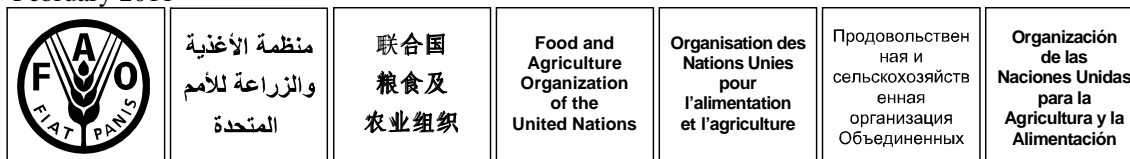


February 2011



# COMMITTEE ON CONSTITUTIONAL AND LEGAL MATTERS

**Ninety-Second Session**

**Rome, 7-9 March 2011**

**Note on the Methods of Work of the Council**

## I. BACKGROUND

1. The *Note on the Methods of Work of the Council* was originally adopted at the 60<sup>th</sup> Session of the Council in June 1973, upon a recommendation by the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters (CCLM)<sup>1</sup>. The *Note* remained unchanged until November 2000, when it was updated at the 109<sup>th</sup> Session of the Council, following its review by the CCLM, as over the years part of its content had become obsolete<sup>2</sup>.
2. Since 1973, the *Note* has been regularly made available to the Membership at the Council sessions. This practice was discontinued in 2008, pending the revision of the *Note* to take account of the governance reforms mandated by the Immediate Plan of Action for FAO Renewal (IPA) adopted by the Conference in 2008.
3. At its 36<sup>th</sup> Session held in 2009, the Conference adopted amendments to the Basic Texts regarding the Council, together with Resolution 8/2009 on the role and functions of the Council, reflecting the reforms introduced by the IPA<sup>3</sup>.

## II. REVISION OF THE NOTE

4. The *Note on the Methods of Work of the Council* was therefore revised by the Secretariat, taking into consideration the amended rules relating to the Council and its new operating pattern.
5. The substance of the *Note* was updated, *inter alia*, in respect of the functions of the Council, emphasizing its prominent role as the executive organ of the Conference, including on strategic, programme and budget matters. Other changes made to the *Note* relate to the Council documents, which should be more concise and dispatched in all the languages of the Organization in a timely

<sup>1</sup> CL 60/REP, paras 170-174 and Appendix G.

<sup>2</sup> CL 119/REP, para 77 and Appendix D.

<sup>3</sup> C 2009/REP, paras 139-141.

manner, in accordance with the new cycle of the Governing Body sessions. The *Note* was also adjusted with regard to the Council reports, which should clearly refer to the conclusions, decisions and recommendations made on matters discussed at the sessions, as called for by the IPA.

6. The draft revised *Note* was considered by the *Open-ended Working Group on measures designed to increase the efficiency of Governing Bodies, including representation* (OEWG) at its first meeting held on 13 July 2010. The OEWG recognized that the *Note* was a useful reference document which required updating to reflect the revised role, functions, practices and ways of working of the Council set out in the IPA. In addition to the changes already made, the OEWG agreed that the revised *Note* should be further modified to provide for: (i) the Council functions as described in the Basic Texts; (ii) Membership engagement and interaction in the work of the Council, with the Independent Chairperson performing an enhanced facilitation role in the process; (iii) Membership involvement in inter-sessional work, including in agenda setting; (iv) standard formats for Council documents; and (v) information on voting arrangements.

7. The *Note* was then revised by the Secretariat, in line with the OEWG recommendations, for subsequent review by the CCLM.

8. At its 91<sup>st</sup> Session in September 2010, the CCLM noted that the working methods of the Council were still under discussion within the OEWG and decided to postpone consideration of the *Note*<sup>4</sup>.

9. At its 140<sup>th</sup> Session, the Council reviewed the revised *Note*, proposed amendments thereto, and agreed that it should be further discussed by the OEWG, and then submitted to the CCLM before final review and adoption by Council in April 2011<sup>5</sup>.

10. Following the meeting held by the OEWG on 22 February 2011, and taking into account its recommendations, the Secretariat further revised the *Note*, the text of which is appended to this document.

### III. SUGGESTED ACTION BY THE COMMITTEE

11. The Committee is invited to review the revised *Note on the Methods of Work of the Council* and provide such guidance as it deems appropriate.

12. In particular, the Committee is invited to determine whether the revised *Note* is in line with the relevant provisions of the Basic Texts of the Organization.

