

November 2007

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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-fourth Session

Rome, 17-24 November 2007

THIRD REPORT OF THE GENERAL COMMITTEE

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A. ELECTION OF COUNCIL MEMBERS

1. The 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 at 12:00 hours on Saturday 17 November 2007 the deadline for submission of nominations for election to the Council, and agreed that the election begin on the afternoon of Friday 23 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 2007 to 31 December 2010 (5 SEATS)	Kenya, Morocco, Niger, Republic of Congo, Senegal
	(b) 1 January 2009 to November 2011 (4 SEATS)	Ghana, Mauritania, Tanzania, Zimbabwe
ASIA	(a) 1 January 2009 to November 2011 (3 SEATS)	India, Indonesia, Pakistan
EUROPE	(a) November 2007 to 31 December 2010 (3 SEATS)	Belgium, Russian Federation, Turkey,
	(b) 1 January 2009 to November 2011 (4 SEATS)	France, Italy, Norway, United Kingdom
LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN	(a) November 2007 to 31 December 2010 (5 SEAT)	Bolivia, Brazil, Cuba, Mexico, Trinidad and Tobago
	(b) 1 January 2009 to November 2011 (1 SEAT)	El Salvador
NEAR EAST	(a) November 2007 to 31 December 2010 (2 SEATS)	Kuwait, Sudan
	(b) 1 January 2009 to November 2011 (3 SEATS)	Afghanistan, Egypt, Saudi Arabia
NORTH AMERICA	(a) November 2007 to 31 December 2010 (2 SEATS)	Canada, USA
SOUTHWEST PACIFIC	(a) 1 January 2009 to November 2010 (1 SEAT)	Australia

4. Since for both periods, November 2007 - 31 December 2010 and 1 January 2009 - November 2011, the number of candidates is the same as the number of seats to be filled, 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 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, on adopting the First Report of the General Committee, the Conference decided to place the Russian Federation, the Principality of Andorra and the Republic of Montenegro in the Europe Region.

B. VOTING RIGHTS

6. At its first meeting (17 November 2007), the Committee noted that twenty-three Member Nations had not paid sufficient amounts of their assessed contributions to retain their vote in the Conference (see Appendix B). As at 19 November 2007 the situation is as follows:

7. Confirmation has been received that one Member Nation, Nicaragua, has made payments that regularize its voting position.

8. Three Member Nations, (Nauru, Palau and Turkmenistan) have not requested special consideration and have not registered at the Conference.

9. Seven Member Nations attending the Session (Antigua and Barbuda, Comoros, Guinea-Bissau, Kyrgyzstan, Liberia, Sao Tome and Principe and Solomon Islands) 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. Eleven Member Nations have requested special consideration under Article III.4 of the Constitution and restoration of their voting rights (see Appendix C):

- Dominican Republic- letter of 14 November 2005 referring to severe macro-economic conditions (GC/INF/2);
- Iraq- letters of 11 October and 17 November 2007 respectively (GC/INF/4), requesting (a) cancellation of 70% of accumulated arrears on contributions; (b) reduction of the rate of assessment; (c) restoration of their voting rights;
- Democratic Republic of the Congo- letter of 19 November 2007, referring to difficult economic situation (GC/INF/5);
- Sierra Leone- letter of 19 November 2007 referring to difficult economic situation and withdrawal of donor budgetary support to the government (GC/INF/6);
- Gambia- letter of 19 November referring to severe budgetary constraints (GC/INF/7)
- Central African Republic- letter of 19 November 2007, referring to difficult economic situation as a result of political instability (GC/INF/8);
- Tajikistan- letter of 19 November requesting restoration of voting rights (GC/INF/9);
- Somalia- letter of 19 November referring to civil war and political turmoil (GC/INF/10);
- Costa Rica- letter of 16 November informing that a bank transfer for US\$162,000 has been made to FAO and requesting at the same time restoration of voting rights (GC/INF/11);
- Sudan- copy of order for money transfer to FAO dated 19 November (GC/INF/12);
- Argentina- letter of 19 November referring to difficult economic situation and financial crisis (GC/INF/14).

