



# COUNCIL

## Hundred and Seventy-first Session

5-9 December 2022

### Report of the 117th Session of the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters (Rome, 24-26 October 2022)

#### Executive summary

In its Report of its 117th Session, the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters (CCLM):

- 1) **makes specific recommendations for decision by the Council** on: the promulgation of the FAO Policy on Intellectual Property Rights; the proposal to amend the Constitution of the European Commission for the Control of Foot-and-Mouth Disease (EuFMD); and the implementation of recommendation 7 of the Joint Inspection Unit (JIU) Report, *Review of the State of the Investigation Function: Progress made in the United Nations System Organizations in Strengthening the Investigation Function* (JIU/REP/2020/1);
- 2) **brings to the attention of the Council for its endorsement**, its conclusions regarding: the Activities of the Development Law Branch; and the role of the Governing Bodies of the Organization, in particular the Council Committees, in the Organization's formal decision-making process and the role of informal consultations, having regard to the FAO Basic Texts;
- 3) **informs the Council** of the CCLM's considerations related to the updates it received on: the implementation of the FAO Data Protection Policy; the Restoration by the Conference of the voting rights of Member Nations in arrears in the payment of their financial contributions to the Organization; the Code of Conduct for Voting; and the Review of the jurisdictional setup of the United Nations common system.

### Suggested action by the Council

The Council is invited to:

- 1) **endorse** the recommendations of the Committee on:
  - a) the draft FAO Policy on Intellectual Property Rights;
  - b) the proposal to amend the Constitution of the European Commission for the Control of Foot-and-Mouth Disease (EuFMD); and
  - c) the implementation of recommendation 7 of the JIU Report, *Review of the State of the Investigation Function: Progress made in the United Nations System Organizations in Strengthening the Investigation Function* (JIU/REP/2020/1).
- 2) **endorse** the conclusions of the Committee on:
  - a) the Activities of the Development Law Branch; and
  - b) the role of the Governing Bodies of the Organization, in particular the Council Committees, in the Organization's formal decision-making process.
- 3) **note** the Committee's considerations on:
  - a) the Update on the FAO Data Protection Policy;
  - b) the Update on the Restoration by the Conference of the voting rights of Member Nations in arrears in the payment of their financial contributions to the Organization;
  - c) the Update on the Code of Conduct for Voting; and
  - d) the Update on the Review of the jurisdictional setup of the United Nations common system.

*Queries on the substantive content of this document may be addressed to:*

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## I. Introduction

1. The Hundred and Seventeenth Session of the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters (CCLM) was held from 24 to 26 October 2022.
2. The Session, open to silent observers, was chaired by Ms Alison Storsve, who welcomed all the participants.
3. The following Members joined the Session:
  - Ms Lamia Ben Redouane (Algeria)
  - Ms Julie Émond (Canada)
  - Mr Shanil Dayal (Fiji)
  - Mr Junior Andrés Escobar Fonseca (Nicaragua)
  - Ms Nina P. Cainglet (Philippines)
  - Ms Zora Weberová (Slovakia)
4. The CCLM was informed that, for this Session, H.E. Mónica Robelo Raffone (Nicaragua) had been replaced by Mr Junior Andrés Escobar Fonseca; and Mr Esala Nayasi (Fiji) had been replaced by Mr Shanil Dayal. H.E. Mr Khaled Ahmad Zekriya (Afghanistan) did not join the Session.
5. The Session was convened in hybrid modality, with some Members participating in person at FAO headquarters (Algeria, Canada, Nicaragua and Slovakia) and others participating virtually (Fiji and Philippines) on an exceptional basis due to the COVID-19 pandemic in Italy and worldwide.
6. The CCLM followed the modalities applied to the 110th Session of CCLM, as reflected in the Note from the Chair (Annex 1 to CL 164/2) and agreed to suspend the rules that may be incompatible with the hybrid session, in accordance with Rule VII of the Rules of Procedure.

## II. Item 1: Adoption of the agenda and arrangements for the Session (CCLM 117/1)

7. The CCLM Members took note of the exceptional arrangements for the Session and approved its Agenda.

## III. Item 2: Update on the FAO Policies on Protection of Data and Intellectual Property Rights (CCLM 117/2)

8. The Committee welcomed document CCLM 117/2 “*Update on the FAO Policies on Protection of Data and Intellectual Property Rights*”.

