



منظمة الأغذية
والزراعة
للأمم المتحدة

联合国
粮食及
农业组织

Food
and
Agriculture
Organization
of
the
United
Nations

Organisation
des
Nations
Unies
pour
l'alimentation
et
l'agriculture

Organización
de las
Naciones
Unidas
para la
Agricultura
y la
Alimentación

CONFERENCE

Thirty-third Session

Rome, 19-26 November 2005

THIRD REPORT OF THE GENERAL COMMITTEE

Table of Contents

	Paragraphs
A. ELECTION OF COUNCIL MEMBERS	1 - 5
B. VOTING RIGHTS	6 - 23
C. APPOINTMENT OF THE INDEPENDENT CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL	24

A. ELECTION OF COUNCIL MEMBERS

1. The General Committee draws the attention of the Conference to the following paragraphs of Rule XXII of the General Rules of the Organization (GRO):

- “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 on the Council.
- 4. Member Nations shall be eligible for re-election.
- 5. No Member Nation shall be eligible for election to the Council if it is in arrears in payment of its financial contributions to the Organization in an amount equal to or exceeding the contributions due from it for the two preceding calendar years”.

2. The Conference set Saturday 19 November 2005 as the deadline for submission of nominations for election to the Council, and agreed that the election begin on the afternoon of Friday 25 November.

3. The General Committee has examined the nominations received by that deadline and found the following nominations to be in order:

REGION	PERIOD	CANDIDATES
AFRICA	(a) November 2005 to November 2007 (1 SEAT)*	Cameroon
	(b) November 2005 to 31 December 2008 (4 SEATS)	Côte d'Ivoire, Madagascar, Nigeria, Zambia
	(c) 1 January 2007 to November 2009 (3 SEATS)	Ethiopia, Gabon, South Africa
ASIA	(b) November 2005 to 31 December 2008 (3 SEATS)	India, Indonesia, Pakistan
	(c) 1 January 2007 to November 2009 (6 SEATS)	Bangladesh, China, Japan, Malaysia, Republic of Korea, Thailand
EUROPE	(b) November 2005 to 31 December 2008 (4 SEATS)	France, Italy, Sweden, United Kingdom
	(c) 1 January 2007 to November 2009 (3 SEATS)	Germany, Moldova, Ukraine
LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN	(b) November 2005 to 31 December 2008 (1 SEAT)	El Salvador
	(c) 1 January 2007 to November 2009 (3 SEATS)	Chile, Panama, Uruguay
NEAR EAST	(b) November 2005 to 31 December 2008 (3 SEATS)	Egypt, Lebanon, Saudi Arabia
	(c) 1 January 2007 to November 2009 (1 SEAT)	Iran, Islamic Republic of
SOUTHWEST PACIFIC	(b) November 2005 to 31 December 2008 (1 SEAT)	Australia

* Seat to be filled as a consequence of the Democratic Republic of the Congo being deemed to have resigned in accordance to Rule XXII.7 of the General Rules of the Organization.

4. Since for all the three periods November 2005 – November 2007, November 2005 – 31 December 2008 and 1 January 2007 – November 2009, the number of candidates is the same as the number of vacancies, the Committee recommends that, in accordance with Rule XII.10(a) GRO, the Conference elect by clear general consent the candidates nominated for the specified periods in the regions indicated.

5. The General Committee also submits to the Conference in Appendix A of this report a list of FAO Member Nations by Region for Council election purposes. It is to be noted that as approved by the Conference after the First meeting of the General Committee, Belarus has been placed in the Europe Region.

B. VOTING RIGHTS

6. At its first meeting (19 November 2005), the General Committee noted that 31 Member Nations had not paid sufficient amounts of their assessed contributions to retain their vote in the Conference (see Appendix B). As of 21 November 2005 the situation is as follows:

7. Confirmation has been received that two Member Nation (Democratic Republic of Congo and Paraguay) have made payments that regularize their voting position.

8. Five Member Nations, (Antigua and Barbuda, Cambodia, Sao Tome and Principe, Tajikistan and Turkmenistan) have not requested special consideration and have not registered at the Conference.

