IGWG sessions and meetings should be organized in such a way as to facilitate the participation of representatives of developing countries.

9. In addition to those sessions, the IGWG or its Bureau or Chair may decide, in consultation with the Director-General, to hold other consultations or meetings, as needed and feasible within time and budget possibilities. Such consultations or meetings could be specialized, thematic and/or regional, as required, and may include consultations on specific issues with a view to resolving them ahead of the production of the draft voluntary guidelines.

Reporting Requirements

10. The IGWG will report to the CFS at the regular sessions in May 2003 and September 2004.

Servicing Arrangements

11. As requested in operative paragraph 10 of the Declaration of the WFS:fyl, FAO is to provide assistance to the IGWG, in close collaboration with relevant treaty bodies, agencies and programmes of the UN System. The provision of such assistance will involve internal organizational arrangements, including the setting up of an *ad hoc* unit within FAO's Economic and Social Department to service the IGWG and to support its work.

12. The Secretariat of the IGWG will be provided by FAO. FAO will work closely with relevant UN bodies, in particular the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food, as well as the two Rome-based food agencies, IFAD and WFP. The FAO Secretariat will ensure that the IGWG benefits from the experience of the human rights bodies in its deliberations, and in particular the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights. FAO will also invite other relevant institutions of the UN System, treaty bodies and the WTO to collaborate in assisting the IGWG, on the basis of their respective mandates.

13. In preparation for the first session of the IGWG, the FAO Secretariat, bearing in mind the provisions of paragraph 12 above, shall draft an agenda and a work plan for consideration by the IGWG. In addition, FAO will invite its Members and Member Nations of the United Nations, as well as relevant stakeholders, to submit written comments and views, including proposals for elements for possible inclusion in the draft voluntary guidelines. Submissions received at least 10 days in advance of the session will be made available to the IGWG in the language in which they are received. Submissions received at least 40 days in advance of the session will be incorporated in a synthesis report prepared by the FAO Secretariat.

14. In order to facilitate discussions the FAO Secretariat shall prepare a synthesis report based on the discussions and submissions at the first session, identifying areas of convergence and divergence of views amongst participants.

15. The Bureau, under the leadership of the Chair, shall elaborate a first draft of the voluntary guidelines, in accordance with opinions, points of views and elements received during the sessions of the IGWG. This draft will serve as the basis for subsequent consultations.

16. The current Programme of Work and Budget does not include any provision for costs for the work and servicing of the IGWG. These costs should therefore be covered by extra-budgetary resources. Ongoing activities of FAO related to rights-based approaches to food security will continue and reinforce the IGWG work programme.

¹This does not refer to informal or procedural mechanisms, such as “friends of the chair” meetings.

²i.e. without having to wait until all members have spoken.