



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

Продовольственная и
сельскохозяйственная
организация
Объединенных
Наций

Organización
de las
Naciones
Unidas
para la
Agricultura
y la
Alimentación

COUNCIL

Hundred and Thirty-sixth Session

Rome, 15-19 June 2009

ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE THIRTY-SIXTH SESSION OF THE CONFERENCE

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APPENDICES

- A** Provisional Agenda for the 36th Session of the FAO Conference
- B** Extract from Article III of the Constitution of FAO
- C** Criteria for Conference Resolutions, Functions and Operating Procedures of the Resolutions Committee

INTRODUCTION

1. At its Thirty-fifth (Special) session (November 2008) the Conference decided that its Thirty-sixth session should be held in Rome from 14 to 21 November 2009¹.

AGENDA AND SCHEDULING OF ITEMS

2. A provisional agenda for the Conference is found in Appendix A.
3. Two Commissions will be established: Commission I (substantive and policy matters in food and agriculture) and Commission II (programme and budgetary matters).
4. A tentative timetable of the Conference session will be submitted to the Council for approval at its 137th session (28 September-2 October 2009).
5. Attention is drawn to Action 2.5 of the Immediate Plan of Action regarding the Conference which provides: "Each session of the Conference will usually have one major theme agreed by the Conference, normally on the recommendation of Council." The Council may wish to propose such a theme as the main focus for the General Debate to be held under item 5 *Review of the State of Food and Agriculture*.

COMPOSITION OF DELEGATIONS

6. Delegations are normally headed by Ministers. In deciding the composition of their delegations, Members are invited to bear in mind the need for effective participation in the work of the Commissions as well as in Plenary.
7. In accordance with Article III of the Constitution, each Member of the Organization may be represented by one delegate, who may be accompanied by alternates, associates and advisers (see Appendix B).

CONSTITUTIONAL DUTIES OF THE CONFERENCE

8. In addition to adopting amendments to the Constitution, Rules and Regulations of the Organization, and approving conventions and agreements, the Conference has the following specific constitutional duties:

Admission of New Members

9. The Conference, as the supreme authority of the Organization, admits new Members and deals with all matters relating to membership. At the date of preparing this document no applications for membership had been received. Under Rule XIX-2 of the General Rules of the Organization (GRO) applications are receivable up to 30 days before the opening of the Conference Session, i.e. Thursday, 15 October 2009. The admission of new Members is carried out by secret ballot and requires a two-thirds majority of the votes cast, provided that the total number of affirmative and negative votes cast shall be more than one half of the Member Nations of the Organization. Membership becomes effective on the date on which the Conference approves the application.

¹ C 2008/REP, para 28. Attention is drawn to para 22 of the same Report in which the Conference requested the Secretariat to provide relevant information and prepare any required studies on *inter alia* a possible summit on Food Security in 2009. The Provisional Agenda of the 136th Session of Council includes sub-item 15.2 on a *Proposed Summit on Food Security in 2009* (CL 136/22), the outcome of which may require the dates of the 36th Session of Conference to be amended.

Appointment of the Independent Chairperson of the Council

10. In accordance with Article V-2 of the Constitution and Rule XXIII-I GRO, the Conference appoints the Independent Chairperson of the Council.

11. Rule XXIII-I(b) GRO provides that the Council shall determine the closing date for submission of nominations for the Office of Independent Chairperson of the Council by Member Nations to the Secretary-General of the Conference. Likewise, the Council also sets the date by which the Secretary-General shall circulate these nominations to all Members of the Organization. Taking into consideration past practice the Council may wish to establish 12.00 hours on Monday, 7 September 2009 as the closing date for submission of nominations for this appointment, and Monday, 14 September 2009 as the date by which such nominations are circulated, by letter and through the Permanent Representatives Web site, by the Secretary-General.

Election of Council Members

12. In accordance with Article V-1 of the Constitution, the Conference elects the Members of the Council. A separate paper on the election of Council Members, including Nomination Forms, will be circulated as Conference document C 2009/11.

OFFICERS OF THE CONFERENCE

13. In accordance with Rule XXIV-5(b) GRO, the Council, at its Hundred and Thirty-sixth Session (June 2009), is called upon to propose countries to nominate candidates for the offices of Chairperson of the Conference and Chairpersons of the Commissions of the Conference. At its Hundred and Thirty-seventh Session (28 September-2 October 2009), the Council will nominate the Chairperson of the Conference and the Chairpersons of the Commissions, which in turn will be approved by the Thirty-sixth Session of the Conference. Nominations for the Vice-Chairpersons of Commission I and Commission II will be approved by the Conference through the General Committee. The Hundred and Thirty-seventh Session of the Council will also propose nominations for: (i) the offices of the three Vice-Chairpersons of the Conference; (ii) the seven elected Members of the General Committee to the Conference; and (iii) nine Members of the Credentials Committee. The members of the Credentials Committee so nominated will commence their work in the 15 days leading up to the Conference.

RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE

14. The Council may wish to recommend the establishment of a Conference Resolutions Committee composed of seven members, one from each FAO region.