9. Six Member Nations attending the Session (Dominica, Gambia, Latvia, Solomon Islands, Sudan and Suriname) have not requested restoration of voting rights. The Secretariat continues actively following-up with the delegations of these Member Nations to ensure that they are aware of their contribution positions and its consequences on their right to vote.

10. Sixteen Member Nations have requested special consideration under Article III.4 of the Constitution and permission to vote (see Appendix C):

- Afghanistan- letter of 11 June 2005 referring to circumstances beyond the control of the Government (GC/INF/3);
- Grenada- letter of 22 July 2005 referring to natural disasters (GC/INF/4);
- Liberia - letter of 11 November 2005 referring to circumstances beyond the control of the Government (GC/INF/7);
- Costa Rica- letter of 16 November 2005 requesting the restoration of voting rights (GC/INF/8);
- Republic of Nicaragua – letter of 14 November 2005 referring to severe economic and financial difficulties beyond the control of the Government (GC/INF/10)
- Dominican Republic – letter of 18 November 2005 referring to severe economic and financial constraints beyond the control of the Government (GC/INF/11)
- Somali Republic - letter of 19 November 2005 referring to serious economic and financial difficulties resulting from the civil war in that country (GC/INF/12)

- Guinea-Bissau – letter of 19 November 2005 referring to serious economic and financial difficulties beyond the control of the Government (GC/INF/13)
- Argentina - letter of 18 November 2005 referring to serious economic and financial difficulties beyond the control of the Government (GC/INF/14)
- Sierra Leone - letter of 18 November 2005 referring to serious economic and financial difficulties beyond the control of the Government (GC/INF/15)
- Comoros - letter of 19 November 2005 referring to serious economic and financial difficulties beyond the control of the Government (GC/INF/16)
- Central African Republic - letter of 17 November 2005 referring to serious economic and financial difficulties beyond the control of the Government (GC/INF/17)
- Iraq - letter of 3 July 2004 referring to serious economic and financial difficulties beyond the control of the Government representing a direct consequence of economic sanctions and armed conflict in that country (GC/INF/18)
- Burundi- letter of 16 November 2005 referring to serious economic and financial difficulties beyond the control of the Government representing a direct consequence of the armed conflict that took place in that country (GC/INF/19)
- Kyrgyz Republic- letter of 22 November 2005 referring to serious economic and financial difficulties beyond the control of the Government (GC/INF/20)
- Nauru- letter of 21 November 2005 referring to serious economic and financial difficulties beyond the control of the Government (GC/INF/21)

11. Two of the Member Nations currently with potential voting rights problems, propose to repay their arrears according to instalment plans as follows:

- Azerbaijan- letter of 15 December 2004 submitting an instalment plan for the repayment of outstanding contributions in ten equal annual instalments of US\$125,682.26 each (GC/INF/6).
- Seychelles- letter of 28 June 2005 submitting an instalment plan for the repayment of outstanding contributions in ten annual instalments of US\$14,608.45 and €701.31 each (GC/INF/5).

12. The General Committee considered the document “The Management of Arrears and the Right to Vote” which recapitulates previous Council recommendations and past practice of the Committee when making decisions to restore voting rights according to criteria which fall within “conditions beyond the control of Member Nations”.

13. The General Committee was informed that, by letter of 3 July 2004 (GC/INF/18), the Government of Iraq asked the Director-General to submit to the Conference at its Thirty-third Session requests (a) that all arrears accumulated prior to 1 January 2004 be cancelled and (b) that the rate of assessment of Iraq be changed in order to reflect the exceptional deterioration of its financial situation.

14. As regards the request that all arrears accumulated by Iraq prior to 1 January 2004 be cancelled, the General Committee noted that, under Article XVIII, paragraph 2 of the Constitution, each Member Nation undertakes to contribute annually to the Organization its share

of the budget as apportioned by the Conference and that this is supplemented by various provisions of the Financial Regulations. The General Committee noted not only that there was no constitutional basis under which a cancellation of the arrears could be approved by the Conference, but also that, in the event that the Conference were to accept to clear, in part or in full, the arrears of a Member Nation, this would undermine the main obligation attached to membership. The General Committee also pointed out that a decision to clear, in part or in full, the arrears of a Member Nation would imply that the corresponding amount be written off and become a permanent loss for the Organization to be shouldered by the other Member Nations.

