

Co-Chairs' Aide Mémoire of Eighth Meeting of CoC-IEE WG II

Monday 28 April 2008, 14.30 – 17.30

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1) **Membership of the Council:** The Working Group welcomed the Co-Chairs' options paper (Annex 1). Discussions during the session focused on the FAO Council, noting that improvements in governance are fundamental to future success of the Organization.

2) Members expressed diverse views on options proposed for the future size and composition of the Council:

- a) Several Members strongly supported proposals to reduce the number of Council members and concentrate on its primary role as the executive arm of the Governing Bodies. It was recalled that the Conference and Technical Committees convene all members and that the Regional Conferences present the opportunity to voice regional concerns. The value of a smaller group with members empowered to represent their respective regions and acting as the executive body of the whole was emphasised;
- b) Other Members considered that the Council size should increase to better reflect the range of members' views or, if not increased in size, remain unchanged. Members recalled that the current size of Council is not out of line with comparable executive bodies in other UN agencies, for example ILO and UNESCO. Several Members noted that it would be difficult for regions to accept a decline in seats on the Council. It was noted that a proposed increase to 61 members, with an additional two members for all regions except North America, would bring representation up to approximately the 1977 level of 34% of membership;
- c) Support was expressed for maintaining the practice of two year terms of representatives to Council; and
- d) The Working Group confirmed that Observers should continue to be able to speak at Council, but several Members did consider that if the Council membership was considerably expanded limitations might be placed on this.

3) **Greater efficiency and effectiveness in the Council:** The Working Group agreed that the real concern was to make the Council more effective and efficient, and this was a prerequisite for improved Governance:

- a) Many Members supported the proposal to eliminate drafting of the full report of the Council, considering that negotiation and drafting should concentrate on decisions which would thus become clearer. A document such as an aide mémoire of the chair or the verbatim could serve as a record of discussion, without requiring a drafting group;
- b) It was repeated that the Council should meet more flexibly and frequently and the agenda should also be more flexible and Member driven; and
- c) It was emphasised by some Members that the Council should make a very clear budget recommendation to the Conference and that this requirement should be reflected in the Basic Texts

4) An improved advisory input to the Council from the Programme and Finance Committees (or a joint committee) are a prerequisite for the effective functioning of the Council. The next Working Group session on 7 May will open with a discussion of the membership and workings of the Programme and Finance Committees.

Annex 1

The Functions and Composition of the Council and Programme and Finance Committees WG II Co-Chairs Options Paper

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At its meeting on Monday 17 March 2008, Working Group II requested its Co-chairs, in consultation with the Chair of the CoC-IEE to prepare a paper providing options and considerations for the functions and membership of the Council and the Programme and Finance Committees. This paper has been prepared as a basis to facilitate further consideration by the Working Group. Although no firm conclusions have as yet been arrived at by the Working Group, there has been an emerging consensus with respect to several aspects of functions and working practices of the Council and the Programme and Finance Committees. These are recalled in the discussion below.

The Council

Basic Functions

1) **As specified in the Basic Texts** (see Annex 1 for details), the Council has the basic functions of keeping under review and acting in-between Conference Sessions as necessary on:

- a) the world food and agriculture situation and related matters;
- b) current and prospective activities of the Organization, including its Programme of Work and Budget;
- c) administrative matters and financial management of the organization; and
- d) convening international meetings, establishing commissions, approving agreements, etc.

2) In its discussions to-date the Working Group has, in line with the recommendations of the IEE, re-emphasised the executive roles of the Council, particularly as reflected under b) and c) above. At the same time the Working Group has stressed the role of the Conference with respect to a)¹. Thus, at its meeting on 28 January the Working Group agreed that the Council already concentrated on executive oversight of the FAO secretariat, its budget and programmes. The main venue for discussion and decision on global governance issues should be in the Conference, following their discussion in the Technical Committees and the regional conferences, and this distinction of roles between the Council and the Conference could be further reinforced. The Council would naturally continue to consider the recommendations for priorities, policies and strategy in the work of the Organization emanating from Technical Committees and regional conferences. Duplication of discussion between the Council and Conference should thus be reduced.

