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Food and Agriculture
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Продовольственная и
сельскохозяйственная организация
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Organización de las
Naciones Unidas para la
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منظمة
الغذية والزراعة
للأمم المتحدة

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CONFERENCE

Forty-second Session

14-18 June 2021

Report of the Second Meeting of the General Committee

A. Election of Council Members

1. The General Committee recommends that the deadline for submission of nominations for election to the Council be extended to **Wednesday 16 June 2021 at 19:00 hours**.

B. Right to Vote

2. At its first meeting (Monday, 14 June 2021), the General Committee noted that 25 Member Nations listed in *Appendix A* had not paid sufficient amounts of their assessed contributions to retain their vote in the Conference and recommended that voting rights should be restored to nine Member Nations that requested special consideration under Article III.4 of the Constitution: Chad, Colombia, Cuba, Ecuador, Iran (Islamic Republic of), North Macedonia, Tuvalu, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) and Yemen. Since then the following changes outlined in paragraphs 12 to 16 have taken place.

3. Four Member Nations (Central African Republic, Comoros, Marshall Islands, Sao Tome and Principe) have not requested special consideration and have not registered at the Conference.

4. Eight Member Nations attending the Session (Democratic Republic of the Congo, Gabon, Kyrgyzstan, Liberia, Libya, Micronesia (Federated States of), Somalia and Suriname) have not requested restoration of voting rights nor advised that payment was in process.

5. The General Committee noted that one of the Member Nations, Mozambique, had now made a payment above the minimum required to vote and was no longer on the list of Member Nations with voting rights problems.

6. Two Member Nations, Antigua and Barbuda and Nigeria, had requested special consideration under Article III.4 of the Constitution (GC 2021/INF/12; GC 2021/INF/11). The General Committee recommends that voting rights should be restored to Antigua and Barbuda and Nigeria.

7. One of the Member Nations currently with voting rights problems, Turkmenistan, proposes to repay part of its arrears according to an instalment plan (GC 2021/INF/6). The Committee noted that the instalment plan did not include liquidation of arrears of contributions relating to the 2020 assessment year, which Turkmenistan has indicated would be paid separately.

8. The Committee recommends that the Conference restore the voting rights of Turkmenistan and that the Conference adopts a draft resolution endorsing the instalment plan (see resolution in *Appendix B*)

C. Payment by the European Union to cover Administrative and Other Expenses Arising out of its Membership in the Organization

9. Article XVIII, paragraph 6 of the Constitution provides that:

A Member Organization shall not be required to contribute to the budget as specified in paragraph 2 of this Article, but shall pay to the Organization a sum to be determined by the Conference to cover administrative and other expenses arising out of its membership in the Organization (...).

10. At its 27th Session in 1993 the Conference requested the Finance Committee to examine the methodology for the calculation of the lump sum paid by the European Union. At its 78th Session in April 1994 the Finance Committee recommended a methodology on the basis of which the Conference set the payment to be made by the European Union at various sessions.

11. The methodology was re-examined by the Finance Committee at its 108th Session (September 2004) and 109th Session (May 2005). The Committee examined a proposal for a revised methodology whereby the biennial adjustment to the European Union's contribution would reflect the official cost of living increases in the Euro area or in the host country. Under the revised methodology, the adjustment formula would be more in line with the system of split assessment and would not have a material impact on the biennial adjustment to the contribution of the European Union to the Organization. The Committee agreed with the proposed revision of the methodology whereby the higher rate of the official cost of living increase in the Euro area or in the host country would be used to adjust the European Union's contribution for any given biennium.

12. Applying the new methodology, the 41st Session of the Conference in 2019 set the lump payment due by the European Union at Euro 583 291 for the 2020-21 biennium.

13. In accordance with the above, the methodology to be used for adjusting the lump sum is based on the higher rate of the official cost of living increase in the Euro area or in the host country. Using the Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU) figures, the consumer price inflation for the Euro Area for 2020 was 0.3% and for 2021 is forecast to be 1.2% which gives an average of 0.75%. The EIU figures for harmonized consumer price index for Italy are, for 2020, -0.1% and for 2021, forecast at 0.7%, which gives an average of 0.3%. Therefore the inflation figure which should be used in the calculation is 0.75%, being the higher of the two. Applying this rate to the previous contribution of Euro 583 291 gives the new figure of Euro 587 666.

14. Therefore, the General Committee recommends to the Conference that it set the lump-sum payment due by the European Union to cover administrative and other expenditures arising out of its membership in the Organization at Euro 587 666 for the 2022-23 biennium.

15. As in previous biennia, it is proposed that the sum due by the European Union be paid into a trust or special fund established by the Director-General under Financial Regulation 6.7.