### i. Update on the FAO Data Protection Policy

9. The Committee commended FAO Management for the efficient, thorough, and timely development and promulgation of the Data Protection Policy and the steps being taken to implement it, including the establishment of the Data Protection Unit (DPU) as an independent office in the Office of the Director-General (ODG).
10. The Committee appreciated that the promulgated Data Protection Policy is reflective of the recommendations of the Council at its 170th Session (CL 170/REP).
11. The Committee looked forward to receiving an update at its autumn 2023 Session on the implementation of the Data Protection Policy, including on the outcome of the work with the World Bank Data Privacy Office in the implementation of the Data Protection Policy.

12. The Committee invited the Council to take note of the progress made by FAO on the Data Protection Policy and its implementation.

## **ii. Draft FAO Policy on Intellectual Property Rights**

13. The Committee appreciated that the draft FAO Policy on Intellectual Property Rights set out in Annex I to document CCLM 117/2 had been subject to consultations with Members and considered that it is in line with international and UN system practices and standards, as well as with the FAO Basic Texts.

14. Having carefully considered the document, the Committee recommended to the Council that the draft FAO Policy on Intellectual Property Rights be revised to address the following:

- a) that paragraph 10 clarifies that ‘global public goods’ are not limited to physical materials, avoiding the implication that the Organization will disseminate all its products in physical format irrespective of costs;
- b) that paragraph 20 includes specific reference to the specific provisions of the Data Protection Policy (Administrative Circular 2022/06) relevant in that context;
- c) that the draft FAO Policy on Intellectual Property Rights indicates the role of the Data Protection Unit on intellectual property matters that also raise data protection issues in coordination with the Chief Statistician (OCS) and the Office of Corporate Communication (OCC); and
- d) that footnote 2 clarifies that the FAO activities would not give rise to specific geographical indications and related intellectual property rights.

15. The Committee received information on the practice of the Organization in addressing and/or resolving the few claims arising from the alleged misuse of intellectual property of third parties, e.g. alleged misuse of photographs in technical publications, newsletters and online platforms, referenced in footnote 8 of the draft Policy.

16. The Committee considered that the changing technology landscape and operational needs of the Organization may require the FAO Policy on Intellectual Property Rights to be reviewed and adjusted, from time to time, upon consultations with the Members, to ensure that it remains fit-for-purpose.

17. Contingent on its comments outlined in paragraph 14 above, and with the understanding that these will be incorporated into the FAO Policy on Intellectual Property Rights, the Committee recommended the promulgation of this Policy with a view to its early implementation and invited the Council to endorse this recommendation.

18. The Committee looked forward to receiving an update at its autumn 2023 Session on the implementation of the FAO Policy on Intellectual Property Rights.

## **IV. Item 3: The European Commission for the Control of Foot-and-Mouth Disease (EuFMD) - Proposal to amend the Constitution (CCLM 117/3)**

19. The Committee considered document CCLM 117/3 “*The European Commission for the Control of Foot-and-Mouth Disease (EuFMD) - Proposal to amend the Constitution*” on the basis of presentations made by the Legal Office and the Secretariat of EuFMD.

20. The Committee noted that the amendments to the Constitution of the European Commission for the Control of Foot and Mouth Disease (hereinafter the “EuFMD Constitution”) had been reviewed by the Executive Committee of the EuFMD and approved by the Commission, at its Special Session held virtually on 27 April 2022, following a detailed discussion thereon. The CCLM

acknowledged that the process for amending the EuFMD Constitution had respected the procedural requirements set out in the EuFMD Constitution and the Basic Texts.

21. The Committee considered, on the basis of the criteria established by the CCLM at its 31st Session, that the proposed amendments would not involve new or additional obligations for EuFMD Members and would, accordingly, come into force upon receiving the concurrence of the Council.

22. The Committee endorsed the draft Council Resolution set out in the **Annex** to this Report containing the amended EuFMD Constitution, as adjusted to reflect the CCLM's views that the amendments do not constitute additional obligations, and recommended to the Council that it provides its concurrence.

#### **V. Item 4: Restoration by the Conference of the voting rights of Member Nations in arrears in the payment of their financial contributions to the Organization**

23. The Independent Chairperson of the Council (ICC) provided an oral update on his consultations on the restoration of voting rights of Member Nations in arrears in the payment of their financial contributions to the Organization.