13. If the revised *Note* is found to be consistent with the Basic Texts of the Organization, the Committee may wish to recommend that it be endorsed by the Council at its 141<sup>st</sup> Session in April 2011.

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<sup>4</sup> CL 140/6, para 19.

<sup>5</sup> CL 140/REP, para 82.

## Revised Note on the Methods of Work of the Council

1. The text of this Note, originally adopted by the Council at its Sixtieth Session in June 1973<sup>6</sup>, was last updated by the Council at its Hundred and Forty-first Session in April 2011<sup>7</sup>.

### FUNCTIONS OF THE COUNCIL

2. Between sessions of the Conference, the Council acts on behalf of the Conference as its executive organ and makes decisions on matters specifically entrusted to it, taking into account the advice of subsidiary bodies as appropriate. In particular, the Council should:

- I) Regarding the world food and agriculture situation and related matters –
  - a) draw up a provisional agenda for review by the Conference of the state of food and agriculture, drawing attention to specific policy issues which would require Conference consideration or could be the subject of a formal recommendation by the Conference, taking into account policy issues and instruments relating to food and agriculture being developed in other fora than FAO as appropriate;
  - b) examine and advise on issues pertaining to the world food and agriculture situation and related matters, especially any such issues of an urgent nature, which could call for action by the Conference, the Regional Conferences, the Technical Committees or the Director-General, taking into account developments in other fora of importance to FAO's mandate as appropriate.
  - c) examine and advise on any other issues pertaining to or arising out of the world food and agriculture situation and related matters which may have been referred to the Council in accordance with decisions of the Conference or any applicable arrangements, taking into account developments in other fora of importance to FAO's mandate as appropriate.
- II) Regarding the current and prospective activities of the Organization, including its Strategic Framework, Medium Term Plan and Programme of Work and Budget –
  - a) examine and make recommendations to the Conference on the Strategic Framework, the Medium-Term Plan and the Programme of Work and Budget, ensuring that a consultative process through the Regional Conferences and Technical Committees is observed in their preparation by the Secretariat, and that:
    - the Strategic Framework takes into account new global and regional challenges and gives consideration to events in other fora with implications on food and agriculture;
    - the Medium Term Plan is consistent with the Strategic Framework and provides clear guidance for the preparation of the biennial Programme of Work and Budget;
    - the Programme of Work and Budget is built on lessons learned from the Programme Implementation Reports and takes into account the findings and recommendations of strategic evaluations;
  - b) make a recommendation to the Conference regarding the level of the budget, taking into consideration both assessed contributions and voluntary contributions;
  - c) take any necessary action, within the approved Programme of Work and Budget, with respect to the technical activities of the Organization and report to the Conference on such

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<sup>6</sup> CL 60/REP, paras 170-179 and Appendix G.

<sup>7</sup> CL 141/REP, para \_\_ and Appendix \_\_.

- policy aspects thereof as may require decisions by the Conference, drawing on the advice of the Programme Committee and Finance Committee as appropriate;
- d) decide on any required adjustments to the Programme of Work and Budget, in the light of the decisions of the Conference on the budget level, ascertaining justification of changes in the Programme of Work and Budget approved by the Conference;
  - e) review the reports on programme and budget matters of the Committee on Commodity Problems, the Committee on Fisheries, the Committee on Forestry, the Committee on Agriculture and the Committee on World Food Security, ensuring that their inputs are provided in a timely manner, in accordance with the agreed schedule of Governing Body sessions;
  - f) review the reports on programme and budget matters of the Regional Conferences, ensuring that their inputs are provided in a timely manner, in accordance with the agreed schedule of Governing Body sessions.
3. The Council should focus on its functions relating to administrative matters and financial management of the Organization, as well as constitutional matters, including making recommendations to the Conference on amendments to the Basic Texts of the Organization, ensuring that the Organization operates within its legal and financial framework.
4. The Council should elect members of the Programme Committee, Finance Committee and CCLM, and propose candidates for the offices of the Conference. The Council should also elect members of the Executive Board of the World Food Programme.
5. In reviewing the activities of its subsidiary bodies, the Council should ensure that:
- a) they give the necessary attention to the matters falling within their respective mandates;
  - b) they do not duplicate each other's work; and
  - c) their discussions are not repeated in the Council, except when this is necessary to enable a decision to be reached.
6. The Council should exercise its functions with full involvement and interaction of its Members, in the course of its sessions as well as during the inter-sessional periods, with active facilitation and coordination by the Independent Chairperson to drive forward continuous improvement in the efficiency, effectiveness and ownership of governance by the membership.

