

MEMBERSHIP OF THE COUNCIL

Compilation of background documents from 2008

This document represents sections of pertinent aide mémoires and issues relevant to the subject of Membership of the Council which have been discussed during 2008 in WG II and CoC-IEE meetings.

The CoC-IEE will complete its final report by September 2009 for presentation to the Conference. The final decision will be taken during the 36th session of the Conference in November 2009.

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Co-Chairs' Aide Mémoire - Working Group II - 28 January 2008

The Roles and Functions of the Conference and Council

Discussion focused on IEE recommendations 4.7 and 4.8 concerning, respectively, the roles and functions of the Conference and Council. Following a wide ranging debate it was agreed that it was now important to extend the discussion to the full governance architecture and the CoC-IEE secretariat was asked to facilitate this by developing a flow chart of the present situation and the IEE proposals. It was emphasised that final conclusions would need to be reached once there was a more holistic and shared understanding of the issues, and that there was not necessarily full agreement between all Members. There was however some emerging coincidence of views on broad agreement with IEE recommendations 4.7 and 4.8 with attention to the considerations and reservations discussed below:

[...]

- 7) **The issue of Member Country Representation in the Council and in the Programme and Finance Committees deserved much greater in-depth discussion and for some members represented an issue for the governance architecture.**

Co-Chairs' Aide Mémoire - Working Group II - 8 February 2008

- 1) Members undertook a preliminary exchange of views and many considered that the **Council should not become very much larger than it is at present in any adjustments, but there was no case for reducing it in size or changing the present role of observers.**

[...]

- 3) **Several regions considered that the current make up of the Council membership was not representative** [...]. It was concluded that the matter should be further discussed in the Working Group and at that time the CoC-Secretariat and management should provide information on the formulae for representation used in other UN agencies.

[...]

Co-Chairs' Aide Mémoire - Working Group II - 17 March 2008

- 1) [...] Some members suggested that **the Council could possibly be slightly enlarged** to allow for an improved balance in the representation of Member Countries [...].

- 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.

[...]

Co-Chairs' Aide Mémoire - Working Group II - 28 April 2008
(see also Appendix I)

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.

[...]

Co-Chairs' Aide Mémoire - Working Group II - 18 and 21 July 2008
(see also Appendix II)

[...]

4) **Membership of Council:** Members resumed discussion of options for Council membership focusing on proposals which would increase the total number of members across the regions but with a divergence of views on how large an increase there should be. Some Members continuing to prefer a reduction in the overall size of the Council. There was general recognition of the special case concerning the European region, given the significant increase in Member States since the last changes in the number of Council members in 1977. Several regions supported an increase of two seats for most regions with Europe having an additional three seats and the South West Pacific one more seat (North America would remain as at present with two seats covering the two Member Countries from that region). It was agreed to resume discussion of the issue on 9 September by which time Members would have obtained further clarification from capitals and discussed in greater depth in their regional groups.

[...]

B. Governance Reform (Draft Section of Immediate Plan of Action)

[...]

5) **Membership of the Council: A relatively small increase in the size of the Council to ensure a more balanced representation of the regions – remaining to be considered.**

[...]

**Report of the Thirty-fifth (Special) Session of the Conference
(18-21 November 2008)**

[...]

FOLLOW-UP TO THE INDEPENDENT EXTERNAL EVALUATION OF FAO

Consideration of the Report of the Conference Committee on Follow-up to the Independent External Evaluation of FAO Immediate Plan of Action

15. The first year of the Immediate Plan of Action, 2009 was a period in which both the implementation of the Plan must be urgently pursued and a number of actions would be required involving continued close collaboration between the Membership and management. The Conference looked forward to considering at its next session the new Strategic Framework, Medium-Term Plan and Programme of Work and Budget, **the size and regional representation in the Membership of the Council**, and the finalisation of administrative, human resource and organizational reforms. The definition of substantive priorities in a results-based framework was essential and many members indicated their priorities in this regard.

[...]

Resolution 1/2008 - Adoption of the Immediate Plan of Action for FAO Renewal (2009-11)

THE CONFERENCE: [...]