15. The General Committee recalled that, because of the above considerations, whenever in the past requests were made by Governments to the effect that they be released, partly or in full, from their obligations to contribute in respect of past biennia, either such requests were not pursued or they were submitted to the Conference as applications for the approval of instalment plans for the settlement of arrears, as a condition for the restoration of voting rights under Article III, paragraph 4, of the Constitution.

16. The General Committee, therefore, recommends to the Conference that the Government of Iraq be approached with a view to agreeing to an instalment plan.

17. As regards the request that the rate of assessment of Iraq be changed in order to reflect the exceptional deterioration of its financial situation, the General Committee noted that, at its Eighth Session in 1955, the Conference concluded that the United Nations Committee on Contributions was the most qualified body for assessing Member Government's ability to pay, as well as all the other factors entering in the computation of an equitable scale of contributions. Consequently, through Resolution 42/55, the Conference decided that *"the FAO Scale of Contributions will in future be derived directly from the United Nations Scale of Assessments as in force during the calendar year of the Conference Session, and will be applicable to the two following fiscal years"*. The General Committee notes that the Conference has recently emphasized the importance of adhering strictly to this decision.

18. Therefore, the General Committee recommends to the Conference that the Government of Iraq be invited to consider referring the request for a change in its assessment to the Contributions Committee of the United Nations.

19. The General Committee recommended to the Conference for adoption the resolutions set out in Appendices D and E approving instalment plans submitted by Azerbaijan and Seychelles, through which their voting rights are restored.

20. The General Committee recommended that voting rights be restored to the Member Nations which have requested special consideration under Article III, paragraph 4, as follows: Afghanistan, Argentina, Burundi, Central African Republic, Comoros, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Grenada, Guinea-Bissau, Iraq, Kyrgyz Republic, Liberia, Nauru, Nicaragua, Sierra Leone and Somalia.

21. The General Committee noted that eleven Member Nations had lost their voting rights at the current session of the Conference. These Member Nations were Antigua and Barbuda, Cambodia, Sao Tome and Principe, Tajikistan and Turkmenistan, which have not requested special consideration and have not registered at the Conference, and Dominica, Gambia, Latvia, Solomon Islands, Sudan and Suriname, which have attended the Conference but did not request restoration of voting rights nor submitted an instalment plan.

22. The General Committee expressed its concern at the high number of Member Nations in arrears and held the view that any past recommendations that voting rights be restored for all Member Nations on the first day of the Conference, or upon submission of a letter to that effect, should not be regarded as preventing the Conference from taking a different position in future. While taking note of Article III, paragraph 4 of the Constitution whereby the Conference may permit a Member Nation in arrears to vote if it is satisfied that the failure to pay is due to conditions beyond the control of the Member Nation, the General Committee recommended to

the Conference that, in future, the normal course of action in respect of Member Nations in arrears should consist in actively encouraging them to submit an instalment plan for the settlement of such arrears, as a condition for the restoration of their rights.

23. Furthermore, given its inability to make a proper assessment of the requests for restoration of voting rights in their own merits during the short time available, the General Committee recommended that consideration be given in future that requests for restoration of voting rights should be referred to the Director-General for submission to the Autumn Session of the Finance Committee, in Conference years, which would submit its views to the Conference, through the Council, for consideration by the General Committee, without prejudice to the authority of the Conference to make autonomous determinations under Article III, paragraph 4 of the Constitution.

C. APPOINTMENT OF THE INDEPENDENT CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL

24. The General Committee recommends that the Conference adopt the following resolution:

THE CONFERENCE,

Having proceeded to a secret ballot, in accordance with the provisions of Rule XII, 10 (a) of the General Rules of the Organization:

