



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

Продовольственная и  
сельскохозяйственная организация  
Объединенных Наций

Organización de las  
Naciones Unidas para la  
Alimentación y la Agricultura

منظمة  
الأغذية والزراعة  
للأمم المتحدة

# CONFERENCE

## Thirty-ninth Session

Rome, 6-13 June 2015

### Report of the 24<sup>th</sup> Session of the Committee on Agriculture (29 September - 3 October 2014)

#### Executive Summary

The 24<sup>th</sup> Session of the Committee on Agriculture brings to the attention of the Council and Conference its findings and recommendations on:

- a) Family Farmers: Feeding the World, Caring for the Earth
- b) Sustainable Production Intensification and Sustainable Food Systems
- c) FAO's Strategy for Improving Food Safety Globally
- d) Water Governance for Agriculture and Food Security
- e) New Data for Monitoring Investment in Agriculture
- f) FAO's work in the Food and Agriculture Sector under the Reviewed Strategic Framework
- g) Global Agenda for Sustainable Livestock
- h) *Peste des Petits Ruminants* Global Eradication Programme
- i) Report of the Second Meeting of the Plenary Assembly of the Global Soil Partnership (GSP)
- j) The Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems (GIAHS)
- k) The International Rice Commission (IRC)
- l) Proposed Amendments to the Rules of Procedure of the Committee

#### Matters requiring the attention of the Council

The Council is invited to endorse the findings and recommendations of the Committee on Agriculture, and attention is drawn in particular to:

- *Family Farmers: Feeding the World, Caring for the Earth*, paragraph 6 c)
- *FAO's Strategy for Improving Food Safety Globally*, paragraph 8 c)
- *Water Governance for Agriculture and Food Security*, paragraph 9 b)
- *New Data for Monitoring Investment in Agriculture*, paragraph 10 c)
- *FAO's work in the Food and Agriculture Sector under the Reviewed Strategic Framework*, paragraph 11 b)
- *Global Agenda for Sustainable Livestock*, paragraph 12 d)

This document can be accessed using the Quick Response Code on this page;  
a FAO initiative to minimize its environmental impact and promote greener communications.  
Other documents can be consulted at [www.fao.org](http://www.fao.org)



m1895e

- *Report of the Second Meeting of the Plenary Assembly of the Global Soil Partnership (GSP)*, paragraph 14 d), and to endorse the World Soil Charter
- *The Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems (GIAHS)*, paragraph 15 b) and c)
- *The International Rice Commission (IRC)*, paragraph 16 a) and b)

#### **Matters requiring the attention of the Conference**

The Conference is invited to review in particular:

- *Family Farmers: Feeding the World, Caring for the Earth*, paragraph 6 b)
- *Sustainable Production Intensification and Sustainable Food Systems*, paragraph 7 b)
- *FAO's Strategy for Improving Food Safety Globally*, paragraph 8 b) and d)
- *Water Governance for Agriculture and Food Security*, paragraph 9 c)
- *New Data for Monitoring Investment in Agriculture*, paragraph 10 b)
- *Global Agenda for Sustainable Livestock*, paragraphs 12 a) and d) (draft resolution on antimicrobial resistance)
- *Peste des Petits Ruminants Global Eradication Programme*, paragraph 13 a) and b)
- *Report of the Second Meeting of the Plenary Assembly of the Global Soil Partnership (GSP)*, paragraph 14 a) to e), and to endorse the World Soil Charter
- *The Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems (GIAHS)*, paragraph 15 (draft resolution on the establishment of a Programme on GIAHS)
- *The International Rice Commission (IRC)*, paragraph 16 a) and b)

#### **Suggested action by the Council and Conference**

The Council and Conference are invited to:

- Endorse the Report of the 24<sup>th</sup> Session of the Committee on Agriculture

*Queries on the substantive content of this document may be addressed to:*

Robert G. Guei

Secretary of the Committee on Agriculture (COAG)

