

June 2013



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  
Alimentación y la  
Agricultura

# CONFERENCE

## Thirty-eighth Session

Rome, 15-22 June 2013

## First Report of the General Committee

### A. Agenda for the session<sup>1</sup>

1. The General Committee examined the Provisional Conference Agenda contained in document C 2013/1 Rev.1 and noted that the following items had been included at the request of Council, namely:

- a) A proposal by the 145<sup>th</sup> Session of the Council (December 2012) that the Conference adopt a Resolution concerning "Proposed Amendments to Rules XXIX.2, XXX.2, XXXI.2 and XXXII.2 of the General Rules of the Organization"<sup>2</sup>, to be dealt with as additional Sub-item 25.2.
- b) A proposal by the 146<sup>th</sup> Session of the Council (April 2013) that the Conference adopt a Resolution concerning "Proposed Amendments to Rule XXXIII of the General Rules of the Organization"<sup>3</sup>, to be dealt with as additional Sub-item 25.3.
- c) A proposal made by Thailand as Chairperson of the Regional Group for Asia regarding an "International Year of Soils" as submitted by the 146<sup>th</sup> Session of the Council<sup>4</sup>, to be dealt with as additional Sub-item 18.6.
- d) A proposal made by Turkey and Pakistan regarding an "International Year of Pulses" as submitted by the 146<sup>th</sup> Session of the Council<sup>5</sup>, to be dealt as additional Sub-item 18.7.

2. The Committee recommends that the Provisional Agenda be adopted by the Conference.

3. Having noted that the Provisional Agenda included subjects on which information documents were tabled, the Committee also recommends that delegates wishing to comment on these documents be given an opportunity to do so under Item 32 "Any Other Matters".

### B. Establishment of Commissions and Tentative Timetable of the Session<sup>6</sup>

4. At its 145<sup>th</sup> Session (3-7 December 2012) and 146<sup>th</sup> Session (22-26 April 2013) the Council formulated proposals concerning the organization and timetable for the 38<sup>th</sup> Session of the Conference. These proposals were communicated to all FAO Members and observers in documents C 2013/12 and C 2013/INF/1 Rev.1. The Committee recommends that the Conference establish two commissions to

<sup>1</sup> C 2013/1 Rev.1; C 2013/INF/1 Rev.1; C 2013/12; C 2013/INF/4

<sup>2</sup> C 2013/LIM/6

<sup>3</sup> C 2013/LIM/21

<sup>4</sup> C 2013/LIM/16

<sup>5</sup> C 2013/LIM/17

<sup>6</sup> C 2013/12; C 2013/INF/1 Rev.1



consider and report on the "Substantive and Policy Matters" and "Programme and Budgetary Matters" sections of the Agenda respectively.

5. The Committee noted that item 32.5 "Presentation of the Jacques Diouf Award" had been scheduled at the start of the afternoon meeting of Saturday 15 June to enable Mr José Manuel Barroso, President of the European Commission, to accept the Award on behalf of the European Commission, one of the co-awardees.

6. The Committee recommends that the Conference approve the Tentative Timetable proposed by the Council. It is understood that this Timetable may be subject to modifications according to progress made in the Plenary and in the Commissions.

7. The Committee noted that, since His Holiness Pope Francis would be granting an Audience for Conference participants on the morning of Thursday 20 June, Plenary proceedings would not begin until 14.30 hours on that day. It was also noted that Heads of State may wish to address Plenary meetings of Conference, and that this would be announced in the Daily Journal.

8. The attention of the Conference is drawn to the fact that, in order to accommodate requests for speaking time, the duration of each intervention should not exceed five minutes.

### **C. Appointment of the Chairpersons and Vice-Chairpersons of the Two Commissions<sup>7</sup>**

9. In accordance with Rules VII and XXIV.5(b) of the General Rules of the Organization (GRO) and as indicated in document C 2013/LIM/9, the Council at its 146<sup>th</sup> Session proposed the following candidates as Chairpersons of the Commissions:

Commission I:	Her Excellency Nomatamba Tambo (South Africa)
Commission II:	Her Excellency Gerda Verburg (Netherlands)

The Committee recommends that the Conference endorse the Council's proposal.

10. In accordance with Rule X.2(c) of the GRO the Committee recommends that the Vice-Chairpersons of the Commissions be as follows:

Commission I:	Mr Francois Pythoud (Switzerland) Her Excellency Gladys Francisca Urbaneja Durán (Venezuela)
Commission II:	Mr Claudio Miscia (Italy) Her Excellency Carla Elisa Mucavi (Mozambique)

### **D. Resolutions Committee**

11. The Council at its 146<sup>th</sup> Session recommended the establishment of a Resolutions Committee of the Conference consisting of seven members, one from each FAO region. The Criteria for Conference Resolutions as well as the functions and operating procedures of the Resolutions Committee are described in document C 2013/12, *Appendix B*.