3) Members considered that the Council still needed to prepare the work of the Conference, but this did not mean it needed to meet immediately before it. The Council should continue to have before it major documents, such as the Programme of Work and Budget documents, previously discussed in the Programme and Finance Committees². The Working Group has also concurred with the IEE that the Council should finalise the detail of the Programme of Work in the light of the budget level established by the Conference on the basis of the Medium-Term Plan and a summary budget document which had first been reviewed by the Council.

¹ It was noted that the Conference includes specialists in its Commissions to a much greater extent than the Council and is fully representative of the membership as a whole, as are the Technical Committees which are made up of specialists.

² The Working Group also discussed that there may be times when the Council needs to convene special meetings of the Technical Committees between Conference sessions to address urgent issues but that both it and the Technical Committees would need to be able to meet more flexibly for this (for example in relation to the current food price crisis which is currently being considered outside the framework of the established Governing Bodies).

Working Methods

4) At the meeting of the Working Group on 11 March it was concluded that there should be work programmes for all the Governing Bodies, perhaps on a rolling basis, and that it should be possible to introduce a monitoring mechanism on progress which also included some indicators of efficiency.

5) The meeting of 11 March confirmed previous discussions that the Council and the Programme and Finance Committees should meet more frequently, flexibly and with the duration of sessions being modified according to requirements but often being shorter than at present.

6) There should be less negotiation of full reports in drafting committees (line-by-line negotiation of the discussion of a meeting as distinct from the decisions was not productive). There could be more formal drafted decisions and recommendations, as was the practice in many other UN Organizations. This would make the actual decisions clearer. These decisions did require drafting committees or Friends of the Chair for their finalisation in the Council but some Members further suggested that a Chair's aide mémoire or the verbatim would be adequate record of the discussion, as it was the decisions which mattered.

7) The Working Group has further concluded that the present operations of the Council in exercising its executive function are constrained by lack of clear cut recommendations and alternatives put for its consideration by the Programme and Finance Committees on policy, strategic and prioritisation issues for the Organization's work:

- **Consideration** could be given to the Council meeting for 1-2 days following sessions of the Programme and Finance Committees (PC/FC). This would help to preserve the continuity of discussion, possibly reduce the extent of repetition and allow for early decision on the recommendations of the PC/FC, especially if the PC/FC reports made clearer recommendations to the Council. There would still need to be time for documentation to be sent to capitals but it could be considerably shorter than at present (perhaps some 10-15 days between the two meetings),

Membership of the Council

8) In performing primarily an executive function of oversight and policy formulation for the workings of the FAO secretariat, efficiency and effectiveness criteria both point in the direction of keeping the size of the Council relatively small. On the other hand if the Council is to be representative and have the full confidence and ownership of Members, a larger membership may be indicated. In determining the size of the Council, a balance thus has to be achieved between efficiency, effectiveness and representation. It is self-evident that in crude terms, the smaller the Council, the more quickly and easily it can carry out its work. Also effectiveness is influenced by size. A small group can have a dialogue. Speakers in a large group can intervene less frequently and are more likely to make prepared statements. However, Members must have confidence in the Council's work and that its conclusions have taken into account their points of view. A Council

where the Members are clearly representatives of their regions and rotation ensures participation by a variety of Members, could achieve this representation.

	1959		1965		1977		2008			
Regions for the Council	Proportions of		Proportions of		Proportions of		Proportions of		Number of	
	Members	Seats	Members	Seats	Members	Seats	Members	Seats	Members	Seats
Africa	9%	8%	29%	23%	31%	24%	25%	24%	48	12
Asia	19%	20%	14%	16%	13%	18%	12%	18%	23	9
Europe	28%	28%	23%	23%	20%	20%	25%	20%	48	10
Latin Am Car	25%	20%	20%	19%	19%	18%	17%	18%	33	9
Near East	14%	12%	12%	10%	13%	12%	11%	12%	21	6
North America	3%	8%	2%	6%	1%	4%	1%	2%	2	2
S.W. Pacific	3%	4%	2%	3%	3%	2%	8%	4%	16	1
Number of Members	79		111		144		191			
Number of Council Seats	25		31		49		49			
Proportion of Members in the Council	32%		28%		34%		26%			

9) When the regions for purposes of Council elections were first formed in 1953, 35% of the FAO membership were Members and the Council only consisted of 24 Members. Today the Council includes the lowest percentage of the membership since immediately prior to the change in 1965. The figure is now 26% and the Council with 49 Members is the largest it has ever been but has seen no change in size since 1977 when FAO had 144 Members, as compared to 191 Member Countries and the EC now.