15. The Council may also wish to reiterate the view, expressed on previous occasions, that resolutions should be kept to a minimum, and be confined to matters requiring a formal decision by Conference. Appendix C sets out the criteria for Conference resolutions and the functions and operating procedures of the Resolutions Committee, as adopted in 1975 by the Eighteenth session, and followed by subsequent, sessions of Conference.

INVITATIONS

16. The United Nations, its Specialized Agencies and the International Atomic Energy Agency are entitled to be represented at sessions of the Conference, without the right to vote. Other intergovernmental organizations having concluded an agreement with FAO which contains specific provisions to this effect have a right to attend as observers. Those non-governmental organizations which have consultative status are also entitled to send observers to Conference sessions.

17. Other intergovernmental organizations as well as non-governmental organizations having specialized consultative status or liaison status may be invited on a provisional basis by the

Director-General, subject to Conference approval. Accordingly, the Provisional Agenda of the Session contains an item entitled “Admission of Observers”.

18. The above provisions are set out in Rule XVII GRO and also in the “FAO Policy Concerning Relations with International Non-Governmental Organizations” (FAO Basic Texts, Volume II, Section P).

19. Observers from non-governmental organizations will be invited to attend informal meetings during the Conference.

20. The Council may wish to note the Director-General’s suggestion that Palestine be invited to attend the Thirty-sixth Session of the Conference in an observer capacity.

DRAFT DECISIONS

21. The Council decided to set the deadline for the receipt of nominations for the Office of Independent Chairperson of the Council at 12.00 hours on Monday 7 September 2009.

22. The Council agreed to submit to the Conference for approval the Provisional Agenda and the arrangements outlined in this document, and in particular recommended that:

1. Two Commissions be established to examine respectively Substantive and Policy Matters in Food and Agriculture (Commission I) and Programme and Budgetary Matters (Commission II) ;
2. The deadline for the receipt of nominations for election to the Council be set at 12.00 hours on Monday 16 November 2009;
3. A Conference Resolution Committee composed of seven members, one from each region, be established;
4. Palestine be invited to the Conference.
5. The statements of Heads of Delegation be limited to a maximum of 5 minutes each.

APPENDIX A
PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR THE 36TH SESSION OF THE FAO CONFERENCE

INTRODUCTION AND REVIEW OF THE STATE OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

1. Election of Chairperson and Vice-Chairpersons
2. Appointment of General Committee and Credentials Committee
3. Adoption of the Agenda and Arrangements for the Session
4. Admission of Observers
5. Review of the State of Food and Agriculture

SUBSTANTIVE AND POLICY MATTERS IN FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

6. Global Strategy for Agricultural and Rural Statistics
7. Progress Report on the International Year of Natural Fibres 2009
8. Interim Report on the Triennial Comprehensive Policy Review of Operational Activities for Development of the United Nations System
9. Status of the Global Plan of Action for Animal Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture
10. Global and Regulatory matters arising from:
 - 10.1 Report of the 28th Session of the Committee on Fisheries (2-6 March 2009)
 - 10.2 Report of the 19th Session of the Committee on Forestry (16-20 March 2009)
 - 10.3 Report of the 67th Session of the Committee on Commodity Problems (20-22 April 2009)
 - 10.4 Report of the 21st Session of the Committee on Agriculture (22-25 April 2009)
 - 10.5 Reports of the 34th (14-17 October 2008) and 35th (14-17 October 2009) Sessions of the Committee on World Food Security
11. United Nations/FAO World Food Programme
12. Outcome of the High Level Conference on “How to Feed the World in 2050”
13. Evaluation of the International Year of the Potato 2008

PROGRAMME AND BUDGETARY MATTERS

14. Programme Implementation Report 2006-2007
15. Programme Evaluation Report 2009
16. FAO Strategic Framework
17. Medium Term Plan 2010-13, and Programme of Work and Budget 2010-11 (Draft Resolution)
18. Report of the CoC-IEE on the Immediate Plan of Action for FAO Renewal
19. Incentives and other Measures to encourage Timely Payment of Contributions

LEGAL, ADMINISTRATIVE AND FINANCIAL MATTERS**A. Constitutional and Legal Matters**

- 20. Amendments to the Basic Texts
- 21. Other Constitutional and Legal Matters

B. Administrative and Financial Matters

- 22. Audited Accounts 2006-2007 (Draft Resolution)
- 23. Scale of Contributions 2010-2011 (Draft Resolution)
- 24. Payment by the European Community to Cover Administrative and other Expenses Arising out of its Membership in the Organization
- 25. Other Administrative and Financial Matters

APPOINTMENTS AND ELECTIONS

- 26. Applications for Membership in the Organization
- 27. Election of Council Members
- 28. Appointments
 - 28.1 Appointment of the Independent Chairperson of the Council
 - 28.2 Appointment of Representatives of the FAO Conference to the Staff Pension Committee

OTHER MATTERS

- 29. Date and Place of the Thirty-seventh Conference Session
- 30. Any Other Matters
 - 30.1 McDougall Memorial Lecture
 - 30.2 Presentation of B.R. Sen Awards
 - 30.3 Presentation of A.H. Boerma Award
 - 30.4 Presentation of Edouard Saouma Award
 - 30.5 Margarita Lizárraga Medal
 - 30.6 Statement by a Representative of FAO Staff Bodies
 - 30.7 In Memoriam

Information Documents will be tabled on the following subjects*

- A. Statutory Report on Status of Conventions and Agreements, and Amendments thereto.
- B. Status of Contributions

* Delegates wishing to comment on Information Documents will be given an opportunity to do so under Item 30: Any Other Matters.

