

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

Thursday 9 October 2008, 9.30 – 17.00

Lamya Al-Saqqaf and Natalie Feistritz Co-Chairs

**Membership of the Council, Independent Chairperson of the Council
and Other Outstanding Items for Completion in Governance Section of the CoC-IEE
Report Approved on Saturday 4 October**

1) The report of the CoC-IEE to the Special Session of the Conference was approved at the meeting of the CoC-IEE on Saturday 4 October. At that meeting it was agreed that the following items be placed in a box for possible conclusion by Working Group II and incorporation in the report by the CoC-IEE by at the latest Monday 13 October:

- a) Membership of the Council;
- b) Independent Chair of the Council and chairpersonship of the Council;
- c) A Bureau of the Council;
- d) Possibility of voluntary guideline to be developed for representatives to FAO and to develop an eligibility process for employment of representation staff by FAO.

2) In this context, if necessary, changes would be made in the second bullet Section D Governing Body Follow-up - Action Matrix point 4.3.

3) **Membership of the Council:** The Working Group agreed to recommend the change of wording as follows in Substitution of second bullet Section D Governing Body Follow-up - Action Matrix point 4.3:

- to recommend to the 36th session of the FAO Conference 2009: - any changes found desirable in the size and regional representation in the membership of the Council and propose, with advice from the CCLM, any necessary changes in the Basic Texts to the 2009 Session of the Conference.

4) **Independent Chairpersonship of the Council:** It was agreed to propose to the CoC-IEE the following text in substitution of paragraph 30 and the Action Matrix:

“Independent Chairperson of the Council

30) The Independent Chairperson of the Council will play an enhanced facilitation role in further empowerment of the Council to better play its role in governance and oversight. These functions of the Independent Chairperson will be specified in the Basic Texts and will include active consultation with regional groups in preparation for Council sessions¹.

¹ The Russian Federation expressed its reservations on concluding with respect to the role and functions of an Independent Chairperson of the Council at this time.

Independent Chairperson of the Council - Action Matrix

Actions			Responsibility for final decision	Start-End Year	Costs or Savings US\$ (million)	
Ref N.	Ref. IEE Rec	Action			Investment	Recurrent per biennium
	4.10a	Revise Basic Texts to clearly specify the proactive facilitation role of the Independent Chairperson of the Council for the Governance of FAO, eliminating any potential for conflict of roles with the managerial role of the Director-General and, including, in addition to chairing meetings of the Council:	Conference Committee/ CCLM/ Conference	2009	0	0
2.38		a) serve as an honest broker in arriving at consensus between members on controversial issues;				
2.39		b) liaise with the Chairs of the Programme and Finance Committees and CCLM on their work programmes and as appropriate with the chairs of technical committees and regional conferences, normally attending the Programme and Finance Committees and regional conferences;				
2.40		c) as and when he/she considers it useful, the Independent Chairperson of the Council may call for consultative meetings with representatives of the Regional Groups on issues of an administrative and organizational nature for the preparation and conduct of a session;				
2.41		d) liaise with FAO senior management on concerns of the membership, expressed through the Council and its Programme and Finance Committees and the regional conferences;				
2.42		e) ensure that the Council is kept abreast of developments in other fora of importance for FAO's mandate and that dialogue is maintained with other Governing Bodies as appropriate, in particular the Governing Bodies of the Rome based food and agriculture agencies;				
2.43		f) drive forward the continuous improvement of the efficiency, effectiveness and Member ownership of FAO Governance.				
2.44		g) The Basic Texts will also specify:				
2.45		i) desirable qualifications (competencies) for the Independent Chairperson to be developed by the Conference Committee with advice of the CCLM and decided by the 2009 Conference ii) that the Independent Chairperson is required to be present in Rome for all sessions of the Council and will normally be expected to spend at least six to eight months of the year in Rome				

5) **A Bureau of the Council:** It was agreed that in view of the coverage of the section above on the Independent Chairperson of the Council, there would be no proposal of new Bureau arrangements for the Council.

6) **Possibility of voluntary guideline to be developed for representatives to FAO and to develop an eligibility process for employment of representation staff by FAO:** After extensive discussion it was agreed that there would be not proposal to pursue this further as a separate item, but it was noted that overall guidelines or a code of conduct for staff including external recruitment could be considered as part of the review of Human Resource policies in the context of the follow-up to the Root and Branch Review.