D. Appointment of the Independent Chairperson of the Council

16. The General Committee recommends that the Conference adopt the following resolution:

Resolution .../2021

Appointment of the Independent Chairperson of the Council

THE CONFERENCE,

Taking into account Rule XXIII of the General Rules of the Organization regarding the Independent Chairperson of the Council and Resolution 9/2009 regarding the Independent Chairperson of the Council¹;

¹ Basic Texts, Volume II, Section E

Having regard to the need to safeguard the independence and accountability of the role of the Independent Chairperson of the Council:

1. **Declares** that _____ is appointed Independent Chairperson of the Council until the Forty-third Session of the Conference (June 2023);
2. **Decides** that the conditions of appointment attached to the office of the Independent Chairperson of the Council will be as follows:
 - a) The Chairperson is required to be present in Rome for all sessions of the Council, the Conference, the Finance Committee and the Programme Committee and will normally be expected to spend at least six to eight months of the year in Rome;
 - b) An annual allowance equivalent to USD 23 831 will be paid to the Chairperson;
 - c) A *per diem* allowance equivalent to the applicable standard daily subsistence allowance (DSA) rate at 140% will be paid to the Chairperson [while in Rome and] when travelling in the performance of his functions;
 - d) The travel expenses of the Chairperson will be covered by the Organization when he travels in the performance of his functions;
 - e) [In the performance of his functions, whether in Rome or while travelling, the Chairperson will be enrolled as a participant in the Basic Medical Insurance Plan (BMIP) and that the cost for such medical insurance coverage will be borne by the Organization for a total amount of USD 3,336.48 per annum;]
 - f) Secretariat services will be made available to the Chairperson to assist him in the performance of his functions;
 - g) Interpretation services will be made available to the Chairperson, at his request, depending on the availability of resources;
 - h) Office space, equipment and supplies required by the Chairperson in the performance of his functions will be made available to him;
 - i) Assistance will be provided to the Chairperson in carrying out the necessary administrative formalities for the acquisition of the documents required for his stay in Rome and for his travels in the performance of his functions.
3. **Decides** that the implementation modalities of this Resolution will be agreed between the Chairperson and FAO.

Appendix A**Member Nations with Potential Voting Rights Problems at 15 June 2021**

	Member Nation	Amount in Arrears USD	Amount in Arrears Euro	Minimum Payment required to Ensure Vote in USD
1.	Antigua and Barbuda	16,241.97	12,984.23	12,069.19
2.	Central African Republic	14,108.78	9,488.02	15,677.87
3.	Chad	33,275.33	37,847.55	34,722.33
4.	Colombia	1,651,266.16	1,692,550.15	663,975.82
5.	Comoros	246,035.49	3,764.24	240,622.49
6.	Cuba	351,884.61	315,122.16	10,853.62
7.	Democratic Republic of the Congo	27,069.95	71,903.48	25,644.18
8.	Ecuador	397,928.27	548,065.90	331,041.37
9.	Gabon	110,299.55	169,056.84	156,432.67
10.	Iran (Islamic Republic of)	5,670,724.63	2,983,080.34	4,961,891.87
11.	Kyrgyzstan	56,307.99	3,867.01	41,015.88
12.	Liberia	9,497.76	6,626.12	7,576.25
13.	Libya	1,205,729.35	1,003,106.72	1,715,986.61
14.	Marshall Islands	2,707.00	10,485.40	5,572.69
15.	Micronesia (Federated States of)	3,387.89	7,567.19	2,613.57
16.	Nigeria	1,808,272.67	1,375,235.46	1,189,411.57
17.	North Macedonia	37,897.93	39,524.42	16,067.84
18.	Sao Tome and Principe	230,806.21	32,031.56	261,715.87
19.	Somalia	380,342.73	32,031.56	411,252.37
20.	Suriname	55,553.19	40,745.26	50,308.24
21.	Turkmenistan	902,264.12	410,331.07	1,128,282.63
22.	Tuvalu	5,414.00	5,646.36	2,296.27
23.	Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)	8,485,826.70	5,744,128.35	8,994,015.32
24.	Yemen	104,344.67	56,463.45	73,158.39

Appendix B**Resolution .../2021****Payment of Contributions – Turkmenistan****THE CONFERENCE,**

Noting that the Government of Turkmenistan had made a proposal that it liquidate its arrears of contributions through 2019 over a period of ten years commencing in 2022, in addition to separate payments for arrears from 2020, for current year contributions for 2021, and subsequent contributions due in the calendar year of assessment.

Decides that:

- 1) Notwithstanding Financial Regulation 5.5 the arrears of contributions of Turkmenistan through 2019 totaling USD 812 933.28 and EUR 348 221.28 be settled through the payment of ten annual instalments of USD 81 293.33 and EUR 34 822.13 from 2022 to 2031.
- 2) The first instalment shall be payable in 1 January 2022.
- 3) The annual payment of the instalments referred to above, together with the payment of arrears for 2020 as well as each current contribution in the calendar year of assessment and any advances to the Working Capital Fund, shall be considered as fulfilment of the financial obligations of Turkmenistan to the Organization.
- 4) Instalments shall be payable in accordance with Financial Regulation 5.5.
- 5) Default in payment of two instalments shall render this instalment plan null and void.

Adopted on ... June 2021