Tel: +39 06 5705 4920

## Introduction

1. The Committee on Agriculture (COAG) held its 24<sup>th</sup> Session at FAO Headquarters from 29 September to 3 October 2014. Of the 130 Members of the Committee, 111 were present at the Session, including eight Ministers. Five Members of the Organization, the Holy See, five United Nations Organizations, six Intergovernmental Organizations and 11 Non-governmental Organizations (NGOs) participated as observers. The list of participants and the list of documents are available at <http://www.fao.org/bodies/coag/coag24/en/>.
2. Mr Graziano da Silva, Director-General, addressed the Committee. The President of the Dominican Republic, His Excellency Danilo Medina delivered an inspiring key note address on improving food security in his country.
3. The Committee was informed that the European Union was participating in accordance with paragraphs 8 and 9 of Article II of the FAO Constitution.
4. The Committee was assisted by a Drafting Committee composed of Algeria, Argentina, Australia, Bangladesh (Chair), Brazil, Canada, China, Cyprus, Dominican Republic, Equatorial Guinea, European Union, France, Indonesia, Jordan and Oman.
5. The Committee adopted the Agenda and Timetable for the Session. The Agenda is reproduced in Appendix A.

### **Family Farmers: Feeding the World, Caring for the Earth<sup>1</sup>**

6. The Committee:
  - a) recognized the importance of family farming for food security and nutrition, natural resource management, rural heritage including traditional knowledge preservation and local economy, as well as the need to develop and implement specific policies, programmes and effective strategies and partnerships by Members in this regard;
  - b) supported the development of common criteria for definitions and typologies of family farming, as well as the further development of the key analyses and indicators to assess better the status and trends of different types of family farming, including issues related to access to markets;
  - c) called on FAO to continue its work in the promotion of family farming and its integration in the FAO Strategic Framework and the Post-2015 Development Agenda.

### **Sustainable Production Intensification and Sustainable Food Systems<sup>2</sup>**

7. The Committee:
  - a) supported FAO's work on local adaptation of Sustainable Production Intensification practices, value chain and methodologies to assess and reduce food losses and waste in support of sustainable food systems;
  - b) encouraged FAO to integrate further its work on the sustainability of food systems, including the development of a programme on sustainable food systems to be integrated in the Ten-Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production (10YFP-SCP) and in accordance with the rules governing this Framework.

### **FAO's Strategy for Improving Food Safety Globally<sup>3</sup>**

8. The Committee:
  - a) endorsed the key areas of work identified as the core of the FAO Food Safety Strategy;

---

<sup>1</sup> COAG/2014/3

<sup>2</sup> COAG/2014/4

<sup>3</sup> COAG/2014/5

- b) supported a greater role for FAO in Trade Facilitation programmes, in close collaboration with the World Customs Organization and other relevant partners, as an important means for supporting the delivery of FAO's Food Safety Strategy;
- c) recommended that FAO, its Members and its partners explore new sources of funding to be allocated in order to meet the challenge of the growing demands on FAO's food safety scientific advice programme;
- d) recommended that FAO play a greater role in contributing to global food chain intelligence and in assisting countries to contain the growing threat of antimicrobial resistance (AMR) and the potential negative impacts on food and agriculture in collaboration with the World Health Organization (WHO), the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE), the African Union and other partners, as appropriate.

### **Water Governance for Agriculture and Food Security<sup>4</sup>**

9. The Committee:
- a) took note with appreciation of the ongoing and proposed efforts to more systematically integrate the governance dimension in FAO's work on water for sustainable agriculture and food security;
  - b) encouraged FAO to continuously refine the proposed work on water governance, as well as ongoing work in water management, and its processes for integrating the interfaces between water, food security and sustainable agriculture in the Organization's work with full respect to national sovereignty and in collaboration with existing regional initiatives and partnerships and to report to governing bodies;
  - c) recommended that FAO member countries consider incorporating water governance for food security and sustainable agriculture in their national policies and priority frameworks with due consideration to specific contexts and diversities, as well as in their collaboration with FAO and other partners.