24. The Committee appreciated the ICC's update, noting the impact of arrears on the Organization's financial situation.

25. The Committee recalled that it had provided recommendations to the text of document CL 170/19 including its Draft Resolution, at its 116th Session, reflecting its views and the recommendations of the Finance Committee; the CCLM had considered the document CL 170/19 and the Draft Resolution, as amended, as consistent with the Basic Texts.

26. The Committee discussed the matter acknowledging that Members' consensus was not yet reached and the ICC would hold further consultations prior to the CCLM's full consideration.

27. The Committee expressed its readiness to review, within the context of its mandate, the outcome of the consultations and Draft Resolution for consideration by the Council and the Conference.

#### **VI. Item 5: Code of Conduct for Voting**

28. The ICC provided an oral update on his consultations with the Membership on a draft Code of Conduct for Voting.

29. The Committee appreciated the considerable progress made by the ICC in synthesizing a draft text through his ongoing consultations with Members. The Committee expressed its support to the ICC for his continuing efforts through open, transparent, inclusive consultations with the full Membership with a view to finalizing a draft Code of Conduct for Voting for consideration by the 43rd Session of the Conference, following review by the relevant Governing Bodies.

30. The Committee looked forward to the conclusion of the ICC's consultations and confirmed its readiness to consider the draft Code of Conduct for Voting, when available.

**VII. Item 6: Update on the status of recommendations presented in the JIU Report, *Review of Whistleblower Policies and Practices in United Nations System Organizations (JIU/REP/2018/4)* and JIU Report, *Review of the State of the Investigation Function: Progress made in the United Nations System Organizations in Strengthening the Investigation Function (JIU/REP/2020/1) - (CL170/12) (CCLM 117/4)***

31. The Committee welcomed document CCLM 117/4.
32. The Committee recalled recommendation 7 of the JIU Report on the *Review of the State of the Investigation Function*, which recommended that: “[t]he legislative bodies of United Nations system organizations that have not yet done so should develop and adopt appropriate formal procedures for the investigation of complaints of misconduct by executive heads and adopt appropriate policies by the end of 2021”.<sup>1</sup>
33. The Committee noted that the UN System Chief Executives Board for Coordination (CEB) had not initiated its anticipated “*consultative process for a harmonized implementation approach*”, and that, therefore, a number of Specialized Agencies have either begun or have now completed work on implementation of the JIU recommendation, in particular to identify an investigating entity.
34. The Committee found no legal impediment to FAO similarly developing and adopting procedures on its own initiative, taking into account the legal framework of the Organization.
35. The Committee invited the Council to request FAO Management to prioritize the development of procedures, taking into account the views of the Finance Committee, and encouraged continued consultation with other Specialized Agencies.
36. The Committee invited the Council to recommend to FAO Management to identify the appropriate legal instruments, as well as any amendments required to existing instruments, to implement the JIU recommendation 7.

**VIII. Item 7: Activities of the Development Law Branch - Information Report (CCLM 117/5)**

37. The Committee considered document CCLM 117/5 “*Activities of the Development Law Branch - Information Report*”.
38. The Committee appreciated the importance and scope of the Development Law Service’s (LEGN) work and welcomed its Information Report. In particular, it recognized the efforts LEGN undertook in respect of Food Loss and Waste, the assessment of the social and economic impacts of legislation, the continued development of its programme to support Members to implement and enforce compliance with relevant legislation, its outreach efforts including the High-Level Roundtable, its gender mainstreaming activities and its work with parliamentarians. The Committee encouraged Members to support such initiatives. In particular, the Committee:
- a) took note of the increased availability and accessibility for Members and other stakeholders of customised legal information and guidance, including through FAO’s subset legal databases, e-learnings and legal briefs; and

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<sup>1</sup> JIU/REP/2020/1. This echoed Recommendation 1 in the earlier JIU report on the “Review of whistle-blower policies and practices in United Nations system organizations” (JIU/REP/2018/4) which recommended that “[l]egislative bodies should adopt measures by 2020 to ensure that all policies related to misconduct/wrongdoing and retaliation specify appropriate channels and modalities, such as independent oversight committees, for reporting and investigating allegations against the executive head of the organization, as well as against any other functions that may entail a potential conflict of interest in the handling of such issues”.

- b) reiterated the importance of sound legal frameworks and their effective implementation for the achievement of the SDGs and the four betters, and encouraged the continuation of LEGN's efforts promoting agrifood systems sustainability.