#### **AGENDA AND DOCUMENTATION**

7. The Provisional Agenda should be prepared in consultation with the Independent Chairperson of the Council, taking into account suggestions made by the Members and the Regional Groups. It should be issued together with the invitation letters 60 days before the date of commencement of the Council Session and documents for Council sessions should be issued in sufficient time for Members to examine them before the session (see paragraph 11 below), and in a form that shall facilitate the Council's consideration.
8. A Provisional Annotated Agenda should be issued prior to the Council Session providing under each proposed agenda item the following information:
- a) the documentation required for the discussion of that item;
  - b) an indication whether the item is submitted to Council for decision, discussion or information.
9. Council documents should normally follow a standard format and contain an executive summary with a clear indication of any action the Council is requested to take. As appropriate, they should be submitted with a draft decision for consideration by the Council.
10. The length of Council documents should normally not exceed 5,000 words. All documents should be issued in the languages of the Organization (Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish).

11. Unless the timing of the sessions of the bodies concerned makes it impossible, all documents should be dispatched at least four weeks before the opening of the session in question.
12. Sessions of other bodies whose reports must be considered by the Council should, as far as possible, be held in sufficient time to meet the deadline indicated in the previous paragraph.
13. To facilitate decision-making by the Council, the reports of subsidiary bodies should clearly list the points requiring the Council's decision or consideration.
14. Reports of subsidiary bodies and other documents which do not contain points requiring consideration or decision by the Council should be presented for information only.

### **CONDUCT OF DEBATE**

15. The summaries contained in Council documents should provide clear introductory material. Oral introductions should be concise and focused, and highlight any important new developments which have occurred since the documents were issued.
16. The Chairpersons of the Programme Committee, the Finance Committee and the CCLM, as well as the Chairpersons of the Regional Conferences and, when available, of the Technical Committees should be invited to introduce the reports of the Committees they chair.
17. Interventions should be brief and centred on key issues highlighted in the document. Unless extended debate is required to develop a consensus, speakers should not restate views already expressed and only indicate their agreement or disagreement with points raised by previous speakers.
18. In respect of items on which a decision is required, if preliminary debate indicates that there is likely to be difficulty in reaching agreement, the Independent Chairperson should suspend the debate and allow for informal consultations or set up a sessional working party to examine the matter and make recommendations to the Plenary.
19. Except as otherwise provided in the Basic Texts, the decisions of the Council are taken by a majority of the votes cast, bearing in mind that the Independent Chairperson of the Council shall take steps to facilitate and achieve consensus among Members. Voting arrangements at Council meetings are spelled out in Annex 1.
20. With the exception of the provisions of the previous paragraph, debate on any item should normally be completed before debate on the next item begins.
21. Information items or documents will be listed at the end of the Agenda. Any delegation wishing to refer to these items or documents may do so under the agenda item "Any other matters".
22. The Chairpersons of the Committees and the Regional Conferences and the Secretariat should have the right of reply to the essential points made in the debate.
23. At the end of the debate on each item, the Chairperson should make a summary of the conclusions, decisions and recommendations emerging from the debate as an input to form the basis of the draft Council report.

### **REPORTS AND RECORDS**

24. Verbatim records shall be kept of Council plenary meetings and accordingly Council reports, while recording in an unambiguous manner all decisions reached by the Council, should be as concise as possible.
25. A draft report should normally be prepared by a Drafting Committee or through another suitable arrangement agreed by the Council, with Secretariat assistance.
26. The reports of the Council should be written in clear and unambiguous terms to avoid potential misunderstandings on the type of follow-up action required.
27. Reports should consist of the conclusions, decisions and recommendations on matters discussed by the Council. The action taken by the Council should be clearly specified using the

formula “The Council agreed/decided/recommended/requested/urged, ...” and the verb should be underlined in the report.

28. To the extent possible, the views of “a few” or “several” should be avoided. If the views of “some” or “many” members are included in reports, the verb should not be underlined to ensure that they are not mistaken for decisions of the Council.

29. Reports should not generally record the views of individual delegations by name, since the verbatim records include all interventions made in plenary meetings.

30. The Secretary-General of the Conference and Council should provide the Council at each session with a document regarding the implementation of decisions taken at the preceding session.

#### **ADHERENCE TO THE METHODS OF WORK**

31. These methods of work should be available to delegations during the sessions of the Council and posted on the Council Web page and the Permanent Representatives Website.

