



<b>COMMITTEE ON WORLD FOOD SECURITY</b>
<b>Thirty-sixth Session</b>
<b>Rome, 11-14 and 16 October 2010</b>
<b>REVISED CFS RULES OF PROCEDURE</b>

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### **Matters to be brought to the attention of CFS**

CFS may wish to endorse the recommendation that at the end of 2010 and throughout 2011, a Bureau Working Group continues to review and revise the CFS Rules of Procedure, Rule XXXIII of the GRO and the FAO Constitution, in the light of the Reform Document (CFS 2009/2 Rev2) and according to the process and timetable proposed in Section III of this document.

## **I. BACKGROUND**

1. At its Thirty-fifth Session in October 2009, the Committee on World Food Security (CFS) approved the document “*Reform of the Committee on World Food Security*” (CFS: 2009/2/Rev2) which had been under negotiation throughout 2009. Subsequently, on the basis of a recommendation of the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters (CCLM), the Conference of FAO, at its Thirty-sixth Session in November 2009, adopted Resolution 13/2009 approving amendments to the Constitution and Resolution 14/2009 approving amendments to Rule XXXIII of the General Rules of the Organization (GRO) and dealing with a number of related matters.
2. Conference Resolution 14/2009 invited the Bureau of the CFS to review and propose adjustments to the Rules of Procedure of CFS in light of the new structure and *modus operandi* of the Committee. Through the same Resolution, the Conference decided that the document “*Reform of the Committee on World Food Security*” should be inserted in Volume II of the Basic Texts, after such editorial adjustments as would be necessary. The Conference further decided that any issues regarding the future status and operation of CFS which were not covered in the GRO or the revised Rules of Procedure of CFS should be addressed, as appropriate, by reference to that document.
3. The CFS Bureau established an open-ended Working Group to perform these tasks. After a review of outstanding issues and consultation, the Working Group recommended that revised Rules of Procedure not be submitted to CFS in October 2010. The Bureau recommended that a process and timetable for completion and adoption of the revised Rules of Procedure for approval by CFS in 2011 be drawn up.

## **II. RELEVANT ISSUES**

4. As a result of the process of the reform of CFS and the Conference Resolutions, the legal framework governing CFS should consist in future of:
  - a) the relevant provisions of the FAO Constitution
  - b) the GRO, with particular reference to Rule XXXIII
  - c) the Rules of Procedure of CFS
  - d) the document on the reform of CFS to be inserted in Volume II of the Basic Texts of the Organization.

This set of provisions could be supplemented with documents dealing with specific issues, such as the terms of reference of the Advisory Group and operating procedures for the High Level Panel of Experts.

5. At the end of 2010 and throughout 2011, in parallel to the preparation of revised Rules of Procedure, a number of issues need to be addressed. This includes the identification of specific elements of the CFS reform document to be incorporated in the Rules of Procedure, the identification of provisions of Rule XXXIII of the GRO which might need to be reconsidered in light of the operating needs of CFS, and the conduct of a review of the inter-related legal documents in order to ensure consistency among them.

6. In line with paragraph 4 of Conference Resolution 14/2009, pending the adoption of revised Rules of Procedure, the proceedings of the Committee will be governed by the framework established by the Constitution, the General Rules of the Organization and the document “*Reform of the Committee on World Food Security*” (CFS: 2009/2/Rev2).

### **III. PROPOSED PROCESS AND TIMETABLE**

7. The following process to review and prepare the CFS Rules of Procedure and related documents before the 37<sup>th</sup> Session of CFS is proposed:

- The Thirty-sixth Session of CFS endorses the proposed general process and timetable set out in this document
- At the end of 2010 and throughout 2011 the Working Group continues, with support from the Secretariat and in consultation with IFAD and WFP as appropriate, to prepare the Rules of Procedure for CFS
- Revised Rules of Procedure and an edited reform document, as necessary, are submitted to the Thirty-seventh Session of CFS for adoption (October 2011)
- Any required further draft amendments to Rule XXXIII of the GRO would be referred to the Thirty-seventh Session of CFS for review. Any such proposed amendments would have to be subsequently reviewed by the CCLM, the Council, and ultimately referred to the Conference, for adoption at the Conference session of June 2013.