### **New Data for Monitoring Investment in Agriculture<sup>5</sup>**

10. The Committee:
- a) welcomed and agreed with FAO's approach to building a global agricultural investment database and harvesting existing data to reduce cost, duplication and response burden on countries;
  - b) encouraged FAO, in strong coordination with Members, as well as regional and international organizations, to fine-tune the development and testing of new investment indicators and data products;
  - c) encouraged FAO to continue to support countries in enhancing their capacity to collect, compile, manage and disseminate official agricultural statistics.

### **FAO's work in the Food and Agriculture Sector under the Reviewed Strategic Framework<sup>6</sup>**

11. The Committee:
- a) agreed with the identified trends and emerging issues within the global development context;
  - b) endorsed the main priorities for food and agriculture that should be taken into account in the review and implementation of action plans and programmes during 2014-2017 to achieve FAO's Strategic Objectives, taking into account national and regional specificities and considering different approaches.

---

<sup>4</sup> COAG/2014/6

<sup>5</sup> COAG/2014/7

<sup>6</sup> COAG/2014/2

## **Global Agenda for Sustainable Livestock<sup>7</sup>**

### 12. The Committee:

- a) recognized the work of FAO in sustainable livestock in the context of the Global Agenda, and noted the shift in perspective to ensure the Agenda comprehensively addresses the sector's contribution to sustainable food and agriculture with due regard to the balanced treatment of the three pillars of sustainable development, underlining the need to achieve results and concrete deliverables on the three original focus areas;
- b) took note of the proposed Agenda contribution to managing health threats at the human-animal-environment interface, including antimicrobial resistance (AMR);
- c) requested FAO to continue giving high attention to addressing transboundary animal diseases;
- d) requested FAO to provide a report on antimicrobial resistance and the role of FAO, OIE, WHO and other relevant partners, detailing action and budget, in line with FAO's Strategic Framework, to be submitted to the FAO Council and Conference, including a draft resolution;
- e) noted the Agenda set-up and governance system and requested FAO to further consider issues raised by the Committee on the global Agenda, including coordination with other initiatives, representation, membership and clarification of roles, and report to the next COAG session;
- f) welcomed the options to mobilize additional Members, other partners and resources for the implementation of the Agenda.

## ***Peste des Petits Ruminants* Global Eradication Programme<sup>8</sup>**

### 13. The Committee:

- a) endorsed the joint establishment and implementation by FAO and the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) of the Global *Peste des Petits Ruminants* (PPR) Control and Eradication Programme in line with the proposed governance structure, including acting as FAO-OIE Secretariat in collaboration with other international and regional partners, such as African Union (AU), South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), among others;
- b) recommended that FAO Members support the implementation of the PPR programme and noted the emphasis on the need for a broad range of partnerships at national, regional and international level;
- c) looked forward to receive updates on programme implementation progress at future COAG sessions.

## **Report of the Second Meeting of the Plenary Assembly of the Global Soil Partnership (GSP)<sup>9</sup>**

### 14. The Committee:

- a) recognized the importance of soils for agriculture and food security;
- b) expressed appreciation for good progress made by the GSP since its inception, including the approval of Plans of Action, the arrangements made towards successful implementation of the International Year of Soils (2015) and the World Soil Day and the planned issuance of a new seminal report on the Status of World Soil Resources at the end of 2015;
- c) recognized the importance of vigorous resource mobilization in connection with GSP work inviting potential resource partners to make full use of the recently formulated Healthy Soils Facility;
- d) noted the proposal for developing a concept note on sustainable management of soil resources with support from the intergovernmental technical panel on soils, for submission to the next GSP Plenary assembly and the FAO Council;

---

<sup>7</sup> COAG/2014/9

<sup>8</sup> COAG/2014/10Rev.1

<sup>9</sup> COAG/2014/11

- e) endorsed the updated World Soil Charter, prior to its consideration by the FAO Council in December 2014, and by the FAO Conference in June 2015, as set out in Appendix B.