12. The Committee recommends that the following Member Nations form the membership of the Resolutions Committee:

- Australia
- Bangladesh
- Canada
- Equatorial Guinea
- Estonia
- Iraq
- Uruguay

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<sup>7</sup> C 2013/LIM/9

### **E. Credentials Committee**

13. The Council at its 146<sup>th</sup> Session recommended the establishment of a Credentials Committee and nominated the following Members, for confirmation by the Conference:

- Algeria
- Canada
- China
- Colombia
- Czech Republic
- Honduras
- Hungary
- New Zealand
- Oman

### **F. Admission of Observers from Applicants for Membership<sup>8</sup>**

14. As is customary, the Director-General has provisionally invited the applicants for membership to be represented by observers until a decision has been taken on their application. The Conference is invited to confirm the invitation in respect of Brunei Darussalam, Singapore and South Sudan (Applicant Members).

### **G. Admission of New Member Nations<sup>8</sup>**

15. In conformity with the provisions of Rule XIX of the General Rules of the Organization, the applications for membership by Brunei Darussalam, Singapore and South Sudan had been received by the deadline of 16 May 2013.

16. Under Article II.2 of the Constitution, the Conference decides on the admission of additional Member Nations by a two-thirds majority of the votes cast, provided that a majority of the Member Nations of the Organization is present; “votes cast” means affirmative and negative votes and does not include abstentions or defective ballots (Rule XII.4(a) of the GRO). Membership becomes effective on the date when the Conference approves the application.

17. The Committee recommends that the Conference hold the vote for the admission of Brunei Darussalam, Singapore and South Sudan at the plenary meeting on the afternoon of Saturday 15 June. The result of the vote will be announced later in the same meeting, followed by the admission ceremony. As is customary, the Chairperson will welcome the new Member Nations, which may make a brief statement.

### **H. Contributions of New Member Nations**

18. In accordance with Financial Regulation 5.8, the Conference determines the amount of the contribution to be paid by the newly admitted Member Nations, beginning with the accounting period in which the application is approved.

19. According to the established principles and customs, the minimum contribution due from the new members for the three quarters of 2013 and the advance to be made to the Working Capital fund are provisionally:

Nation	Contribution - Three quarters of 2013		Working Capital Fund Advance
	EURO	USD	USD
Brunei Darussalam	40,045.85	52,085.15	7,000.00
Singapore	479,119.93	623,161.56	83,750.00
South Sudan	5,720.84	7,440.74	1,000.00

<sup>8</sup> C 2013/10 Rev.2

## **I. Appointment of the Independent Chairperson of the Council<sup>9</sup>**

20. By the date determined by the Council, i.e. 8 April 2013, one nomination had been received for election to the office of Independent Chairperson of the Council, namely: Wilfred Joseph Ngirwa (United Republic of Tanzania). This nomination was notified to all Members by circular letter C/CF 4/3(a) of 15 April 2013.

21. Under the terms of reference of Rule XXIII.1(b) GRO, the General Committee determines and announces the date of the election. The Committee recommends that the election be held on Friday 21 June in the afternoon.

22. Although only one candidate was nominated, an election by secret ballot must be held in accordance with Rule XII, paragraph 10(a) of the General Rules of the Organization.

## **J. Election of Members of the Council<sup>10</sup>**

23. Rule XXII.10(a) of the GRO provides that the Conference, on the recommendation of the General Committee, shall, not later than the end of the third day of the Conference Session, decide the date of election of members of the Council and the date by which nominations are to be submitted.

24. The Committee accordingly recommends that:

- a) nominations for the Council seats to be filled at the present session be communicated to the Secretary-General of the Conference and Council by 12.00 hours on Monday 17 June 2013; and
- b) the election be held in the afternoon of Friday 21 June 2013.

25. In this connection, the Conference will note in particular the following provisions of paragraphs 3, 4, 5 and 7 of Rule XXII of the 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”.

“7. A Member of the Council shall be considered to have resigned 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, or if it has not been represented at two consecutive sessions of the Council”.

26. The Committee recommends that for Council election purposes Brunei Darussalam and Singapore be in the Asia Region, and South Sudan be in the Africa Region, and that the distribution of seats by region remain as shown in document C 2013/11.

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<sup>9</sup> C 2013/9

<sup>10</sup> C 2013/11

### **K. Right to Vote**

27. The General Committee notes that the Member Nations listed in the Annex to this Report have not paid a sufficient amount of their assessed contributions to retain their vote in the Conference.

28. Article III.4 of the Constitution states: "A Member Nation which is in arrears in the payment of its financial contribution 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".

29. Past practice has been that all Member Nations in attendance be authorized to vote on "Applications for Membership in the Organization" (Item 5, scheduled for the afternoon meeting of 15 June) on the understanding that contacts with those Member Nations in arrears shall continue to be made with a view to regularizing their situation before the votes scheduled for Friday 21 June 2013.

### **L. Right to Reply**

30. At its previous sessions, the Conference had decided that, if delegates wished to reply to criticisms of their Governments, they should preferably do so on the day on which such criticism had been voiced after all those wishing to participate in the discussion had had an opportunity to speak.

31. The Committee recommends that these same arrangements be followed at the present session.

### **M. Verbatim Records**

32. Rule XVIII.1 of the GRO lays down that verbatim records shall be kept for all Conference Plenary and Commission meetings. The right of delegates to check the accuracy of the record of their interventions is recognized in Rule XVIII.2 of the GRO.