- 4) DECIDES to establish a time-bound Conference Committee (CoC-IEE) for the duration of 2009 under Article VI of the FAO Constitution for continued follow-up to the Independent External Evaluation of FAO, completing outstanding work within the Immediate Plan of Action. It will finalise its report on suggested Basic Text amendments in June 2009 and complete its final report by September 2009 for presentation to the Conference in November 2009.
- 5) [...]
 - a) The functions of the Committee, without prejudice to the statutory functions of the Council and its standing committees, will be:
 - i) to recommend to the Conference in 2009: [...]
 - (2) **any changes found desirable in the size and regional representation in the Membership of the Council.**

[...]

Immediate Plan of Action for FAO Renewal

[...]

D. Follow-up Arrangements for Implementation of the Immediate Plan of Action

Actions			Responsibility for final decision	Start-End Year	Costs or Savings US\$ (million)	
Ref N.	Ref . IEE Rec	Action			Investment	Recurrent per bien-nium
4.2		A time-bound Conference Committee will be established for the duration of 2009 [...]. The functions of the Committee, without prejudice to the statutory functions of the Council and its standing committees are: i) to recommend to the 36 th session of the FAO Conference (2009): [...]	Conference	2008-09	1.6	0
4.4		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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; 			0	0

[...]

Appendix I

The Functions and Composition of the Council and Programme and Finance Committees Working Group II Co-Chairs' Options Paper (28 April 2008)

[...]

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.

Table 1: Historical Development of Representation in the Council										
	1959		1965		1977		2008			
Regions for the Council	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:

- 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.
- 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 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.

[...]

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

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 1947 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 has 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 <u>Increasing Each Region by Two Seats</u> 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 <u>Increasing Europe and the Southwest Pacific by One Seat Each</u> 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%

Appendix II

The Council Membership, Independent Chair and Possibilities of a Bureau Working Group II Co-Chairs' Options Paper (18 July 2008)

[...]

1) At the meeting on 2-3 July 2008 of Working Group II, the Chairs and secretariat were asked to discuss with Members and provide preferred options for further discussion at the meeting of the WG on Friday 18 July on:

- a) Membership of the Council;
- b) A Bureau of the Council; and
- c) The Independent Chair of the Council

The Council Membership

2) At the meeting on 2-3 July most members were of the view that a relatively small increase in the size of the Council was justified to bring about a more balanced representation of the regions. In the discussion many members emphasised that a significant increase in the size of the Council would inevitably have implications for numbers of speakers on any one issue and thus efficiency. Many other Members emphasised that the main consideration was effectiveness not efficiency and this required adequate democratic representation of all regions. Two viable options appeared from discussion which met the main criteria of members:

- a) **A. Increasing the membership of Europe and of the Southwest Pacific by one seat each:** The representation would move as shown in Table 1 below. 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;
- b) **B. Increasing the membership of all Regions by one seat and Europe by two seats:** The Council would increase in size by 7 members to 56 and representation would move as shown in Table 1 below. All regions would be more fully represented (except North America). Europe's position in terms of the proportion of seats 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.

3) The consultations indicated the greatest level of support for the second of the two options. There is not a major increase in the size of the Council which, although at the high end of the range, remains of comparable size with several other Organizations (56 members). With the exception of the North America region (which has two members) all regions would be more fully represented and Europe and the South West Pacific have more equitable coverage. Any other formula allocating more seats per region would have a more substantial impact on the size of the Council and would not impact on the more equitable representation of regions.

Regions for the Council	2008 – Current Situation				Option A		Option B	
	Number		Percentage		Number	%		
	Members	Seats	Members	Seats	Seats	Seats		
Africa	48	12	25%	24%	12	24%	13	23%
Asia	23	9	12%	18%	9	18%	10	18%
Europe	48	10	25%	20%	11	22%	12	21%
Latin Am Car	33	9	17%	18%	9	18%	10	18%
Near East	21	6	11%	12%	6	12%	7	13%
North America	2	2	1%	2%	2	4%	2	4%
S.W. Pacific	16	1	8%	4%	2	4%	2	4%
	191	49	100%	100%	51	100%	56	100%

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