10) The other major UN specialised agencies have Governing Bodies, equivalent to the FAO Council with memberships ranging from 34 for WHO to 58 for UNESCO (IAEA: 35; WMO 37; IMO 40; UNIDO 53; and ILO 56 (representing countries, workers and employers)).

11) The Basic Texts state in General Rule XXII 3, “In selecting Members of the Council, the Conference shall give due consideration to the desirability of:

- a) including in its membership a balanced geographical representation of nations interested in the production, distribution and consumption of food and agricultural products;
- b) ensuring the participation in the work of the Council of such Member Nations as contribute in a large measure toward the success of the Organization;
- c) giving to the greatest possible number of Member Nations an opportunity, by rotation of membership, to serve the Council.”

12) As is evident above from General Rule XXII.3. (a) not only the number of countries but their interest in agriculture and the consumption of food were considered factors in deciding the Membership of the Council. General Rule XXII.3 (b) refers also to participation by “such Member Nations as contribute in a large measure toward the

success of the Organization". These two clauses may be taken to refer to such factors as numbers of consumers, hungry people who could benefit from the Organization, contribution to agricultural production, and perhaps financial contributions to the Organization.

13) Such criteria provide underpinning, rather than a firm basis for essentially political decision making. They are illustrated in Annex 2 Table 1, from which it is evident that, if, as seems to have been assumed by some Working Group II members, the criteria were to be only based on number of countries: Europe and the South West Pacific would require a greater proportion of the seats, Africa would be roughly in balance and all other regions would require less. If on the other hand, the question is one of the number of consumers (i.e. population), the proportion of seats to Asia would rise markedly, North America would remain more or less unchanged and all other regions would decrease. Finally if the criteria were that of the volume of agricultural GDP, Asia would rise markedly, Europe and North America would be roughly in balance and other regions would go down. Europe is the only region to be under represented on most criteria.

14) There is thus no evidently balanced formula for adjustment of the Council membership on the issue of proportions of seats by region. On most of the possible criteria, a rise is justified for the proportion of seats for Europe. Asia would justify a rise if questions of population and agricultural GDP come to the forefront, the Southwest Pacific on number of countries but no other criteria.

- **Consideration:** A further question could arise on the desirability of adjusting the membership of regions. FAO has more regions for the purposes of Council elections than comparable specialised agencies. The regions are very different in size on any of the criteria above and none are homogenous, although some are less heterogeneous than others. Such an adjustment would require a Conference decision and would come presumably at the request of the Member Country(s) concerned if such countries considered their interest lay most closely with another group which could better represent their interests. It would appear for example that the Near East Region could potentially be expanded in membership.

15) **Options for the future size and composition of the Council as suggested by Members:**

- a) **Leaving the Council unchanged:** Taking all criteria in combination, the present membership of the Council is not as strongly out of line with needs in terms of efficiency, effectiveness and representation as has been perceived by some. The fact that observers are allowed to speak also offsets the need for change, as would more rigorous application of the criteria of rotation specified in the Basic Texts³.
- b) **Increasing membership of each region by two seats:** This proposal is for a 24 percent increase in the size of the Council, increasing the membership of the

³ As a general rule the EU normally presents a unified position with one spokesperson, i.e. the EU position is represented.

Council by 12 seats to 61 (North America being unaffected by the increase), making the Council largest such Governing Body among the UN specialised agencies and funds and programmes. The representation of countries considered against the criteria would move as shown in Annex 2 Table 2. It can be seen that although naturally the number of countries from each region represented increases, there is no significant movement in proportionate representation against the criteria by region, except for the South West Pacific which improves its representation in terms of number of countries but becomes more overly represented in terms of other criteria.