### **IX. Item 8: Review of the jurisdictional setup of the United Nations common system - Update (CCLM 117/6)**

39. The Committee considered document CCLM 117/6 "*Review of the jurisdictional setup of the United Nations common system - Update*" and the information document CCLM 117/INF/1 "*Review of the jurisdictional set-up of the United Nations common system*".
40. The Committee welcomed the update, noting there continue to be divergent views among the concerned parties.
41. The Committee looked forward to an update at a future session of CCLM, understanding that changes to the jurisdictional setup could require decision-making by FAO Governing Bodies in due course.

### **X. Item 9: Any other matters**

42. The Committee considered whether to further align its report format to those of other Council Committees. Noting that the format is largely harmonized, the Committee agreed that the Executive Summary would clearly identify matters considered by the CCLM requiring Council's decision.
43. The Committee discussed and recalled the role of the Governing Bodies, in particular the Council Committees, in the Organization's formal decision-making processes, while appreciating the complementary role of informal consultations in building consensus and signalling Members' engagement in the work of the Organization.
44. The Committee welcomed the initiative of a new public FAO Law Lecture commemorating the World Food Day annually and FAO's contribution to public international law related to its mandate.
45. No other matter was raised under this item.

## Annex

**Resolution ..../...****Amendments to the Constitution of the European Commission for the Control of Foot-And-Mouth Disease****THE COUNCIL**

**Recalling** the Conference's approval of the Constitution of the Commission for the Control of Foot-and-Mouth Disease (the "EuFMD Constitution") under Article XIV of the FAO Constitution at its Seventh Session in 1953, which came into force on 12 June 1954;

**Further recalling** amendments to the EuFMD Constitution agreed at the 9th, 20th, 22nd, 28th, 32nd and 41st Sessions of the Commission, and subsequently approved by the 39th, 72nd, 96th, 113th and 153rd Sessions of the Council, respectively;

**Recalling also** that the Commission at its Special Session held virtually on 27 April 2022, approved further amendments to the EuFMD Constitution;

**Having considered** the Report of the 117th Session of the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters, and **noting** that the Committee concluded that the amendments would not involve new obligations for Members of the Commission and would, accordingly, come into force upon receiving the concurrence of the Council;

**Approves** the amendments to the EuFMD Constitution, in accordance with its Article XIV(5), as follows:

**PREAMBLE<sup>2</sup>**

The contracting Governments, having regard to the urgent necessity of preventing the recurrence of the heavy losses to European agriculture caused by the repeated outbreaks of foot-and-mouth disease, hereby establish, within the framework of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, a Commission to be known as the European Commission for the Control of Foot-and-Mouth Disease, whose *core objective* shall be to promote national and international actions with respect to preventive and control measures against foot-and-mouth disease in Europe. *The contracting Governments, considering the opportunity to implement sensible and cost-effective combination of actions, concur on the possibility, without negatively impacting on the core objective, to extend the preparedness and risk reduction activities of the Commission to similar transboundary animal diseases which are regularly identified according to the threat posed to their territories.*

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<sup>2</sup> Proposed deletions are indicated in strikethrough, new text is in italics and underlined.

## ARTICLE I

### Membership

1. Membership in the European Commission for the Control of Foot-and-Mouth Disease (hereinafter referred to as “the Commission”) shall be open to such European Member Nations of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, to such States participating as Members in the Regional Conference for Europe and Central Asia of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and serviced by the Regional Office for Europe of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and to such European Member Nations of the ~~International OIE of Epizooties~~ *World Organisation for Animal Health (hereinafter referred to as “the WOAHA”)* that are Members of the United Nations, ~~as~~ *and* accept this Constitution in accordance with the provisions of Article XV. The Commission may, by a two-thirds majority of the membership of the Commission, admit to membership such other European States that are Members of the United Nations, any of its Specialized Agencies or the International Atomic Energy Agency as have submitted an application for membership and a declaration made in a formal instrument that they accept the obligations of this Constitution as in force at the time of admission.

2. The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (hereinafter referred to as “the Organization”), ~~the World Organisation for Animal Health (hereinafter referred to as the WOAHA, the~~ European Union, and the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development shall have the right to be represented at all sessions of the Commission and its Committees, but their representatives shall not have the right to vote.

