

Co-Chairs' Aide Mémoire of Sixth Meeting of CoC-IEE WG II
Monday 17 March 2008, 9.30 – 17.30

Lamya Al-Saqqaf and Natalie Feistritz Co-Chairs

1) **The Council and the Programme and Finance Committees:** The discussion built on the results of previous sessions of the Working Group. Members welcomed the information provided by Management on bodies equivalent to Council and the Programme and Finance Committees in other UN Agencies. It was noted that all other comparable agencies have a supreme governing body similar to the FAO Conference. There was general agreement that the information was useful but was difficult to assess the applicability to the specific requirements of FAO. Some members suggested that the Council could possibly be slightly enlarged to allow for an improved balance in the representation of Member Countries. With respect to the Programme and Finance Committees, it was concluded that:

- a) 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;
- b) The membership of the Programme and Finance Committees (or the Joint Committee) would need to ensure effective regional balance;
- c) Non speaking Observers should henceforth be permitted to attend the Committees; and
- d) It was recalled that the Finance Committee performed a statutory role with respect to the World Food Programme and this would need to be considered in any proposals for change.

2) The Co-Chairs of Working Group II, in consultation with the Chair of the Conference Committee, undertook to prepare options for both the Council and the Programme and Finance Committees for consideration by the Working Group.

3) **Definition of the Functions of Governance and Management**

4) Management noted that most issues regarding the functions of governance and management in Recommendation 4.3 are already reflected in the Basic Texts. Members agreed that there is not a need of a chapeau to add to the Basic Texts to cover the function of governance and management, but there could be a reflection of the agreement on the basic functions in the Report of the CoC-IEE for approval by the Special Session of the conference. It was noted that the Basic Texts do not specifically provide for three areas suggested by the IEE:

- a) Performance measures for the Governing Bodies;
- b) Performance targets and review of the Director-General;
- c) Governing body to governing body contacts with other organizations.

The desirability of these would be discussed separately by the Working Group.