- c) **Increasing the membership of Europe and of the Southwest Pacific by one seat each:** The representation against the criteria would move as shown in Annex 2 Table 3. Europe's position would improve slightly and the South West Pacific would become better represented in terms of number of countries. There would be little substantive change in the position of other regions.
- d) **Redistribution of seats between regions while maintaining the present size of the Council:** It has become clear that no region is prepared to reduce its present number of seats, so there are not realistic possibilities for re-distribution.
- e) **Reconstitution of the Council on an executive board model subsuming the Programme and Finance Committees:** Members supporting this option have suggested in writing that at present Member Countries have two ways to be represented in oversight activity - either through the Council itself or through the Programme or Finance Committees. Since the meetings of the Programme and Finance Committees are more frequent, of longer duration, and with more substantive and engaged discussions, there seems to be great interest in membership of these two Committees. A model therefore that subsumed the Finance and Programme Committee discussions into the Council, would permit more members to become engaged. This would require a significant increase in Council meetings but allow elimination of the Programme and Finance Committees. At the same time, to preserve the opportunity for genuine dialogue, the membership of the Council would be reduced in size to around 30, while allowing non speaking observers. Given also that more members might want the opportunity to have this level of substantive involvement, consideration could be given to increasing the frequency of rotation on Council. Instead of the current practice of every two years, rotation could be done every year. Because the meetings would be more frequent and intensive, members who rotated out would have served for more actual meeting days than under the current system. An alternative would be to have a system of members and alternates. The rules of procedure would allow only one or the other to speak on any given issue, but would allow for a larger number overall to be part of the Council.

The Finance and Programme Committees

Basic Functions

16) **The Programme and Finance Committees – provisions in the Basic Texts:** Both the Programme and Finance Committees are advisory to the Council and have no decision making powers (except for a few budget decisions which may be authorised by the Finance Committee, including between Chapter transfers). The functions are:

- a) Programme Committee: With respect to the technical programmes to review and advise on the programme priorities and objectives, the Programme of Work and Budget and coordination both internally and with other international organizations. The agenda of the Programme Committees is tightly prescribed in the Basic Texts in a way which has not in practice been fully observed. The Committee has in recent years taken a particular responsibility for evaluation. It has not in practice dealt with the extra-budgetary programmes of the Organization except in the context of evaluations and has given little attention to coordination with other Organizations;
 - b) Finance Committee: The Committee has a mandate with respect to financial matters and the administrative units of the Organization. It reviews the financial implications of budgetary proposals; addresses matters pertaining to the working capital and reserve funds and investments; reviews the audited accounts; and advises on the appointment of the external auditor. Its designated functions are very much focused on financial matters and while they do not prevent it from examining such matters as human resource policies and wider implications of contractual policies or communication and information systems, a requirement for this is not specifically stated in the Basic Texts and in practice these other areas have not been a focus of attention. The IEE identified this lacuna and Working Group III considered in its previous discussion that this was an area where there was a need for change.
- **Consideration** could be given to more specifically mandating the Finance Committee or a joint committee to specifically consider all administrative, human resource and organizational issues.

17) At the meeting of 25 February, there was overall agreement with IEE Recommendation 4.9 and Members stressed that better functioning of the Programme and Finance Committees was essential to support a more effective role by the Council in executive governance. The Programme and Finance Committees should thus make clear recommendations and give more attention to priorities, strategies and policies.

18) At its meeting on 17 March the Working Group considered that there would be value in more joint work between the Programme and Finance Committees, to ensure no overlap between their agendas, full synergy in the discussions and the strengthened handling of strategy and programme issues for FAO's work. Some Members considered that this could best be achieved by a merger of the two committees and the establishment

of sub-committees to address particular issues, while others considered that the Committees should be retained with more joint meetings. This followed from conclusions of 25 February that timing, frequency and duration of committee meetings should be flexible.

Membership of the Programme and Finance Committees

19) The Programme and Finance Committees each have eleven Members. The Members are elected from two groups, not on the basis of regions *per se*. The two groups roughly, but not precisely, correspond to the G77 and OECD (in addition to: some members of the G77 also being members of the OECD; the expansion of European membership and the membership of 14 Pacific Islands in the South West Pacific Region has meant that the groups are not distinctly divided; and some developed countries are members of the Asia Region, including the second largest contributor to the Regular Budget, Japan). The two groups are made up of the regional groups for the purposes of Council elections of:

- a) First Group: Africa, Asia, Near East and Latin America and Caribbean; and
- b) Second Group: Europe, Northern America and South West Pacific.