## ARTICLE II

### Obligations of Members regarding National Policies and International Cooperation for the Control of Foot-and-Mouth Disease and similar transboundary animal diseases

1. Members undertake to control foot-and-mouth disease with a view to its ultimate eradication by the institution of suitable quarantine and sanitary measures and by one or more of the following ~~methods~~ *policies*:

- 1) ~~a~~-slaughter policy;
- 2) slaughter together with vaccination;
- 3) maintenance of totally immune cattle population by vaccination; other susceptible livestock may be vaccinated;
- 4) vaccination in zones surrounding outbreaks.

~~Methods~~ *Policies* adopted shall be rigorously carried out. For Members not recognised by the WOAHA as having the status of freedom from foot-and-mouth disease, except where the status has been temporarily suspended, there should be in place a national plan for the progressive control of the disease.

~~2. — Members should have available contingency plans for the immediate management of incursions of foot and mouth disease and ensure that sufficient financial, human and technical resources are available for the immediate application of the control methods indicated in Article II (1).~~

2. ~~3.~~ Members adopting policy 2 or 4 undertake to have available a supply of vaccine or antigen for vaccine production sufficient to ensure adequate protection against the disease in case the spread of the disease ~~can not~~ *cannot* be controlled exclusively by sanitary measures. Each Member shall collaborate with and assist other Members in all concerted measures for the control of foot-and-mouth disease and in particular in the supply of vaccine or antigen for vaccine production where necessary. The quantities of antigen and vaccine to be stored for national and international use shall be determined by Members ~~in light of~~ *considering* the findings of the Commission and the advice of the WOAHA.

3. ~~2.~~ Members should have available contingency plans for the immediate management of incursions of foot-and-mouth disease *and similar transboundary animal diseases* and ensure that sufficient financial, human and technical resources are available for the immediate application of the control ~~methods~~ *policies* indicated in Article II (1).
4. Members shall make such arrangements for the typing of virus from outbreaks of foot-and-mouth disease *and similar transboundary animal diseases* as may be required by the Commission and shall immediately notify the Commission and the WOAAH of the results of such typing.
5. Members shall make arrangements for the rapid dispatch of ~~new isolates~~ *representative samples of foot-and-mouth disease and similar transboundary animal diseases* to *a member of the FAO/WOAH Reference Laboratories network* ~~FAO designated World Reference Laboratories~~ for further characterization.
6. Members undertake to provide the Commission with any information which it may need to carry out its functions. In particular, Members shall immediately report to the Commission and to the WOAAH any outbreak of foot-and-mouth disease *and similar transboundary animal diseases*, ~~and its~~ *their* extent and shall make such further detailed reports as the Commission may require.
7. *Members shall ensure that all laboratories for foot-and-mouth disease operate, as a minimum, in accordance with the Minimum Biorisk Management Standards, as regularly updated by the Commission.*

### ARTICLE III

#### Seat

1. The seat of the Commission and its Secretariat shall be in Rome at the Headquarters of the Organization.
2. Sessions of the Commission shall be held at its seat, unless they are convened elsewhere in pursuance of a decision of the Commission at a previous session, or, in exceptional circumstances, of a decision of the Executive Committee.

### ARTICLE IV

#### General Functions

1. To enter into arrangements, through the Director-General of the Organization, with the WOAAH within the framework of any agreements between the Organization and the WOAAH to ensure that:
  - 1.1 all Members are provided with technical advice on any problem relating to the control of foot-and-mouth disease *and similar transboundary animal diseases*;
  - 1.2 comprehensive information on outbreaks of ~~the disease~~ *foot-and-mouth disease and similar transboundary animal diseases* and identification of viruses is collected and disseminated as quickly as possible;
  - 1.3 special research work required on foot-and-mouth disease *and similar transboundary animal diseases* is carried out.
2. To collect information on national programmes for control of and research on, foot-and-mouth disease *and similar transboundary animal diseases*.
3. To determine, in consultation with the Members concerned, the nature and extent of assistance needed by such Members for implementing their national programmes.