32. The Chairperson should draw this Note to the attention of Members at each session of the Council.

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## ANNEX 1 VOTING ARRANGEMENTS

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### Constitution

#### Article V - Council of the Organization

[...]

5. Except as otherwise expressly provided in this Constitution or by rules made by the Conference or Council, all decisions of the Council shall be taken by a majority of the votes cast.

### General Rules of the Organization

#### Rule XII - Quorum and Voting Arrangements at Meetings of Conference and Council

1. Subject to the Constitution and these Rules, the following shall govern the procedure in relation to voting and elections in the Conference and the Council:
2.
  - a) Except as otherwise provided by the Constitution or these Rules, in the Conference a majority of the Member Nations and in the Council a majority of the Members of the Council shall constitute a quorum.
  - b) Before proceeding to a vote or election, the Chairperson shall announce the number of delegates or representatives present. If less than the number required for a quorum is present, the vote or election shall not be held.
3.
  - a) Except as otherwise provided in the Constitution or these Rules, the required majority for any decision or for any election to fill one elective place shall be more than one half of the votes cast.
  - b) Except as otherwise provided in these Rules, in the case of an election by the Conference to fill simultaneously more than one elective place, the required majority shall be the smallest number of whole votes necessary to elect no more candidates than there are seats to be filled. This majority shall be obtained by the following formula:
 
$$\text{Required majority} = \frac{\text{number of votes cast}}{\text{number of seats} + 1} + 1$$
 (disregarding any resultant fraction).
  - c) Subject to the provisions of Article XX, paragraph 1 of the Constitution, when a two-thirds majority of the votes cast is required by the Constitution or these Rules for a decision to be taken by the Conference, the total number of affirmative and negative votes cast shall be more than one half of the Member Nations of the Organization. If these conditions are not fulfilled, the proposal shall be considered as rejected.<sup>8</sup>

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<sup>8</sup> In the case of approval of agreements and supplementary conventions and agreements by the Council and the addition of items to the Council's agenda during a session, a two-thirds majority of the membership of the Council is required (i.e., at least 33 Council Members in favour).

4.
  - a) For the purpose of the Constitution and these Rules the phrase "votes cast" shall mean affirmative and negative votes, and shall not include abstentions or defective ballots.
  - b) In the case of an election to fill simultaneously more than one elective place the phrase "votes cast" shall mean the total number of votes cast by the electors for all elective places.
  - c) Abstentions shall be recorded:
    - i. in a vote by show of hands, only for those delegates or representatives who raise their hands in response to the Chairperson's request for abstentions;
    - ii. in a roll call vote, only for those delegates or representatives who reply "Abstention";
    - iii. in a secret ballot, only for such ballot papers deposited in the ballot box as are either blank or marked "Abstention";
    - iv. in a vote by electronic means, only for those delegates or representatives who indicate "Abstention".
  - d)
    - i. Any ballot paper carrying votes for more candidates than there are vacancies to be filled, or carrying a vote for an individual, nation or locality not validly nominated, shall be considered defective.
    - ii. In the case of an election to fill simultaneously more than one elective place any ballot paper carrying votes for less candidates than there are vacancies to be filled shall also be considered defective.
    - iii. The ballot paper shall carry no other notation or mark than those required for the purpose of indicating the vote.
    - iv. Subject to (i), (ii) and (iii) above, a ballot paper shall be considered valid when there is no doubt as to the intention of the elector.
5. Except as otherwise provided in the Constitution or these Rules, the nomination of any candidate for an elective place to be filled by the Conference or Council shall be made by the government of a Member Nation or by its delegate or representative. Subject to the procedure for nomination provided in the Rules, the appointing body shall determine the nomination procedure.
6. Voting shall be by show of hands, roll call or secret ballot.
7.
  - a) Subject to the provisions of paragraph 10 of this Rule, a vote by roll call shall be taken either upon request of a delegate or representative, or if a majority of two-thirds is required by the Constitution or these Rules. Voting by roll call shall be conducted by calling in English alphabetical order the names of all Member Nations entitled to vote. The name of the first nation to be called shall be designated by lot drawn by the Chairperson. The delegate or representative of each Member Nation shall reply "Yes", "No", or "Abstention". At the conclusion of any roll call, the name of any Member Nation whose delegate or representative failed to answer shall be called again. The vote of each Member Nation participating in any vote by roll call shall be inserted in the record of the meeting.
  - b) The count and recording of votes by show of hands or by roll call shall be conducted by or under the supervision of the Conference or Council elections officer, appointed by the Director-General in accordance with the terms of paragraph 17 below.
  - c) If for two successive ballots by roll call the name of the same Member Nation is drawn, the name of another Member Nation shall be designated by lot or lots drawn by the Chairperson.