20) The composition of the Programme and Finance Committees is slightly different. The Finance Committee has 7 members from the first Group and 4 from the second and has in the tradition of recent decades been chaired by a member of the G77, while the Programme Committee has 8 members from the first group and 3 from the second and has traditionally been chaired by a member of the second group coming from the OECD. The first group customarily divides the seats on the basis of regions and rotates the Chair of the Finance Committee between regions, while the second group does not so strictly follow this practice. The present membership of the two Committees by region is summarised in Annex 2 Table 4. With the present membership, Europe is particularly poorly represented in the Programme Committee, where it has the Chair and no other member. There is similarly poor representation in the Finance Committee for the Near East which chairs that Committee.

21) In discussions to date the Working Group considered at meetings on 25 February and 17 March that membership needed to ensure regional balance. Also, the

- a) committees should be open to non-speaking observers;
- b) chairs should be elected in a personal capacity and should not occupy seats of their electoral groups;
- c) the members should be elected with due attention to their technical qualifications but that the members are countries not individuals
- d) countries should be able to replace their members if they become unavailable before the expiry of their term of office, as is in fact the current practice; and
- e) if a member cannot be present for a meeting, he or she may be substituted by another member from their electoral group, thus avoiding that a seat remains empty during a meeting.

22) Options for the Programme and Finance Committees as suggested by Members:

- a) **A single joint committee:** The Programme and Finance Committees meet in joint session to discuss the budget level and some other cross-cutting matters. Nevertheless, there is some duplicative discussion between the two and some areas where the perspectives of the two Committees would be mutually beneficial and this opportunity is lost. Considerations for more effective working have thus included a single Programme, Finance and Administration Committee, with ad-hoc working groups to address particular issues (such as: human resources; evaluation; and WFP matters). This formula would allow an adjustment in the balance of membership without arriving at a Committee which is too large to have an effective dialogue⁴. It would also permit:
- i) the main committee to focus in providing recommendations at a more strategic and policy level for consideration by the Council;
 - ii) the better handling of the additional workload involved in the Committees better considering policies and strategies in such areas as human resources and purchasing and contracting, as recommended by the IEE and agreed in the Working Group discussion.
- b) **Election of members:** There seems to be no reason to depart from the existing basic formula of two Groups for election of the Programme and Finance Committees or a joint committee but to allow for regions to be represented in as balanced manner as possible. This could be:
- i) in the case that the PC and FC remain separate: For both Committees there could be 8 members for the first group (primarily G77) and 4 for the second (primarily OECD) with the chairs separately elected in a personal capacity (with a return to the underlying concept in the Basic Texts that chairs should be elected on the basis of their individual qualities);
 - ii) in the case that there is one joint committee, the membership could be 9 from the first group (primarily G77), allowing greater flexibility for participation of developed countries from the region and 5 from the second group (primarily OECD), perhaps with a recognition that developing and middle income countries from within the group should have some representation. Such a committee could be chaired either by an elected Chair and possibly vice-chair or by the Independent Chairperson of the Council (this latter would be in line with the existing provision in the Basic Texts, that the Independent Chairperson of the Council may participate in the Programme and Finance Committees and also with the conclusions of the Working Group at its meeting on 11 March that the Independent Chairperson should play an

⁴ Dialogue has been considered to be a major strength of the existing Programme and Finance Committees but was observed by the IEE to breakdown in the Joint Meeting of the Committees - the joint meeting has 22 members

enhanced facilitation role for the Council).

In both options, members would continue to be elected as countries, rather than as individuals and all meetings would be open to attendance by non-speaking observers.

Annex 1: Basic Texts – Functions of the Council

General Rules of the Organization Rule XXIV - Functions of the Council

The Council, subject to the provisions of paragraph 3 of Article V of the Constitution, shall, between sessions of the Conference, act on behalf of the Conference as its executive organ and make decisions on matters that need not be submitted to the Conference. In particular, the Council shall exercise the functions described below:

1. World food and agriculture situation and related matters

The Council shall:

