

**Chair's Aide Mémoire – Eighth Meeting of the Bureau of the Conference Committee
for IEE Follow-up (CoC-IEE) – Wednesday 30 July 2008**

Mohammad Saeid Noori-Naeini, Chair

- 1) The Bureau further considered the proposed draft agenda for the Special Session of Conference. Members reaffirmed that the Conference should exclusively address the report of the CoC-IEE and the Conference Resolution for implementation of the Immediate Plan of Action. It was suggested that Ministers would have an important role to play in providing guidance for the future and high level endorsement of the Immediate Plan of Action. Their presence at the start of the Conference could thus be important. More informal round-tables of Ministers where they could discuss without others present could have a role to play in this regard. Other informal side events were also suggested on such matters as follow-up to the High Level Conference and the experience of other Rome based agencies in reform. At the same time it was stressed that these should not be considered a part of the Conference and should not impinge upon it.
- 2) It was considered that the planned dates of the Conference were excessively long for a focused discussion and to gain Ministers' input on follow-up and priorities:
 - It has been confirmed by the FAO Legal Office that if there is a general consensus of Members the Conference could meet from 19-22 November 2008 (four days). This would remove the overlap with the EU Council of Ministers of Agriculture meeting and allow the Council to meet on Monday 17th in the same week as the Conference with a significant cost saving to delegations.
- 3) Members were sympathetic to the Chair's suggestion that every effort should be made to resolve all outstanding issues in the CoC-IEE before the Conference. However, if any matters did remain unresolved, it was suggested these should be placed in the Immediate Plan of Action for further consideration by the Governing Bodies in 2009, as it would not be productive to try and negotiate last minute agreement on contentious matters at the Conference itself.
- 4) The importance was recalled of the Legal Office being available to give advice as needed.
- 5) The Bureau welcomed the useful input the Programme and Finance Committees would be providing in their respective areas of mandate. It was recalled that although the session of the Council immediately before the Special Session of the Conference would be short, it would be discussing the reports of the Programme and Finance Committees and their Joint Session.
- 6) It was noted that there had not been time to discuss the budget and expenditure estimates at the previous Bureau meeting and that this should be a priority item for discussion at the next meeting, which would be convened on Thursday 4 September.