8. When the Conference or Council votes by electronic means, a vote without recording names shall replace a vote by show of hands and a nominal vote shall replace a roll call. In the case of a nominal vote, the procedure of calling out the names of the Member Nations shall not be applicable unless the Conference or Council otherwise decides. The vote of each Member Nation participating in a nominal vote shall be inserted in the record.
9.
  - a) For the purpose of the Rules, the term "election" means the selection or appointment of one or more individuals, nations or localities. The election of Council Members shall take place in accordance with the procedure laid down in Rule XXII, paragraph 10 (g). In other cases, more than one elective place shall be filled at the same election, unless the Conference or Council decide otherwise.
  - b) When one elective place is to be filled, the method of election by secret ballot shall be as provided in paragraph 11 of this Rule. When more than one elective place is to be filled at the same election, the method of election by secret ballot shall be as provided in paragraphs 12 and 13 of this Rule.
10.
  - a) The appointment of the Chairperson of the Council and of the Director-General, the admission of additional Member Nations and Associate Members shall be decided by secret ballot. Other elections shall likewise be decided by secret ballot, except that in the case of an election in which there are not more candidates than vacancies the Chairperson may submit to the Conference or Council that the appointment be decided by clear general consent.
  - b) Any other matter shall be decided by secret ballot if the Conference or Council so determines.
  - c)
    - i. For the purpose of a secret ballot, the Chairperson of the Conference or Council shall appoint two tellers from among the delegates or representatives, or their alternates. In the case of a secret ballot for an election, the tellers shall be delegates or representatives, or their alternates, who are not parties directly interested in the election.
    - ii. The duties of the tellers shall be to supervise the balloting procedure, count the ballot papers, decide on the validity of a ballot paper in any case of doubt, and certify the result of each ballot.
    - iii. The same tellers may be appointed for successive ballots or elections.
  - d) Ballot papers shall be duly initialled by an authorized officer of the secretariat of the Conference or Council. The elections officer shall be responsible for ensuring compliance with this requirement. For each ballot only one blank ballot paper shall be given to each delegation entitled to vote.
  - e) For a vote by secret ballot, one or more voting booths shall be set up, supervised in such a manner as to ensure complete secrecy of the ballot.
  - f) Should any delegate invalidate his ballot paper, he may, before leaving the precinct of the polling booths, request a new blank ballot paper, which shall be delivered to him by the elections officer on the surrender of the invalidated ballot paper. The invalidated ballot paper shall remain in the custody of the elections officer.
  - g) Should the tellers withdraw from the presence of the delegates or representatives in order to carry out the count of the votes, only the candidates or scrutineers appointed by the candidates may attend the count, but they shall not take part in the count.
  - h) Members of delegations and of the secretariat of the Conference or Council who are responsible for the supervision of any vote by secret ballot shall not disclose to any unauthorized person any information which might tend, or be presumed to tend, towards destroying the secrecy of the ballot.