### **The Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems (GIAHS)<sup>10</sup>**

15. The Committee:
- a) expressed support for the GIAHS concept and recognized the contribution of GIAHS to cultural heritage, biological diversity and sustainable development;
  - b) acknowledged that the Council had agreed that the GIAHS initiative be vested with formal status within the FAO framework;
  - c) called for further work by the Secretariat on, and review by, forthcoming FAO governing body meetings of the Draft Conference Resolution and Annex 1 contained in document COAG/2014/12, in particular with regard to programme and budget implications, as well as governance arrangements.

### **The International Rice Commission (IRC)<sup>11</sup>**

16. The Committee:
- a) noted that the International Rice Commission suspended all of its activities and operations in June 2013;
  - b) endorsed the resolution and agreed that a standing item on rice be included in the Committee on Agriculture's regular sessions agenda, when appropriate.

### **Multi-year Programme of Work of the Committee (MYPOW)<sup>12</sup>**

17. The Committee adopted the progress report on the implementation of the approved MYPOW 2012-15 and recommended improvements to be incorporated in the MYPOW 2014-17.

### **Proposed Amendments to the Rules of Procedure of the Committee<sup>13</sup>**

18. The Committee reviewed and approved the proposed amendments to the Rules of Procedure of the Committee set out in Annex I to Document COAG/2014/8, including two subsequent further amendments to Rule I on *Officers*.
19. The Committee agreed that the following sentence be added to Rule I, paragraph 3, of the Rules of Procedure: "*Each Member of the Bureau shall exercise its functions in close consultation with the Regional Group that it represents*".
20. The Committee also agreed to introduce a new paragraph in Rule I on *Officers*, reading as follows: "*The Member Nations through their Regional Groups may submit nominations for the office of Chairperson of the Committee. The nominations shall be submitted at least 30 days before the beginning of the session of the Committee in which the election shall take place*".
21. The revised Rules of Procedure, as adopted by the Committee, are set out in Appendix C.
22. The Committee further noted that the past practice of the rotation of the office of Chairperson of the Committee among the "OECD plus" Group and the "G77 and China" should be observed in the future. The Members agreed that this arrangement should not constitute a precedent for other FAO Governing Bodies.

---

<sup>10</sup> COAG/2014/12

<sup>11</sup> COAG/2014/13

<sup>12</sup> COAG/2014/14

<sup>13</sup> COAG/2014/8

### **Date and Place of the Next Session**

23. The Committee noted that the 25<sup>th</sup> Session of COAG would take place in Rome in 2016 and that the exact date would be determined by the Director-General in consultation with the Chairperson and according to the appropriate process.

### **Election of the Chairperson of the Committee and Bureau**

24. The Committee elected by acclamation H.E. Joseph Sam Sesay, Minister for Agriculture, Forestry and Food Security of Sierra Leone as Chairperson of the Committee.

25. The Committee elected by acclamation the following six Members of the incoming Bureau of the Committee.

Australia (South West Pacific)

Canada (North America)

Chile (GRULAC)

India (Asia)

Sudan (Near East)

Switzerland (Europe).

### **Any Other Matters**

26. The Committee took note of the Ebola outbreak and its impact on agriculture and food security and agreed that FAO and its partners should continue mobilizing support for the affected countries in these areas.

---

## APPENDIX A - AGENDA FOR THE 24<sup>TH</sup> SESSION OF THE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

### Introductory Matters

1. Adoption of the Agenda and Timetable
2. Nomination of Chairperson and Members of the Drafting Committee

### Programme Matters under the Reviewed Strategic Framework

3. Family Farmers: Feeding the World, Caring for the Earth
4. Sustainable Production Intensification and Sustainable Food Systems
5. FAO's Strategy for Improving Food Safety Globally
6. Water Governance for Agriculture and Food Security
7. New Data for Monitoring Investment in Agriculture
8. FAO's Work in the Food and Agriculture Sector under the Reviewed Strategic Framework

### Policy and Regulatory Matters

9. Global Agenda for Sustainable Livestock
10. *Peste des Petits Ruminants* Global Eradication Programme (PPR-GEP)
11. Report of the Second Meeting of the Plenary Assembly of the Global Soil Partnership (GSP)
12. The Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems (GIAHS)