33. The accuracy of the records may be maintained either by correcting typing and other errors, or by amending a word or phrase actually used. In practice such corrections or amendments to statements are accepted only from the delegation which made the statement, and should be submitted within 48 hours of publication of the draft verbatim record concerned.

34. In 1961 a procedure was formally adopted by the Conference whereby speakers who so desire may have their statements inserted in the record without delivering them in Plenary. This procedure is still followed and is recommended in the interests of saving time.

35. While the Committee sees no objection in principle to the insertion of statements in the records when time does not permit them to be delivered, it recognizes the difficulties which might arise if no occasion is given to delegates to exercise the "right of reply" to any criticism of their government's policy made in the inserted statement.

36. The Committee therefore recommends that the Conference continue to permit the insertion of such statements on condition that:

- a) the Plenary, or the Commission concerned, is informed by its Chairperson that a statement not actually delivered, or a substantive addition to a statement that has been delivered, is being inserted in the record;
- b) the text handed over to the Chairperson for insertion should preferably be in digital format;
- c) the provisional verbatim record containing the additional statement is circulated before the close of the Session; and
- d) delegations attending the Session are able to avail themselves of the right of reply by having an opportunity to make, prior to the close of the Session, an intervention relating to the inserted statement.

## **N. Statements by Heads of Delegations**

37. The Committee recommends that a list of speakers for the General Debate under Item 9, "Review of the State of Food and Agriculture" on the theme *Sustainable Food Systems for Food Security and Nutrition*, be published daily in the Journal of the Conference, in the order in which they will be called upon to take the floor by the Chairperson, and further recommends that statements be limited to a maximum of five minutes.

## **O. Admission of Observers from Intergovernmental and International Non-Governmental Organizations<sup>11</sup>**

38. The list of Intergovernmental and International Non-Governmental Organizations which have been invited by the Director-General to be represented in an observer capacity at this session of the Conference is given in document C 2013/13 Rev.1. The invitations sent to Intergovernmental Organizations with which FAO does not have a formal agreement and to International Non-Governmental Organizations which do not have consultative status with FAO are extended on a provisional basis and are subject to approval by the Conference.

39. After having reviewed this list, the Committee recommends that the Conference confirm such provisional invitations.

## **P. Informal Meeting of Observers from Non-Governmental Organizations**

40. As at previous sessions of the Conference, it is proposed that observers from Non-Governmental Organizations be invited to attend an informal meeting, so that their advice and suggestions on the Organization's activities and programmes may be communicated to the Conference. It is suggested that this meeting take place on Saturday 15 June. The Committee recommends that the Conference accept this proposal.

## **Q. Attendance by Palestine**

41. In conformity with the suggestion made by the Council at its 145<sup>th</sup> Session, Palestine has been invited to attend the Conference in an observer capacity. The Committee recommends that the Conference confirm this invitation, in line with the practice followed, and the terms applied, since 1975.

## **R. Conclusion**

42. The Committee recommends that the Conference confirm all the detailed arrangements for the Session and that the normal working hours for meetings of both Plenary and Commissions be 09.30 to 12.30 hours, and 14.30 to 17.30 hours. Given the number of items on the Provisional Agenda, it is likely that the work of the Plenary and Commissions may need to continue after 17.30 hours. The Committee also invites all delegations to observe the working hours with the maximum punctuality.

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<sup>11</sup> C 2013/12; C 2013/13 Rev.1

## C 2013/LIM/11 – Annex

## Member Nations with Potential Voting Rights Problems at 15 June 2013

	Member Nation	Amount in Arrears USD	Amount in Arrears Euro	Minimum Payment required to Ensure Vote in USD
1	Antigua and Barbuda	\$ 313,289.01	€ 37,214.41	\$ 340,896.42
2	Comoros	\$ 272,139.03	€ -	\$ 262,030.71
3	Djibouti	\$ 8,962.46	€ 7,678.86	\$ 9,349.59
4	Dominica	\$ 6,766.72	€ 6,083.69	\$ 5,036.63
5	Dominican Republic	\$ 156,266.28	€ 305,857.32	\$ 234,601.46
6	Grenada	\$ 8,936.21	€ 7,740.46	\$ 9,459.33
7	Guinea-Bissau	\$ 113,678.46	€ 16,821.97	\$ 125,358.23
8	Liberia	\$ 121,619.85	€ 14,733.60	\$ 130,407.23
9	Niger	\$ 10,451.19	€ 9,847.4	\$ 8,766.07
10	Palau	\$ 17,424.34	€ 16,821.97	\$ 29,104.11
11	Sao Tome and Principe	\$ 119,845.97	€ 10,408.64	\$ 123,945.61
12	Somalia	\$ 359,092.46	€ 16,821.97	\$ 370,772.23
13	Tajikistan	\$ 73,788.03	€ 3,813.89	\$ 63,792.92
14	Turkmenistan	\$ 560,652.97	€ 125,105.59	\$ 564,499.65
		<b>\$2,142,912.98</b>	<b>€ 578,949.77</b>	<b>\$2,278,020.19</b>