11. One of the Member Nations currently with potential voting rights problems, Burundi, proposed to repay its arrears according to an instalment plan - letter of 23 May 2007(GC/INF/3). It should be pointed out that the Government of Burundi paid a total of US\$49,687.86 against its accumulated arrears on November 8, 2007. Thus, the remaining balance to be paid under the proposed instalment plan amounts to US\$ 90,768.33 and Euro 7,024.74

The draft Resolution endorsing the instalment plan submitted by Burundi is attached as Appendix D for consideration by the Committee. Burundi's voting rights are thereby restored.

12. The 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 11 October 2007 (GC/INF/4), the Government of Iraq asked the Director-General to submit to the Conference at its Thirty-fourth Session requests (a) that 70% of its arrears accumulated prior to 1 January 2004 be cancelled and (b) that the rate of assessment of Iraq be modified in order to reflect the exceptional deterioration of its financial situation.

14. The Committee decided to restore the voting rights of Iraq. However, in view of the complex issues raised by the country, the Committee decided that such issues be referred to the Finance Committee, CCLM and the United Nations as appropriate, for further consideration and advice.

15. In addition to Burundi, whose voting rights are restored by a resolution, and Iraq, after using the above-mentioned criteria for a case-by-case evaluation of the remaining ten petitions mentioned in par.10, the Committee recommends that voting rights be restored to those Member Nations: Argentina, Central African Republic, Costa Rica, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Dominican Republic, Gambia, Sierra Leone, Somalia, Sudan and Tajikistan.

16. The Committee noted that the ten Member Nations, listed in paragraphs 8 and 9 above, which had made no payments in 2006-2007 and despite repeated efforts by the Secretariat, had not requested special consideration had effectively lost their voting rights.

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 2007

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 Burundi

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

(Member Nations: 48 - Council seats: 12)

Algeria	Ethiopia	Niger
Angola	Gabon	Nigeria
Benin	Gambia	Rwanda
Botswana	Ghana	Sao Tome and Principe
Burkina Faso	Guinea	Senegal
Burundi	Guinea-Bissau	Seychelles
Cameroon	Kenya	Sierra Leone
Cape Verde	Lesotho	South Africa
Central African Republic	Liberia	Swaziland
Chad	Madagascar	Togo
Comoros	Malawi	Tunisia
Congo	Mali	Uganda
Côte D'Ivoire	Mauritania	United Republic of Tanzania
Democratic Republic of the Congo	Mauritius	Zambia
Equatorial Guinea	Morocco	Zimbabwe
Eritrea	Mozambique	
	Namibia	

II. ASIA

(Member Nations: 23 - Council seats: 9)

Bangladesh	Kazakhstan	Philippines
Bhutan	Lao People's	Republic of Korea
Cambodia	Democratic Republic	Sri Lanka
China	Malaysia	Thailand
Democratic People's	Maldives	Timor-Leste
Republic of Korea	Mongolia	Uzbekistan
India	Myanmar	Viet Nam
Indonesia	Nepal	
Japan	Pakistan	

III. EUROPE

(Member Nations: 48 - Council seats: 10)

Albania	Georgia	Poland
Andorra	Germany	Portugal
Armenia	Greece	Romania
Austria	Hungary	Russian Federation
Azerbaijan	Iceland	San Marino
Belarus	Ireland	Serbia
Belgium	Israel	Slovakia
Bosnia and Herzegovina	Italy	Slovenia
Bulgaria	Latvia	Spain
Croatia	Lithuania	Sweden
Cyprus	Luxembourg	Switzerland
Czech Republic	Malta	The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia
Denmark	Moldova	Turkey
Estonia	Monaco	Ukraine
Finland	Montenegro	United Kingdom
France	Netherlands	
	Norway	

Member Organization: European Community

IV. LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

(Member Nations: 33 - Council seats: 9)

Antigua and Barbuda	Dominican Republic	Paraguay
Argentina	Ecuador	Peru
Bahamas	El Salvador	Saint Kitts and Nevis
Barbados	Grenada	Saint Lucia
Belize	Guatemala	Saint Vincent and the Grenadines
Bolivia	Guyana	Suriname
Brazil	Haiti	Trinidad And Tobago
Chile	Honduras	Uruguay
Colombia	Jamaica	Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)
Costa Rica	Mexico	
Cuba	Nicaragua	
Dominica	Panama	

V. NEAR EAST

(Member Nations: 21 - Council seats: 6)

