



منظمة الأغذية
والزراعة
للأمم المتحدة

联合国
粮食及
农业组织

Food
and
Agriculture
Organization
of
the
United
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Organisation
des
Nations
Unies
pour
l'alimentation
et
l'agriculture

Продовольственная и
сельскохозяйственная
организация
Объединенных
Наций

Organización
de las
Naciones
Unidas
para la
Agricultura
y la
Alimentación

CONFERENCE

Thirty-sixth Session

Rome, 18-23 November 2009

REPORT OF THE SECOND MEETING OF THE GENERAL COMMITTEE

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**A. PAYMENT BY THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY TO COVER
ADMINISTRATIVE AND OTHER EXPENSES ARISING OUT OF ITS
MEMBERSHIP IN THE ORGANIZATION**

1. Article XVIII, paragraph 6 of the Constitution provides that:

A Member Organization shall not be required to contribute to the budget as specified in paragraph 2 of this Article, but shall pay to the Organization a sum to be determined by the Conference to cover administrative and other expenses arising out of its membership in the Organization (...).

2. At its Twenty-seventh Session in 1993 the Conference requested the Finance Committee to examine the methodology for the calculation of the lump sum paid by the European Community. At its Seventy-eighth Session in April 1994 the Finance Committee recommended a methodology on the basis of which the Conference set the payment to be made by the European Community at various sessions.

3. The methodology was re-examined by the Finance Committee at its Hundred-and-eighth Session (September 2004) and Hundred-and-ninth Session (May 2005). The Committee examined a proposal for a revised methodology whereby the biennial adjustment to the European Community's contribution would reflect the official cost of living increases in the Euro area or in the host country. Under the revised methodology, the adjustment formula would be more in line with the system of split assessment and would not have a material impact on the biennial adjustment to the contribution of the European Community to the Organization. The Committee agreed with the proposed revision of the methodology whereby the higher rate of the official cost of living increase in the Euro area or in the host country would be used to adjust the European Community's contribution for any given biennium.

4. Applying the new methodology, the Thirty-fourth Session of the Conference in 2007 set the lump payment due by the European Community at Euro 528 005 for the 2008-09 biennium.

5. In accordance with the above, the methodology to be used for adjusting the lump sum is based on the higher rate of the official cost of living increase in the Euro area or in the host country. Using the Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU) figures, the consumer price inflation for the Euro Area for 2008 was 3.2 % and for 2009 is forecast to be 0.0 % which gives an average of 1.6%. The EIU figures for harmonized consumer price index for Italy are, for 2008, 3.5% and for 2009, forecast at 0.7%, which gives an average of 2.1%. Therefore the inflation figure which should be used in the calculation is 2.1%, being the higher of the two. Applying this rate to the previous contribution of Euro 528 005 gives the new figure of Euro 539 093.

6. Therefore, the General Committee recommends to the Conference that it set the lump-sum payment due by the European Community to cover administrative and other expenditures arising out of its membership in the Organization at Euro 539 093 for the 2010-11 biennium.

7. As in previous biennia, it is proposed that the sum due by the European Community be paid into a trust or special fund established by the Director-General under Financial Regulation 6.7.

B. APPOINTMENT OF THE INDEPENDENT CHAIRPERSON OF THE COUNCIL

8. The General Committee recommends that the Conference adopt the following resolution:

RESOLUTION .../2009

Appointment of the Independent Chairperson of the Council

THE CONFERENCE,

Having proceeded to a secret ballot, in accordance with the provisions of Rule XII, 10 (a) of the General Rules of the Organization:

1. **Declares** that is appointed Independent Chairperson of the Council until the Thirty-seventh Session of Conference (25 June to 2 July 2011);
2. **Decides** that the conditions of appointment, including the allowances attached to the office of the Independent Chairperson of the Council, shall be as follows:
 - a. The Chairperson is required to be present in Rome for all sessions of the Council, Conference, Finance and Programme Committees and, in general, will normally be expected to spend at least six to eight months of the year in Rome;
 - b. A *per diem* allowance equivalent to the applicable standard daily subsistence allowance (DSA) rate at 140%, while the Chairperson is in Rome or travels on Council matters;
 - c. Travel expenses, including the above *per diem* allowance, shall be defrayed by the Organization, in conformity with its regulations and existing practices, when the Chairperson is in Rome or when the Chairperson travels in the performance of the functions of the office of the Independent Chairperson of the Council;
 - d. Arrangements regarding health protection and medical insurance shall be in accordance with Section 343 Part VII-341 of the Administrative Manual;
3. **Decides** that an agreement between FAO and the Independent Chairperson of the Council, consistent with the Basic Texts of FAO and this Resolution, may clarify terms and conditions related to the office of the Independent Chairperson of the Council.

Adopted on ... November 2009

C. REQUEST BY THE STAFF BODIES TO ADDRESS THE CONFERENCE

9. The Provisional Agenda¹ for the 36th Session of the Conference, which includes item 30.6 *Statement by a Representative of the FAO Staff Bodies*, was approved by the 136th Session of Council in June 2009. Subsequently the 137th Session of Council approved a tentative timetable² for the Conference session in which the item was scheduled for the end of the plenary meeting on Saturday 21 November. Thereafter, a request was made by a staff representative kindly requesting that consideration be given to rescheduling the Statement by the Staff Representative to an earlier slot that would offer the staff a greater opportunity to interact with members in a meaningful way. Thus the Committee recommends that the Statement by a Representative of the FAO Staff Bodies be rescheduled to the start of the fifth plenary meeting on the afternoon of Friday 20 November.

D. STATEMENTS IN PLENARY MEETINGS OF THE CONFERENCE BY INTERNATIONAL NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS HAVING CONSULTATIVE STATUS

10. The Committee was informed of the request from the following International Non-Governmental Organization, in Consultative Status with FAO, to address the Plenary of the Conference: Action Group on Erosion, Technology and Concentration (ETC Group, Canada).

11. Having examined this request, the Committee, in accordance with Rule X-2(g) GRO recommends that the Conference grant speaking time not exceeding four minutes to the above mentioned organization on the understanding that it will not be given priority in speaking over representatives of FAO Members.

E. ITEM 21 – OTHER CONSTITUTIONAL AND LEGAL MATTERS

12. The Committee recommends that it be clarified to the Conference that under “item 21 Other Constitutional and Legal Matters” the Plenary will deal with the adoption of the Agreement on Port State Measures (Resolution on Agreement on Port State Measures to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing), the reform of the Committee on World Food Security (Resolutions amending the Constitution and the General Rules of the Organization) and the proposed increase in membership of the Council. An increase in membership of the Council would require the adoption of amendments to the Constitution and to the General Rules of the Organization.

13. The Committee recommends that these arrangements be brought to the attention of the plenary meeting of the Conference. The Committee further recommended that the Conference be informed of the arrangements for the ceremony of opening for signature of the Agreement on Port State Measures.

¹ C 2009/1

² C 2009/INF/1

F. RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE

14. The Committee was informed that Paraguay has replaced Ecuador as representative of Latin America and the Caribbean on the Resolutions Committee.³

³ C 2009/LIM/1