APPENDIX B
EXTRACT FROM ARTICLE III OF THE CONSTITUTION OF FAO

THE CONFERENCE
(provisions regulating composition of delegations)

1. There shall be a Conference of the Organization in which each Member Nation and Associate Member shall be represented by one delegate. Associate Members shall have the right to participate in the deliberations of the Conference but shall not hold office nor have the right to vote.
2. Each Member Nation and Associate Member may appoint alternates, associates and advisers to its delegate. The Conference may determine the conditions for the participation of alternates, associates and advisers in its proceedings, but any such participation shall be without the right to vote, except in the case of an alternate, associate, or adviser participating in the place of a delegate.
3. No delegate may represent more than one Member Nation or Associate Member.
4. Each Member Nation shall have only one vote. A Member Nation which is in arrears in the payment of its financial contributions to the Organization shall have no vote in the Conference if the amount of its arrears equals or exceeds the amount of the contributions due from it for the two preceding calendar years. The Conference may, nevertheless, permit such a Member Nation to vote if it is satisfied that the failure to pay is due to conditions beyond the control of the Member Nation.

APPENDIX C

CRITERIA FOR CONFERENCE RESOLUTIONS, FUNCTIONS AND OPERATING PROCEDURES OF THE RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE

1. Criteria for the Formulation of Resolutions

Resolutions should be confined essentially to the following normal matters:

- a) Amendments to the Constitution, the General Rules of the Organization, and the Financial Regulations.
- b) Approval or confirmation of conventions or agreements and of amendments thereto.
- c) Establishment of bodies under Article VI of the Constitution and adoption or amendment of the Statutes of such Bodies.
- d) Adoption of the Programme of Work and Budget for the ensuing biennium.
- e) Decisions regarding financial matters such as the Working Capital Fund, the scale of contributions, and adoption of audited accounts.
- f) Major programme and policy matters,
- g) Recommendations to Members or to international organizations.
- h) Matters relating to the appointment of the Director-General and the Independent Chairperson of the Council.
- i) Tributes and commemorations of special importance to FAO.

2. Functions of the Resolutions Committee

- a) The Resolutions Committee shall examine all draft resolutions, with the exception of those submitted to the Conference by the Council, unless determined otherwise by the General Committee.
- b) The Resolutions Committee shall endeavour to keep the number of resolutions to a minimum, and to ensure that resolutions conform to the criteria set forth above. It shall also draw attention to any significant constitutional, programme or budgetary implications of draft resolutions proposed for adoption.
- c) The Resolutions Committee may make editorial or similar amendments not affecting the substance of draft resolutions. The Committee may recommend such other amendments as it may deem appropriate. With the consent of the sponsors, the Committee may amend draft resolutions moved from the floor in the course of the Conference session.

3. Operating Procedures of the Resolutions Committee

- a) Meetings of the Resolutions Committee shall be convened, as often as necessary, by its Chairperson or by the General Committee. Except as provided in paragraph (e) below, meetings of the Committee shall be held in private. The Committee shall maintain close liaison with the General Committee on both substantive and procedural matters.
- b) Draft resolutions shall be transmitted to the Resolutions Committee before they are submitted to a Commission or a Plenary meeting of the Conference for discussion and approval.

- c) If a draft resolution does not meet the criteria set forth above, the Resolutions Committee will suggest that the substance be incorporated into the narrative text of the Conference Report.
- d) If the Resolutions Committee has doubts regarding the likelihood of agreement in the substance of a draft resolution, the Committee may decide that the substance be debated in the appropriate forum, and that after this debate and a decision on the substance, the draft resolution be returned to the Resolutions Committee for consideration.
- e) The Resolutions Committee may invite the sponsors of a draft resolution to participate in its deliberations and, subject to the consent of such sponsors, may make such amendments to draft resolutions as it may consider appropriate.
- f) The Resolutions Committee may delegate its Chairperson or one or more of its members to attend the debate where a draft resolution is discussed, either to explain the Committee's views and reasons for any proposed changes, or to follow the debate so as to be able to inform the Committee of the background when the text of the draft resolution is submitted to the Committee.
- g) The Resolutions Committee shall submit reports on all draft resolutions which have been referred to it, and such reports shall be circulated as Conference documents. Amendments to draft resolutions recommended by the Committee in its reports shall be deemed to be amendments within the meaning of Rule XI-3 GRO and, if necessary, shall be considered by the appropriate Commission or at a Plenary meeting on the day on which the relevant report is circulated.