- i) The Director-General shall be responsible for the safe custody of all ballot papers until the elected candidates take office or for three months after the date of the ballot, whichever is the longer period.
11. In any election for one elective place, other than that of the Director-General, if a candidate fails on the first ballot to obtain a majority of the votes cast, successive ballots shall be taken at such time or times as the Conference or Council shall decide, until a candidate obtains such a majority.
12. In any election by the Conference to fill simultaneously more than one elective place the following shall apply:
- a) Each elector, unless he wholly abstains, shall cast one vote for each elective place to be filled. Each vote shall be cast for a different candidate. Any ballot paper which is not in conformity with these requirements shall be declared defective.
  - b) Any candidate who receives the required majority of the votes cast as defined in paragraph 3 (b) of this Rule shall be declared elected.
  - c) If only some of the elective places have been filled after the first ballot, a second ballot shall be cast to fill the remaining elective places, under the same conditions as the first ballot.
  - d) This procedure shall continue until all the elective places have been filled.
  - e) If in any ballot no candidate received the required majority, the candidate having received the smallest number of votes in that ballot shall be eliminated and a further ballot held, in accordance with (c) above, between the remaining candidates.
  - f) If in any ballot no candidate receives the required majority and more than one candidate receives the smallest number of votes, a separate ballot between these candidates shall be held and the candidate receiving the smallest number of votes shall be eliminated.
  - g) If in the separate ballot provided for in (f) of this paragraph more than one candidate again receives the smallest number of votes, the above operation shall be repeated with respect to those candidates until one candidate is eliminated, provided that if all the same candidates receive the smallest number of votes in two successive separate ballots, such candidates as will have been designated by lot shall be eliminated.
  - h) If at any stage in an election other than a separate ballot all remaining candidates receive the same number of votes, the Chairperson of the Conference shall formally announce that if in the two following ballots the votes are again equally divided he will suspend balloting for a period which he shall determine and then hold two further ballots. If after applying this procedure the final ballot again results in an equally divided vote, such candidate as will have been designated by lot shall be declared elected.
13. In any election by the Council to fill simultaneously more than one elective place, the following shall apply:
- a) Two thirds of the membership of the Council shall constitute a quorum and more than one half of the number of Council Members casting valid votes shall constitute the required majority.
  - b) Each elector, unless he wholly abstains, shall cast one vote for each elective place to be filled. Each vote shall be cast for a different candidate. Any ballot paper which is not in conformity with these requirements shall be declared defective.
  - c) The candidates who receive the largest number of votes shall be declared elected in a number equal to the number of elective places to be filled, provided they have received the required majority defined in paragraph (a) above.

- d) If only some of the elective places have been filled after the first ballot, a second ballot shall be cast to fill the remaining elective places, under the same conditions as the first ballot. This procedure shall be continued until all the elective places have been filled.
  - e) If, at any stage during the election, one or more of the vacant elective places cannot be filled because of an equal number of votes having been obtained by two or more candidates, a separate ballot shall be held among such candidates to determine which of them will be elected, in accordance with the provisions of paragraph (c) above. Such procedure will be repeated if necessary.
- 14.
- a) If a vote is equally divided on a matter other than an election, a second vote shall be taken at a subsequent meeting to be held not less than one hour after the conclusion of the meeting at which the equally divided vote occurred. If the second vote is also equally divided the proposal shall be regarded as rejected.
  - b) At any stage in an election after the first ballot has been held, further balloting may be postponed by the Chairperson with the concurrence of the Conference or Council.
15. Once voting has commenced, no delegate or representative may interrupt the voting except to rise to a point of order in connection with the voting.
- 16.
- a) Any delegate or representative may challenge the result of a vote or election.
  - b) In the case of a vote by show of hands or roll call vote, should the result be challenged, the Chairperson shall cause a second vote to be taken forthwith.
  - c) A vote by show of hands or by roll call may be challenged only immediately after the result has been announced.
  - d) A secret ballot may be challenged at any time within three months of the date upon which it took place or until the elected candidate takes office, whichever is the longer period.
  - e) Should a vote or election by secret ballot be challenged, the Director-General shall cause the ballot papers and all relevant record sheets to be re-examined and shall circulate the result of the investigation, together with the original complaint, to all Member Nations of the Organization or of the Council, as appropriate.
17. An officer of the Secretariat designated by the Director-General for each Conference or Council session, who shall be known as the elections officer, shall, with the assistance of a deputy or deputies, be responsible for the following duties:
- a) to ensure that the provisions of the Constitution and the General Rules of the Organization regarding voting and electoral procedure are correctly carried out;
  - b) to be responsible for all arrangements for voting and elections;
  - c) to advise the Chairperson of the Conference or Council on all matters pertaining to voting procedures and mechanics;
  - d) to supervise the preparation of ballot papers and be responsible for their safe custody;
  - e) to report to the Chairperson of the Conference or Council the presence of a quorum before any vote is taken;
  - f) to maintain records of all election results, ensuring that they are faithfully recorded and published;
  - g) to undertake such other relevant duties as may arise in connection with voting and elections.