1. Declares that is appointed Independent Chairman of the Council for a period of two years, that is, until the end of the regular session of the Conference to be held in 2007;
2. Decides that the conditions of appointment, including the allowances attached to the office of the Independent Chairman of the Council, shall be as follows:
 - a. An annual allowance of the equivalent of US\$ 22,000 to cover the representation expenses and secretarial assistance in the Chairman's home station, on the understanding that the Director-General will provide secretarial assistance when the Chairman attends sessions of the Conference, Council, Programme Committee or Finance Committee; one-half of the allowance shall be payable in US dollars, the balance being payable, in whole or in part, in the currency of the home station of the Chairman, or in Euros, according to his desires;
 - b. A per diem allowance at a rate equivalent to that for the Deputy Director-General, while the Chairman is absent from his home station on Council business;
 - c. Travel expenses, including the above per diem allowance, shall be defrayed by the Organization, in conformity with its regulations and existing practice, when the Chairman attends sessions of the Council, of the Programme and Finance Committees, of the Conference, or when he is invited by the Council or by the Director-General to travel for other purposes.

(Adopted on ... November 2005)

Appendix A: FAO Member Nations by Region for Council Election Purposes

Appendix B: List of Member Nations with potential voting rights problems as at 19 November 2005

Appendix C: Summary table of letters received from Member Nations requesting special consideration under Article III.4 of the Constitution

Appendix D: Draft Resolution- Payment of Arrears in Contributions by Azerbaijan

Appendix E: Draft Resolution- Payment of Arrears in Contributions by Seychelles

APPENDIX A**FAO MEMBER NATIONS BY REGION FOR COUNCIL ELECTION PURPOSES****I. AFRICA**

(Member Nations: 48 - Council seats: 12)

ALGERIA
ANGOLA
BENIN
BOTSWANA
BURKINA FASO
BURUNDI
CAMEROON
CAPE VERDE
CENTRAL AFRICAN
REPUBLIC
CHAD
COMOROS
CONGO, DEM. REP. OF
CONGO, REPUBLIC OF
COTE D'IVOIRE
EQUATORIAL GUINEA
ERITREA
ETHIOPIA

GABON
GAMBIA
GHANA
GUINEA
GUINEA-BISSAU
KENYA
LESOTHO
LIBERIA
MADAGASCAR
MALAWI
MALI
MAURITANIA
MAURITIUS
MOROCCO
MOZAMBIQUE
NAMIBIA

NIGER
NIGERIA
RWANDA
SAO TOME AND
PRINCIPE
SENEGAL
SEYCHELLES
SIERRA LEONE
SOUTH AFRICA
SWAZILAND
TANZANIA, UNITED
REPUBLIC OF
TOGO
TUNISIA
UGANDA
ZAMBIA
ZIMBABWE

II. ASIA

(Member Nations: 23 - Council seats: 9)

BANGLADESH
BHUTAN
CAMBODIA
CHINA
DEMOCRATIC PEOPLE'S
REPUBLIC OF KOREA
INDIA

INDONESIA
JAPAN
KAZAKHSTAN
KOREA, REPUBLIC OF
LAO PEOPLE'S
DEMOCRATIC
REPUBLIC
MALAYSIA

MALDIVES
MONGOLIA
MYANMAR
NEPAL
PAKISTAN
PHILIPPINES
SRI LANKA
THAILAND
TIMOR LESTE
UZBEKISTAN
VIET NAM

III. EUROPE

(Member Nations: 45 - Council seats: 10)

ALBANIA	GEORGIA	NORWAY
ARMENIA	GERMANY	POLAND
AUSTRIA	GREECE	PORTUGAL
AZERBAIJAN	HUNGARY	ROMANIA
BELARUS	ICELAND	SAN MARINO
BELGIUM	IRELAND	SERBIA AND MONTENEGRO
BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA	ISRAEL	SLOVAKIA
BULGARIA	ITALY	SLOVENIA
CROATIA	LATVIA	SPAIN
CYPRUS	LITHUANIA	SWEDEN
CZECH REPUBLIC	LUXEMBOURG	SWITZERLAND
DENMARK	MALTA	THE FORMER YUGOSLAV REP. OF MACEDONIA
ESTONIA	MOLDOVA, REP. OF	TURKEY
FINLAND	MONACO	UKRAINE
FRANCE	NETHERLANDS	UNITED KINGDOM

MEMBER ORGANIZATION: European Community

IV. LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

(Member Nations: 33 - Council seats: 9)

ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA	DOMINICA	NICARAGUA
ARGENTINA	DOMINICAN REP.	PANAMA
BAHAMAS	ECUADOR	PARAGUAY
BARBADOS	EL SALVADOR	PERU
BELIZE	GRENADA	SAINT KITTS AND NEVIS
BOLIVIA	GUATEMALA	SAINT LUCIA
BRAZIL	GUYANA	SAINT VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES
CHILE	HAITI	SURINAME
COLOMBIA	HONDURAS	TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO
COSTA RICA	JAMAICA	URUGUAY
CUBA	MEXICO	VENEZUELA

V. NEAR EAST

(Member Nations: 21 - Council seats: 6)

AFGHANISTAN
BAHRAIN
DJIBOUTI
EGYPT
IRAN, ISLAMIC
REPUBLIC OF
IRAQ
JORDAN

KUWAIT
KYRGYZSTAN
LEBANON
LIBYA
OMAN
QATAR
SAUDI ARABIA,
KINGDOM OF

SOMALIA
SUDAN
SYRIA
TAJIKISTAN
TURKMENISTAN
UNITED ARAB
EMIRATES
YEMEN

VI. NORTH AMERICA

(Member Nations: 2 - Council seats: 2)

CANADA
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

VII. SOUTHWEST PACIFIC

(Member Nations: 16 - Council seats: 1)

AUSTRALIA
COOK ISLANDS
FIJI
KIRIBATI
MARSHALL ISLANDS
MICRONESIA
NAURU
NEW ZEALAND
NIUE
PALAU
PAPUA NEW GUINEA
SAMOA
SOLOMON ISLANDS
TONGA
TUVALU
VANUATU

APPENDIX B**List of Member Nations with potential voting rights problems as at 22 November 2005**

Member Nation		Consolidated Arrears Expressed in US\$	Consolidated Contributions Due for Two Preceding Years	Minimum Payment Required to Ensure Vote in US\$
1	Afghanistan	\$ 288,687.35	\$ 63,270.14	\$ 225,418.21
2	Antigua and Barbuda	\$ 336,998.77	\$ 14,060.63	\$ 322,939.14
3	Argentina	\$ 21,952,200.38	\$ 8,079,497.09	\$ 13,872,704.29
4	Azerbaijan	\$ 998,648.10	\$ 28,121.26	\$ 970,527.84
5	Burundi	\$ 141,996.73	\$ 6,995.35	\$ 135,002.38
6	Cambodia	\$ 30,896.00	\$ 14,060.63	\$ 16,836.37
7	Central African Republic	\$ 209,415.16	\$ 6,995.35	\$ 202,420.81
8	Comoros	\$ 271,713.54	\$ 6,995.35	\$ 264,719.19
9	Costa Rica	\$ 230,514.07	\$ 140,638.59	\$ 89,876.48
10	Dominica	\$ 14,575.63	\$ 6,995.35	\$ 7,581.28
11	Dominican Republic	\$ 670,697.95	\$ 161,726.82	\$ 508,972.13
12	Gambia	\$ 104,583.48	\$ 6,995.35	\$ 97,589.13
13	Grenada	\$ 37,640.13	\$ 6,995.35	\$ 30,645.78
14	Guinea-Bissau	\$ 99,424.16	\$ 6,995.35	\$ 92,429.81
15	Iraq	\$ 5,753,228.50	\$ 956,305.77	\$ 4,796,923.73
16	Kyrgyz Republic	\$ 867,652.66	\$ 6,995.35	\$ 860,658.31
17	Latvia	\$ 752,232.12	\$ 70,335.43	\$ 681,897.69
18	Liberia	\$ 338,758.76	\$ 6,995.35	\$ 331,764.41
19	Nauru	\$ 11,024.54	\$ 6,995.35	\$ 4,030.19
20	Nicaragua	\$ 142,740.72	\$ 6,995.35	\$ 135,746.37
21	Sao Tome and Principe	\$ 268,934.16	\$ 6,995.35	\$ 261,939.81
22	Seychelles	\$ 146,852.34	\$ 14,060.63	\$ 132,792.71
23	Sierra Leone	\$ 144,978.49	\$ 6,995.35	\$ 137,984.14
24	Solomon Islands	\$ 36,137.73	\$ 6,995.35	\$ 29,143.38
25	Somalia	\$ 344,838.16	\$ 6,995.35	\$ 337,843.81
26	Sudan	\$ 43,952.68	\$ 42,181.91	\$ 1,771.77
27	Suriname	\$ 24,908.72	\$ 14,060.63	\$ 10,849.09
28	Tajikistan	\$ 146,012.83	\$ 6,995.35	\$ 139,018.48
29	Turkmenistan	\$ 427,910.67	\$ 21,088.22	\$ 406,823.45
		\$ 34,838,154.49	\$ 9,731,333.30	\$ 25,106,850.18