### Other Matters

13. The International Rice Commission (IRC)
14. Multi-year Programme of Work of the Committee (MYPOW)
15. Proposed Amendments to the Rules of Procedure of the Committee
16. Date and Place of Next Session
17. Election of the new Bureau Members
18. Any Other Matters
19. Adoption of the Report

## **APPENDIX B - World Soil Charter**

### **I. Preamble**

1. Soils are fundamental to life on Earth but human pressures on soil resources are reaching critical limits. Careful soil management is one essential element of sustainable agriculture and also provides a valuable lever for climate regulation and a pathway for safeguarding ecosystem services and biodiversity.
2. The outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development held in Rio de Janeiro (Brazil) in June 2012, “The Future We Want”, recognizes the economic and social significance of good land management, including soil, particularly its contribution to economic growth, biodiversity, sustainable agriculture and food security, eradicating poverty, the empowerment of women, addressing climate change and improving water availability.

### **II. Principles**

3. Soils are a key enabling resource, central to the creation of a host of goods and services integral to ecosystems and human well-being. The maintenance or enhancement of global soil resources is essential if humanity’s overarching need for food, water, and energy security is to be met in accordance with the sovereign rights of each state over their natural resources. In particular, the projected increases in food, fibre, and fuel production required to achieve food and energy security will place increased pressure on the soil.
4. Soils result from complex actions and interactions of processes in time and space and hence are themselves diverse in form and properties and the level of ecosystems services they provide. Good soil governance requires that these differing soil capabilities be understood and that land use that respects the range of capabilities be encouraged with a view to eradicating poverty and achieving food security.
5. Soil management is sustainable if the supporting, provisioning, regulating, and cultural services provided by soil are maintained or enhanced without significantly impairing either the soil functions that enable those services or biodiversity. The balance between the supporting and provisioning services for plant production and the regulating services the soil provides for water quality and availability and for atmospheric greenhouse gas composition is a particular concern.
6. The implementation of soil management decisions is typically made locally and occurs within widely differing socio-economic contexts. The development of specific measures appropriate for adoption by local decision-makers often requires multi-level, interdisciplinary initiatives by many stakeholders. A strong commitment to including local and indigenous knowledge is critical.
7. The specific functions provided by a soil are governed, in large part, by the suite of chemical, biological, and physical properties present in that soil. Knowledge of the actual state of those properties, their role in soil functions, and the effect of change – both natural and human-induced—on them is essential to achieve sustainability.
8. Soils are a key reservoir of global biodiversity, which ranges from micro-organisms to flora and fauna. This biodiversity has a fundamental role in supporting soil functions and therefore ecosystem goods and services associated with soils. Therefore it is necessary to maintain soil biodiversity to safeguard these functions.
9. All soils – whether actively managed or not - provide ecosystem services relevant to global climate regulation and multi-scale water regulation. Land use conversion can reduce these global, common-good services provided by soils. The impact of local or regional land-use conversions can be reliably evaluated only in the context of global evaluations of the contribution of soils to essential ecosystem services.
10. Soil degradation inherently reduces or eliminates soil functions and their ability to support ecosystem services essential for human well-being. Minimizing or eliminating significant soil

degradation is essential to maintain the services provided by all soils and is substantially more cost-effective than rehabilitating soils after degradation has occurred.

11. Soils that have experienced degradation can, in some cases, have their core functions and their contributions to ecosystem services restored through the application of appropriate rehabilitation techniques. This increases the area available for the provision of services without necessitating land use conversion.

### **III. Guidelines for Action**

12. The overarching goal for all parties is to ensure that soils are managed sustainably and that degraded soils are rehabilitated or restored.

13. Good soil governance requires that actions at all levels – from States, and, to the extent that they are able, other public authorities, international organizations, individuals, groups, and corporations – be informed by the principles of sustainable soil management and contribute to the achievement of a land-degradation neutral world in the context of sustainable development.