18. If a decision is to be taken on a matter other than an election, for which a two-thirds majority is not required by the Constitution or these Rules, the Chairperson may submit to the Conference or Council that the matter be decided by general consent without recourse to a formal vote.
19. Parts of a proposal or of an amendment shall be voted on separately if a delegate or representative requests such division, provided that, if objection is made, the question of division shall be decided by the Conference or Council. In addition to the delegate or representative requesting the division, two delegates or two representatives may speak for, and two against, the motion for division. If the motion for division is carried, those parts of the proposal or of the amendment which are subsequently approved shall be put to the vote as a whole. If all operative parts of the proposal or of the amendment have been rejected, the proposal or the amendment shall be considered to have been rejected as a whole.
20. The Conference or Council may limit the time to be allowed to each speaker and the number of times any delegate or representative may speak on any question. When debate is limited and a delegate or representative has spoken his allotted time, the Chairperson shall call him to order without delay.
21. During the discussion of any matter, a delegate or representative may rise to a point of order and the point of order shall be immediately decided by the Chairperson. A delegate or representative may appeal against the ruling of the Chairperson, in which event the appeal shall immediately be put to the vote and the Chairperson's ruling shall stand unless overruled by a majority of the votes cast. A delegate or representative rising to a point of order may not speak on the substance of the matter under discussion.
22. During the discussion of any matter, a delegate or representative may move the suspension or adjournment of the meeting. Such motion shall not be debated but shall be immediately put to the vote. The Chairperson may limit the time to be allowed to the speaker moving the suspension or adjournment of the meeting. At any meeting the same delegate or representative may not move the suspension or adjournment of the meeting more than once during the discussion of any one matter.
23. During the discussion of any matter, a delegate or representative may move the adjournment of the debate on the item under discussion. In addition to the proposer of the motion, two delegates or two representatives may speak for, and two against, the motion, after which the motion shall be immediately put to the vote. The Chairperson may limit the time allowed to these speakers.
24. A delegate or representative may at any time move the closure of the debate on the item under discussion, whether or not any other delegate or representative has signified his wish to speak. Permission to speak on the closure of the debate shall be accorded only to two speakers opposing the closure, after which the motion shall be immediately put to the vote. If the Conference or Council is in favour of the closure, the Chairperson shall declare the closure of the debate. The Chairperson may limit the time allowed to speakers under this paragraph.
25. The following motions shall have precedence in the following order over all other proposals or motions before the meeting, except a point of order:
- a) to suspend the meeting;
  - b) to adjourn the meeting;
  - c) to adjourn the debate on the item under discussion; and
  - d) for the closure of the debate on the item under discussion.
26. When a proposal has been adopted or rejected, it may not be reconsidered at the same session unless the Conference or Council so decides. Permission to speak on a motion to reconsider shall be accorded only to two speakers opposing the motion, after which it shall be immediately put to the vote.
27. When an amendment to a proposal is moved, the amendment shall be voted on first. When two or more amendments to a proposal are moved, the Conference or Council shall first vote on the amendment deemed by the Chairperson to be furthest removed in substance from the original

proposal, and then on the amendment next removed therefrom, and so on, until all the amendments have been put to the vote. Where, however, the adoption of one amendment necessarily implies the rejection of another, the latter shall not be put to the vote. If one or more amendments are adopted, the amended proposal shall then be voted upon. A motion is considered an amendment to a proposal if it merely adds to, deletes from, or revises part of that proposal, but not if it negatives the proposal. An amendment by way of substitute shall not be voted on until the vote has been taken on the original proposal and any amendments thereto.

28. Subject to paragraph 27, any motion calling for a decision by the Conference or Council on its competence to adopt a proposal submitted to it shall be put to the vote before a vote is taken on the proposal in question.

29. Associate Members shall have the right to participate with Member Nations in matters pertaining to the conduct of business of meetings of the Conference, its commissions and committees, in accordance with the provisions of the foregoing paragraphs of this Rule, subject, however, to the limitations on voting and the holding of office stipulated in paragraph 1 of Article III of the Constitution, paragraph 3 of Rule XIII, paragraph 1 of Rule XIV and paragraph 1 of Rule XV of the General Rules of the Organization.

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**ANNEX 2**  
**RULES APPLICABLE TO COUNCIL PROCEDURES**

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The main rules pertaining to the structure, functions and procedures of the Council are to be found in Article V of the FAO Constitution, in Rules XXII to XXV of the General Rules of the Organization, and in the Council's Rules of Procedure. However, other provisions of the *Basic Texts* of the Organization are also relevant. Therefore, a detailed list of the appropriate subject matters and relevant provisions is provided below.<sup>9</sup>