APPENDIX C

Summary Table of Letters from Member Nations with Potential Voting Rights Problems							
	Member Nation	Criteria of "Conditions beyond the control of a Member Nation"				Instalment Plan	
		Adverse Climatic Conditions	Natural Disasters	Wars, Conflicts or International Sanctions	Financial Crisis of Limited Foreign Exchange	Members Proposing an Instalment Plan	No Formal Request Received
1	Afghanistan				X		
2	Antigua and Barbuda						X
3	Argentina				X		
4	Azerbaijan					8-year instalment plan	
5	Burundi			X			
6	Cambodia						X
7	Central African Republic				X		
8	Comoros				X		
9	Costa Rica				X		
10	Dominica						X
11	Dominican Republic				X		
12	Gambia						X
13	Grenada		X				
14	Guinea-Bissau				X		
15	Iraq			X			
16	Kyrgyz Republic				X		
17	Latvia						X
18	Liberia				X		
19	Nauru				X		
20	Nicaragua				X		
21	Sao Tome and Principe						X
22	Seychelles					10-year instalment plan	
23	Sierra Leone				X		
24	Solomon Islands						X
25	Somalia			X			
26	Sudan						X
27	Suriname						X
28	Tajikistan						X
29	Turkmenistan						X

APPENDIX DResolution /05Payment of Contributions - Azerbaijan

THE CONFERENCE,

Noting that the Government of the Republic of Azerbaijan had made a proposal that it liquidate its arrears of contributions over a period of ten years commencing in 2004 in addition to paying each current contribution in the calendar year of assessment, and having further noted that the Government of Azerbaijan has made payments in 2004 and 2005 of US\$ 132,492.16 and Euro 7,013.11 equivalent to the annual instalment of US\$ 125,682.26 plus payment of current contributions,

Decides that:

1. Notwithstanding Financial Regulation 5.5 the arrears of contributions of the Republic of Azerbaijan totalling US\$ 1,005,458.00 shall be settled through the payment of eight annual instalments of US\$ 125,682.26 each from 2006 to 2013.
2. The first instalment shall be payable in January 2006.
3. The annual payment of the instalments referred to above, together with the payment of each current contribution in the calendar year of assessment and any advances to the Working Capital Fund, shall be considered as fulfilment of the financial obligations of the Republic of Azerbaijan to the Organization.
4. Instalments shall be payable in accordance with Financial Regulation 5.5.
5. Default in payment of two instalments shall render this instalment plan null and void.

(Adopted November 2005)

APPENDIX EResolution /05Payment of Contributions - Seychelles

THE CONFERENCE,

Noting that the Government of the Republic of Seychelles had made a proposal that it liquidate its arrears of contributions over a period of ten years commencing in 2006 in addition to paying each current contribution in the calendar year of assessment,

Decides that:

6. Notwithstanding Financial Regulation 5.5 the arrears of contributions of the Republic of Seychelles totalling US\$ 146,084.50 and Euro 7,013.10 shall be settled through the payment of ten annual instalments of US\$ 14,608.45 and €701.31 each from 2006 to 2015.
7. The first instalment shall be payable in January 2006.
8. The annual payment of the instalments referred to above, together with the payment of each current contribution in the calendar year of assessment and any advances to the Working Capital Fund, shall be considered as fulfilment of the financial obligations of the Republic of Seychelles to the Organization.
9. Instalments shall be payable in accordance with Financial Regulation 5.5.
10. Default in payment of two instalments shall render this instalment plan null and void.

(Adopted November 2005)