Afghanistan	Kuwait	Somalia
Bahrain	Kyrgyzstan	Sudan
Djibouti	Lebanon	Syrian Arab Republic
Egypt	Libyan Arab Jamahiriya	Tajikistan
Iran (Islamic Republic of)	Oman	Turkmenistan
Iraq	Qatar	United Arab Emirates
Jordan	Saudi Arabia	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 (Federated States of)
Nauru
New Zealand
Niue
Palau
Papua New Guinea
Samoa
Solomon Islands
Tonga
Tuvalu
Vanuatu

APPENDIX B**Member Nations with Potential Voting Rights Problems as at 19 November 2007**

Member Nation		Consolidated Arrears Expressed in US\$	Consolidated Contributions Due for Two Preceding years	Minimum Payment required to Ensure Vote in US\$
1	Antigua and Barbuda	\$ 337,785.52	\$ 19,184.74	\$ 318,601.78
2	Argentina	\$ 30,077,344.62	\$ 8,125,144.38	\$ 21,952,201.24
3	Burundi	\$ 95,258.77	\$ 7,639.03	\$ 87,620.73
4	Central African Republic	\$ 217,054.20	\$ 7,639.03	\$ 209,416.16
5	Comoros	\$ 279,352.58	\$ 7,639.03	\$ 271,714.54
6	Costa Rica	\$ 207,065.49	\$ 195,716.44	\$ 11,350.05
7	Democratic Republic of Congo	\$ 49,720.10	\$ 26,762.49	\$ 22,958.61
8	Dominican Republic	\$ 257,149.97	\$ 226,409.20	\$ 30,741.77
9	Gambia	\$ 75,640.46	\$ 7,639.03	\$ 68,002.42
10	Guinea-Bissau	\$ 107,063.20	\$ 7,639.03	\$ 99,425.16
11	Iraq	\$ 6,105,452.22	\$ 577,115.65	\$ 5,528,337.57
12	Kyrgyzstan	\$ 875,291.70	\$ 7,639.03	\$ 867,653.66
13	Liberia	\$ 323,897.80	\$ 7,639.03	\$ 316,259.76
14	Nauru	\$ 18,663.58	\$ 7,639.03	\$ 11,025.54
15	Palau	\$ 10,809.08	\$ 7,639.03	\$ 3,171.04
16	Sao Tome and Principe	\$ 276,573.20	\$ 7,639.03	\$ 268,935.16
17	Sierra Leone	\$ 119,253.53	\$ 7,639.03	\$ 111,615.49
18	Solomon Islands	\$ 43,776.77	\$ 7,639.03	\$ 36,138.73
19	Somalia	\$ 352,477.20	\$ 7,639.03	\$ 344,839.16
20	Sudan	\$ 55,988.80	\$ 53,685.24	\$ 2,304.56
21	Tajikistan	\$ 146,008.45	\$ 7,639.03	\$ 138,370.42
22	Turkmenistan	\$ 458,603.44	\$ 30,692.76	\$ 427,911.68
		\$ 40,490,230.63	\$ 9,361,657.38	\$ 31,128,595.25

APPENDIX C**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	Antigua and Barbuda						x
2	Argentina				x		
3	Burundi					3-year instalment plan	
4	Central African Republic			x	x		
5	Comoros						x
6	Costa Rica					Bank transfer (US\$ 162,000)	
7	Democratic Republic of Congo				x		
8	Dominican Republic				x		
9	Gambia				x		
10	Guinea-Bissau						x
11	Iraq			x	x		
12	Kyrgyzstan						x
13	Liberia						x
14	Nauru						x
15	Palau						x
16	Sao Tome and Principe						x
17	Sierra Leone				x		
18	Solomon Islands						x
19	Somalia			x			
20	Sudan					Bank transfer (US\$ 5,000)	
21	Tajikistan				x		
22	Turkmenistan						x

APPENDIX DResolution /07Payment of Contributions - Burundi

THE CONFERENCE,

Noting that the Government of Burundi had made a proposal to liquidate its arrears of contributions over a period of three years commencing in 2008 in addition to paying each current contribution in the calendar year of assessment,

Decides that:

1. Notwithstanding Financial Regulation 5.5 the arrears of contributions of Burundi totalling US\$ 90,768.33 and Euro 7,024.74 shall be settled through the payment of three annual instalments of US\$ 30,256.11 and €2,341.58 each from 2008 to 2010.
2. The first instalment shall be payable in January 2008.
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 Burundi 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 2007)