14. All actors and specifically, each of the following stakeholder groups are encouraged to consider the following actions:

#### **A. Actions by Individuals and the Private Sector**

I. All individuals using or managing soil must act as stewards of the soil to ensure that this essential natural resource is managed sustainably to safeguard it for future generations.

II. Undertake sustainable soil management in the production of goods and services.

#### **B. Actions by Groups and the Science Community**

I. Disseminate information and knowledge on soils.

II. Emphasise the importance of sustainable soil management to avoid impairing key soil functions.

#### **C. Actions by Governments**

I. Promote sustainable soil management that is relevant to the range of soils present and the needs of the country.

II. Strive to create socio-economic and institutional conditions favourable to sustainable soil management by removal of obstacles. Ways and means should be pursued to overcome obstacles to the adoption of sustainable soil management associated with land tenure, the rights of users, access to financial services and educational programmes. Reference is made to the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Forests and Fisheries in the Context of National Food Security adopted by the Committee on World Food Security in May 2012.

III. Participate in the development of multi-level, interdisciplinary educational and capacity-building initiatives that promote the adoption of sustainable soil management by land users.

IV. Support research programmes that will provide sound scientific backing for development and implementation of sustainable soil management relevant to end-users.

V. Incorporate the principles and practices of sustainable soil management into policy guidance and legislation at all levels of government, ideally leading to the development of a national soil policy.

VI. Explicitly consider the role of soil management practices in planning for adaptation to and mitigation of climate change and maintaining biodiversity.

VII. Establish and implement regulations to limit the accumulation of contaminants beyond established levels to safeguard human health and wellbeing and facilitate remediation of contaminated soils that exceed these levels where they pose a threat to humans, plants, and animals.

VIII. Develop and maintain a national soil information system and contribute to the development of a global soil information system.

IX. Develop a national institutional framework for monitoring implementation of sustainable soil management and overall state of soil resources.

#### **D. Actions by International Organizations**

I. Facilitate the compilation and dissemination of authoritative reports on the state of the global soil resources and sustainable soil management protocols.

II. Coordinate efforts to develop an accurate, high-resolution global soil information system and ensure its integration with other global earth observing systems.

III. Assist governments, on request, to establish appropriate legislation, institutions, and processes to enable them to mount, implement, and monitor appropriate sustainable soil management practices.

**APPENDIX C - REVISED RULES OF PROCEDURE OF THE COMMITTEE ON  
AGRICULTURE (AS ADOPTED BY THE COMMITTEE)<sup>14</sup>**

## **Rule I**

### **Officers**

1. ~~At the first session in each biennium, the Committee shall elect a Chairperson, a first Vice-Chairperson and six Members a second Vice-Chairperson from among the representatives of its Members, who shall remain in office until the election of a new Chairperson and new Vice-Chairpersons, which collectively shall constitute the Bureau of the Committee. The representatives of the elected Members shall act as Vice-Chairpersons.~~
2. The Member Nations through their Regional Groups may submit nominations for the office of Chairperson of the Committee. The nominations shall be submitted at least 30 days before the beginning of the session of the Committee in which the election shall take place.
3. When electing the Chairperson, the Committee should ensure the equitable rotation of the office among the regions. The Chairperson shall not be eligible for election for two consecutive terms in the same office. The term of office shall expire at the end of the Committee session where the election of a new Chairperson is held.
4. The Bureau shall, between sessions, represent the membership of the Committee, perform functions related to the preparation of sessions of the Committee, and perform such other functions as may be delegated to it by the Committee. Each Member of the Bureau shall exercise its functions in close consultation with the Regional Group that it represents.
5. The Chairperson and the Members shall be elected for a period of two years and remain in office until the election of a new Chairperson and new Members at the end of the next session of the Committee. The Chairperson and six Members shall be elected from the following regions: one each from Africa, Asia, Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean, Near East, North America and South West Pacific.
6. The Bureau shall appoint a first Vice-Chairperson from among its six Members. S/he shall remain in office until the appointment of a new first Vice-Chairperson. If due to any reason, the Chairperson is prevented from exercising his or her functions for the remainder of the term of office, these functions shall be exercised by the first Vice-Chairperson for the remainder of the Chairperson's term of office. The Bureau shall appoint a new first Vice-Chairperson from among its Members for the remainder of the Vice-Chairperson's term of office.
- ~~2-7.~~ The Chairperson, or in his *or her* absence, ~~one of the first~~ first Vice-Chairpersons, shall preside at meetings of the Committee and exercise such other functions as may be required to facilitate its work. In the event of the Chairperson and the first Vice-Chairpersons not being able to preside at a meeting, the ~~Bureau Committee~~ shall appoint one of the other five Vice-Chairpersons to take the chair or, failing this, the Committee shall appoint a representative of ~~one of~~ its Members to take the chair.
8. The Director-General of the Organization shall appoint a secretary, who shall perform such duties as the work of the Committee may require.

