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Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
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Organisation des Nations
Unies pour l'alimentation
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Продовольственная и
сельскохозяйственная организация
Объединенных Наций

Organización de las
Naciones Unidas para la
Alimentación y la Agricultura

منظمة
الغذية والزراعة
للأمم المتحدة

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CONFERENCE

Forty-first Session

Rome, 22-29 June 2019

FAO Policy on Proclamation and Implementation of International Years

Extract from the Report of the 144th Session of Council (11-15 June 2012)

40. The Council approved the draft Policy on the Proclamation and Celebration of International Years as proposed in document CL 144/13, “*FAO Policy on Proclamation and Implementation of International Years*”, and reproduced [*below*].

FAO Policy on Proclamation and Implementation of International Years

Criteria for selection of themes

- 1) A subject proposed for an International Year should be consistent with the purposes and principles listed in the main constitutional instruments of concerned UN system entities (i.e. the United Nations Charter, the FAO Constitution, etc).
- 2) The International Year should address a priority concern to all, or the majority of countries, and should contribute to the development of international cooperation in solving global problems, in particular those affecting developing countries.
- 3) The International Year, if endorsed, should involve concrete action at the international and national levels and should be expected to generate significant follow-up at both levels in the form of new activities or the strengthening of existing ones.
- 4) There should be an interval of at least two years between two International Years, and a longer interval between years concerning similar subjects. The Conference will not call for the proclamation of more than one International Year at a time.
- 5) The proclamation of an International Year should be considered only when celebrations of shorter duration (a month, week or day) would not suffice.
- 6) An International Year should not be proclaimed when a World Conference has been convened separately on the same subject, or when a subject is already of wide international concern and effective programmes exist to further its ends.

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Procedures to be followed and other requisites

- 1) Adequate time should be allowed for full consultations, including the fact that a final decision on a proposal is taken by the United Nations General Assembly not earlier than one full year after the introduction of the proposal in order to take into account the views expressed by Members, and to allow a thorough assessment of the proposal by the competent organs.
- 2) In general, there should be a period of two years between the proclamation and the beginning of an International Year.
- 3) An International Year will not be proclaimed unless full financing (which in principle should be based on voluntary contributions) and all organizational arrangements are confirmed.
- 4) There should be effective coordination of the activities of United Nations organizations and bodies concerned so as to build on inherent synergies and avoid duplication.
- 5) Each International Year should have objectives that are likely to lead to identifiable and practical results.
- 6) Arrangements for evaluation should be established in the preparatory phase and form part of the implementation of, and follow-up, to each International Year.