AGENDA	GRO XXV.6 ; RC II
AGREEMENTS AND CONVENTIONS	Const. XIV, XV; GRO XXI
ALTERNATES	Const. V.1
CHAIRPERSON	
• Appointment	Const. V.2; GRO II.2(c)(viii); GRO X.2(j); GRO XII.10(a); GRO XXIII
• Functions	GRO XXVI.6; GRO XXVII.6;RC I.2
• Nomination	GRO XXIII.1 (b); GRO XLIV
• Term of Office	GRO XXIII.1 (a)
• Voting Rights	GRO XXIII.2; RC IV.2
COMMITTEES AND COMMISSIONS	
• Sessional	GRO XXV.10 ; RC V
• Standing	Const. V.6; GRO XXVI; GRO XXVII; GRO XXVIII.3; GRO XXIX; GRO XXX; GRO XXXI; GRO XXXII; GRO XXXIII; GRO XXXIV
• Other	Const. VI(9); Const.XIV.2, 3(a)
COMPETENCE OF	see FUNCTIONS
COMPOSITION	see ELECTION OF
CONVENING OF	GRO XXXVIII.2 (b); see also SESSIONS
CONVENTIONS	see AGREEMENTS AND CONVENTIONS
DECISIONS OF	Const. V.5; see also ELECTION OF, PROCEDURE AT MEETINGS, VOTING
DELEGATES	see REPRESENTATIVES

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<sup>9</sup> "Const." stands for Constitution; "GRO" for General Rules of the Organization; "RC" for Rules of Procedure of the Council; "Vol. II" for Volume II of the FAO Basic Texts.

DOCUMENTATION	GRO XXV.7 (a); RC VI
ELECTION OF	GRO XXII; see also PROCEDURE AT MEETINGS, QUORUM, VOTING
• Conference	Const. V.1; GRO II.2(c)(vii); GRO II.4(d)
• Election Procedure	GRO XII.9,10; GRO XXII.10(g)
• General Committee Recommendations	GRO X.2 (i)
• Membership and Eligibility	Const. II.9; Const. V.1; GRO XXII.4, 5
• Nominations	GRO XXII.10 (a-e)
• Term of Office	GRO XXII.1, 9
EXPENSES OF REPRESENTATIVES FOR TRAVELLING	
• Reimbursement of	GRO XXV.6; RC VII
FUNCTIONS	Const. V.3; GRO XXIV
• Activities of the Organization, Current and Prospective	GRO XXIV.2
• Administrative and Financial Matters	GRO XXIV.3
• Constitutional Matters	GRO XXIV.4
• Food and Agriculture Situation	GRO XXIV.1
• General	GRO XXIV, Preamble; GRO XXIV.5
• Preparation of Conference Sessions	GRO VII.1; GRO XXIV.5(c)
MEMBERSHIP	see ELECTION OF
NOMINATIONS	see ELECTION OF
PARTICIPATION IN MEETINGS BY	
• Associate Members	GRO XXV.9(c); Vol. II, Part L
• Director-General	Const. VII.5; GRO XXV.13
• International Organizations including United Nations and Specialized Agencies	GRO XXV.8; RC III.2; RC VI.2; Vol. II, Part Q
• Member Nations not Members of the Council	GRO XXV.9; Vol. II, Part L
• Member Organizations	
– Assimilation Clause	Const. II.3; GRO XL
– Competence	Const. II.4-7; GRO XLII
– Holding of Office	Const. II.9; GRO XLIV
– Membership Rights	Const. II.8-10; GRO XLIV; GRO XLV.2
– Quorum	see this heading

– Voting	Const. II.10; GRO XLV
• Non-Member Nations	GRO XXV.11; Vol. II
POWERS	see FUNCTIONS
PROCEDURE AT MEETINGS	GRO XII.1-29
QUORUM	GRO XII.2, 13(a); GRO LIV.1; RC II.2
RAPPORTEURS	GRO XVI.2
RECORDS OF PROCEEDINGS	RC VI
REPORT OF COUNCIL SESSION	GRO II.2(c)(v); GRO XXIV.5(f); GRO XXV.12; RC VI.2
REPRESENTATIVES	Const. V.1
RESIGNATION OF COUNCIL MEMBERS	see WITHDRAWAL
RULES OF PROCEDURE	
• Adoption	Const. V.4
• Amendments	RC VIII.1
• Suspension	RC VIII.2
SESSIONS	GRO XXV; RC II
TERM OF OFFICE	see ELECTION OF
URGENT MATTERS	GRO XXV.14
VICE-CHAIRPERSON	RC I
VOTING	Const. V.5; GRO XII; RC IV see also PARTICIPATION IN MEETINGS BY MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS
WITHDRAWAL AND RESIGNATION	GRO XXII.7, 8, 9,