---

<sup>14</sup> In the text of the draft amendments reproduced below, the proposal regarding deletions are indicated using ~~struck out text~~ and the proposals for insertions are indicated using underlined italics.

## Rule II

### Sessions

1. The Committee shall hold sessions as provided in Rule XXXII, paragraphs 3 and 4 of the General Rules of the Organization.
2. Any number of separate meetings may be held during each session of the Committee.
3. Sessions of the Committee shall normally be held once in each biennium, preferably early in *non-Conference* years. Sessions shall be convened by the Director-General in consultation with the Chairperson of the Committee taking into account any proposals made by the Committee.
4. If required, the Committee may hold additional sessions on the call of the Director-General in consultation with its Chairperson, or on request submitted in writing to the Director-General by the majority of the Members of the Committee.
5. Notice of the date and place of each session shall normally be communicated at least two months in advance of the session to all Member Nations and Associate Members of the Organization, and to such non-member States and international organizations as may have been invited to attend the session.
6. Each Member of the Committee may appoint alternates, associates and advisers to its representative on the Committee.
7. Presence of representatives of a majority of the Members of the Committee shall constitute a quorum for any formal action by the Committee.

## Rule III

### Attendance

1. Participation of international organizations in an observer capacity in the work of the Committee shall be governed by the relevant provisions of the Constitution and the General Rules of the Organization<sup>15</sup>, as well as by the general rules of the Organization on relations with international organizations.
2. Attendance by non-member States of the Organization at sessions of the Committee shall be governed by the principles relating to the granting of observer status to nations adopted by the Conference.
  - a) Meetings of the Committee shall be held in public, unless the Committee decides to meet in private for discussion of any items on its agenda.
  - b) Subject to the provisions of subparagraph (c) below, any Member Nation not represented on the Committee, any Associate Member or any non-member State invited to attend in an observer capacity a session of the Committee may submit memoranda and participate without vote in any discussion at a public or private meeting of the Committee.
  - c) In exceptional circumstances, the Committee may decide to restrict attendance at private meetings to the representative or observer of each Member Nation of the Organization.

---

<sup>15</sup> It is understood that in this context the terms "Constitution" and "the General Rules of the Organization" are to be taken to include all general rules and policy statements formally adopted by the Conference and intended to supplement the Constitution and the Rules, such as the "Statement of principles relating to the granting of observer status to nations", and the general rules regarding relationships between the Organization and governmental and non-governmental organizations.

## Rule IV

### Agenda and Documents

1. The Director-General, in consultation with the Chairperson of the Committee, shall prepare a provisional agenda and shall normally circulate it at least two months in advance of the session to all Member Nations and Associate Members of the Organization and to all non-member States and international organizations invited to attend the session.
2. All Member Nations of the Organization and Associate Members may request the Director-General normally not less than 30 days before the proposed date of the session to insert an item in the provisional agenda. The Director-General shall thereupon circulate the proposed item to all Members of the Committee, together with any necessary papers.
3. The Committee in session may by general consent amend the agenda by the deletion, addition or modification of any item, provided that no matter referred to it by the Council or on request of the Conference be omitted from the agenda.
4. Documents not already circulated shall be dispatched with the provisional agenda, or as soon as possible thereafter.