- a. keep under review the state of food and agriculture in the world, and consider the programmes of Member Nations and Associate Members;
- b. tender advice on such matters to governments of Member Nations and Associate Members, intergovernmental commodity councils or other commodity authorities and through the Director-General to other specialized international agencies;
- c. draw up a provisional agenda for the review by the Conference of the state of food and agriculture, drawing attention to specific policy issues which would require Conference consideration or could be the subject of a formal recommendation by the Conference under paragraph 3 of Article IV of the Constitution, and aid the Director-General to prepare the report and agenda for the review by the Conference of the programmes of Member Nations and Associate Members;
 - i. examine current developments in proposed and existing intergovernmental agricultural commodity arrangements, particularly those developments affecting adequacy of food supply, utilization of food reserves and famine relief, changes in production or pricing policies and special food programmes for undernourished groups;
 - ii. promote consistency and integration of agricultural commodity policies, national and international, with regard to (a) overall objectives of the Organization; (b) the interrelationships of production, distribution and consumption; and (c) interrelationships of agricultural commodities;
 - iii. initiate and authorize groups to study and investigate agricultural commodity situations which are becoming critical, and propose appropriate action, if necessary, under paragraph 2 (f) of Article I of the Constitution;
 - iv. advise on emergency measures such as those relating to the export and import of food and materials or equipment needed for agricultural production, in order to facilitate implementation of national programmes and, if necessary, request the Director-General to submit such advice for action to the Member Nations and Associate Members concerned;
 - v. perform the foregoing functions under (i), (ii) and (iii) in conformity with the Economic and Social Council's Resolution of 28 March 1947² relating to international commodity arrangements, and generally act in close cooperation with the appropriate specialized agencies and intergovernmental bodies.

2. Current and prospective activities of the Organization, including its Programme of Work and Budget

The Council shall:

- a. consider, and make recommendations to the Conference on, policy issues regarding:
 - i. the summary and draft Programme of Work and Budget and supplementary estimates submitted by the Director-General for the following financial period;
 - ii. the activities of the Organization in connection with the United Nations Development Programme;
- b. take any necessary action, within the approved Programme of Work and Budget, with respect to the technical activities of the Organization and report to the Conference on such policy aspects thereof as may require decisions by the Conference.

3. Administrative matters and financial management of the Organization

The Council shall:

- a. exercise control over the financial administration of the Organization;
- b. report to the Conference on the financial position and the final audited accounts of the Organization;
- c. advise the Director-General on matters of policy affecting administration;
- d. approve between-chapter transfers other than those for which the Finance Committee as authority;
- e. authorize withdrawals from the Working Capital Fund for making reimbursable loans or emergency expenditure on the basis of proposals from the Director-General;
- f. consider and make recommendations to the Conference on the level of the Working Capital Fund;
- g. consider the establishment of reserve funds and make recommendations thereon to the Conference;
- h. consider and make recommendations to the Conference on any proposal from the Director-General to accept voluntary contributions and to establish Trust and Special Funds involving additional financial obligations for Member Nations and Associate Members;
- i. consider the scale of contributions and recommend any modifications thereof to the Conference;
- j. consider and approve recommendations of the Finance Committee or the International Civil Service Commission regarding the scale of salaries and the conditions of employment of the staff and recommendations of the Finance Committee on the general structure of the administrative and technical services of the Organization;
- k. consider any observations of the Finance Committee on decisions taken by the International Civil Service Commission in accordance with its Statute, including the funding of post adjustments applied to salary rates;
- l. review action by the Director-General in regard to new posts established in the professional category of staff for which prior authority did not exist;
- m. appoint the external auditor;
- n. delegate to the Finance Committee specific functions relating to financial or administrative matters of the Organization in addition to the functions listed in Rule XXVII, paragraph 7 of these Rules.

4. Constitutional matters

The Council may:

- a. establish commissions, committees and working parties, and convene general, regional, technical or other conferences, working parties or consultations, or authorize the Director-General to establish committees and working parties and convene general, regional, technical or other conferences, working parties or consultations, pursuant to Article VI of the Constitution;
- b. consider, and approve for submission to Member Nations, agreements and supplementary conventions or agreements, as provided in paragraph 2 of Article XIV of the Constitution;
- c. subject to confirmation by the Conference, enter into agreements with other international organizations, pursuant to paragraph 1 of Article XIII of the Constitution;
- d. make recommendations concerning the relationship between the Organization and international non-governmental organizations, in accordance with procedures determined by the Conference;
- e. consider, and make recommendations to the Conference on amendments to the General Rules and the Financial Regulations of the Organization.