## Rule V

### Voting

1. Each Member of the Committee shall have one vote.
2. The decisions of the Committee shall be ascertained by the Chairperson, who shall resort, upon the request of one or more Members, to a vote, in which case the pertinent provisions of Rule XII of the General Rules of the Organization shall apply *mutatis mutandis*.

## Rule VI

### Reports

1. At each session, the Committee shall approve a report embodying its views, recommendations and decisions, including, when requested, a statement of minority views. The Committee shall make every effort to ensure that recommendations are precise and can be implemented. Policy and regulatory matters shall be referred to the Conference whereas programme and budget matters shall be referred to the Council. Any recommendations adopted by the Committee which affect the programme or finances of the Organization or concerning legal or constitutional matters shall be reported to the Council with the comments of the appropriate subsidiary committees of the Council. ~~The reports of the Committee shall also be placed before the Conference.~~
2. Reports of sessions shall be circulated to all Member Nations and Associate Members of the Organization and to non-member States invited to attend the session, as well as to interested international organizations entitled to be represented at the session.
3. The comments of the Committee on the report of any of its subsidiary bodies and, if one or more Members of the Committee so request, the views of those Members shall be incorporated into the Committee's report. If any Member so requests, this part of the Committee's report shall be circulated as soon as possible by the Director-General to the States or international organizations which normally receive the reports of the subsidiary body in question. The Committee may also request the Director-General, in transmitting the report and records of its proceedings to Members, to call particular attention to its views and comments on the report of any of its subsidiary bodies.
4. The Committee shall determine the procedures in regard to press communiqués concerning its activities.

## **Rule VII**

### **Subsidiary Bodies**

1. In accordance with Rule XXXII, paragraph 12 of the General Rules of the Organization, the Committee may, on an exceptional basis, establish subsidiary or *ad hoc* bodies where it considers that such action is conducive to facilitating its own work and will not adversely affect the multidisciplinary consideration of questions submitted to the Committee for examination. The Committee may include in the membership of such subsidiary or *ad hoc* bodies Member Nations that are not Members of the Committee and Associate Members. The Council may admit to membership of such subsidiary or *ad hoc* bodies established by the Committee States which, while not Member Nations or Associate Members of the Organization, are members of the United Nations, any of its specialized agencies or the International Atomic Energy Agency.

2. Before taking a decision on the establishment of any subsidiary or *ad hoc* body, the Committee shall examine the administrative and financial implications of such a decision, in the light of a report to be submitted by the Director-General.

3. The Committee shall define the terms of reference, composition and, as far as possible, the duration of the mandate of each subsidiary or *ad hoc* body. Such subsidiary or *ad hoc* bodies shall report to the Committee. The reports of the subsidiary or *ad hoc* bodies shall be made available for information to all members of the subsidiary or *ad hoc* bodies concerned, all Member Nations and Associate Members of the Organization, non-member States invited to the session of the subsidiary or *ad hoc* bodies, and to interested international organizations entitled to attend such sessions.

## **Rule VIII**

### **Suspension of Rules**

The Committee may, by a two-thirds majority of the votes cast, decide to suspend any of the foregoing Rules of Procedure, provided that 24 hours' notice of the proposal for the suspension has been given and that the action contemplated is consistent with the Constitution and the General Rules of the Organization.<sup>16</sup> Such notice may be waived if no Member objects.

## **Rule IX**

### **Amendment of Rules**

The Committee may, by a two-thirds majority of the votes cast, amend its Rules of Procedure, provided that such amendment is consistent with the Constitution and the General Rules of the Organization. No proposal for the amendment of these Rules shall be included in the agenda of any session of the Committee, unless notice thereof has been dispatched by the Director-General to Members of the Committee at least 30 days before the opening of the session.

---

<sup>16</sup> See footnote to Rule III, paragraph 1.