5.General

The Council shall:

- a. elect the Chairmen and Members of the Programme Committee and the Finance Committee, and the Members of the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters;
- b. propose candidates for the office of Chairman of the Conference, the chairmen of the Commissions of the Conference, the three Vice-Chairmen of the Conference, the Members of the Credentials Committee and the elected Members of the General Committee;
- c. recommend, after consultation with the Director-General, items for insertion in the agenda of any session of the Conference which require consideration by the Conference, supervise and coordinate all preparatory work for Conference sessions, keeping in mind the desirability of confining, as far as possible, the provisional agenda of these sessions to major policy issues;
- d. advise the Director-General on matters of policy and exercise the general supervision provided for in Rule XXXVII, paragraph 1;
- e. perform such other functions as are necessary to assist in the effective functioning of the Organization;
- f. report to the Conference on its work, emphasizing policy issues for consideration by the Conference.

Annex 2: Tables

Table 1 Present Distribution of council Seats and Relationship in Terms of Proportionate Representation Against Criteria Suggested in Basic Texts							
Regions for the Council	Percentage of Council seats	Percentage of Countries	Entitlement to Council Seats + or - Based on number of countries	Percentage of Agricultural GDP in All FAO Member Countries	Entitlement to Council Seats + or - Based on Agricultural GDP	Percentage of Population in All FAO Member Countries	Entitlement to Council Seats + or - Based on Population
Africa	24%	25%	+1%	8%	-16%	12%	-12%
Asia	18%	12%	-6%	44%	+26%	54%	+36%
Europe	20%	25%	+5%	22%	+2%	15%	-5%
Latin America & Caribbean	18%	17%	-1%	11%	-7%	8%	-10%
Near East	12%	11%	-1%	6%	-6%	5%	-7%
South West Pacific	2%	8%	+6%	2%	0%	0%	-2%
Northern America	4%	1%	-3%	8%	+4%	5%	+1%

Table 2 Results of Increasing Each Region by Two Seats and Relationship in Terms of Proportionate Representation Against Criteria Suggested in Basic Texts							
Regions for the Council	Percentage of Council seats	Percentage of Countries	Entitlement to Council Seats + or - Based on number of countries	Percentage of Agricultural GDP in All FAO Member Countries	Entitlement to Council Seats + or - Based on Agricultural GDP	Percentage of Population in All FAO Member Countries	Entitlement to Council Seats + or - Based on Population
Africa	23%	25%	+2%	8%	-15%	12%	-11%
Asia	18%	12%	-6%	44%	+26%	54%	+36%
Europe	20%	25%	+5%	22%	+2%	15%	-5%
Latin America & Caribbean	18%	17%	-1%	11%	-7%	8%	-10%
Near East	13%	11%	-2%	6%	-7%	5%	-8%
South West Pacific	5%	8%	+3%	2%	-3%	0%	-5%
Northern America	3%	1%	-2%	8%	+5%	5%	+2%

Table 3 Results of Increasing Europe and the Southwest Pacific by One Seat Each and Relationship in Terms of Proportionate Representation Against Criteria Suggested in Basic Texts							
Regions for the Council	Percentage of Council seats	Percentage of Countries	Entitlement to Council Seats + or - Based on number of countries	Percentage of Agricultural GDP in All FAO Member Countries	Entitlement to Council Seats + or - Based on Agricultural GDP	Percentage of Population in All FAO Member Countries	Entitlement to Council Seats + or - Based on Population
Africa	24%	25%	+1%	8%	-16%	12%	-12%
Asia	18%	12%	-6%	44%	+26%	54%	+36%
Europe	22%	25%	+3%	22%	0%	15%	-7%
Latin America & Caribbean	18%	17%	-1%	11%	-7%	8%	-10%
Near East	12%	11%	-1%	6%	-6%	5%	-7%
South West Pacific	4%	8%	+4%	2%	-2%	0%	-4%
Northern America	4%	1%	-3%	8%	+4%	5%	1%

Table 4: Current Membership of the Programme and Finance Committees by Region		
Regions for the Council	Programme Committee	Finance Committee
	Chair Europe	Chair Near East
Africa	2	2
Asia	2	2
Europe	1 (Chair)	3
Latin America & Caribbean	2	2
Near East	2	1 (Chair)
Northern America	1	1
South West Pacific	1	0