4. To stimulate and plan joint action wherever required in the implementation of prevention and control programmes and to this effect arrange means whereby adequate resources can be made available, for example, for the production and storage of vaccine, through agreements between Members, and to promote the global control of foot-and-mouth disease.
5. To arrange for suitable facilities for the typing and characterization of viruses.
6. To ensure the availability of an international laboratory (World Reference Laboratory) with facilities for rapid characterization of *foot-and-mouth disease* virus by appropriate methods.
7. To maintain information on the stocks of antigen and vaccine *for foot-and-mouth disease and similar transboundary animal diseases* available in ~~member countries~~ *Member Nations* and other ~~countries~~ *nations* and to keep the position continuously under review.
8. To offer advice to other organizations on the allocation of any available funds for assisting in prevention and control of foot-and-mouth disease *and similar transboundary animal diseases* in Europe.
9. To enter into arrangements, through the Director-General of the Organization, with other organizations, regional groups or with Nations not Members of the Commission, for participation in the work of the Commission or its Committees, or for mutual assistance on problems of controlling foot-and-mouth disease. These arrangements may include the establishment of, or participation in, joint Committees.
10. To consider and approve the report of the Executive Committee on the activities of the Commission, the accounts for the past financial period and the budget and programme for the ensuing biennium, for submission to the Finance Committee of the Organization.
11. *To undertake preparedness and risk reduction activities regarding other transboundary animal diseases similar to foot-and-mouth disease which pose an immediate threat to territories of Members. The transboundary animal diseases herewithin considered similar to foot-and-mouth disease are lumpy skin disease, peste des petits ruminants, Rift Valley fever, rinderpest, sheep pox and goat pox. Other diseases shall be identified based on elements of similarity to foot-and-mouth disease, which remains the core objective of the Commission, and criteria to be developed and endorsed by the Commission.*

## ARTICLE V

### Special Functions

The following shall be the special functions of the Commission:

1. To assist in the prevention and control of outbreaks in emergency situations in any manner considered appropriate by the Commission and the Member or Members concerned. For this purpose the Commission or its Executive Committee, in conformity with the provisions of Article XI (5), may use any uncommitted balances of the Administrative Budget referred to in Article XIII (7) as well as any supplementary contributions which may be provided for emergency action under Article XIII (4).
2. To take suitable action in the following fields:
  - 2.1 Storage of antigen and/or vaccines by or on behalf of the Commission for distribution to any Member in case of need.
  - 2.2 Promotion when necessary of the establishment by a Member or Members of “*cordons sanitaires*” to prevent the spread of diseases, following the recommendations of the WOA and, as applicable, the European Union.

2.3 The training of personnel of Members as required for management of an emergency response and the establishment of a cadre of trained personnel who can assist other Members in case of need.

2.4 The maintenance and promotion of appropriate biocontainment standards, and training in these, for handling of materials containing foot-and-mouth disease virus by Members.

3. To carry out such further special projects as may be suggested by Members or by the Executive Committee and approved by the Commission for achieving the purposes of the Commission as set forth in this Constitution.

4. Funds from the surplus of the Administrative Budget may be used for the purposes stated in paragraphs 2 and 3 of this Article when such action is approved by the Commission by a two-thirds majority of the votes cast, providing such majority is more than one half of the membership of the Commission.

## ARTICLE VI

### Sessions

1. Each Member shall be represented at Sessions of the Commission by a single delegate who may be accompanied by an alternate and by experts and advisers. Alternates, experts and advisers may take part in the proceedings of the Commission but not vote, except in the case of an alternate who is duly authorized to substitute for the delegate.

2. Each Member shall have one vote. Decisions of the Commission shall be taken by a majority of the votes cast except as otherwise provided in this Constitution. A majority of the Members of the Commission shall constitute a quorum.

3. The Commission shall elect, at the end of each regular session, a Chairperson, ~~and two Vice-Chairpersons~~ a First Vice-Chairperson and a Second Vice-Chairperson and the Members of the Executive Committee from amongst the delegates. The Commission shall also appoint the Members of special or standing Committees.

4. The Director-General of the Organization in consultation with the Chairperson of the Commission shall convene a regular session of the Commission at least every two years. Special sessions may be convened by the Director-General in consultation with the Chairperson of the Commission or, if so requested, by the Commission in regular sessions or by at least one third of the Members during intervals between regular sessions.

## ARTICLE VII

### Committees

1. The Commission may establish temporary, special or standing Committees to study and report on matters pertaining to the purpose of the Commission, subject to the availability of the necessary funds in the approved budget of the Commission.

2. These Committees shall be convened by the Director-General of the Organization in consultation with the Chairperson of the Commission and with the Chairperson of the special or standing committee concerned, at such times and places as are in accordance with the objectives for which they were established.

3. Membership in such Committees may be open to all Members of the Commission or consist of selected Members of the Commission or of individuals appointed in their personal capacity because of their competence in technical matters, as determined by the Commission. On proposal of the Chairperson, observers may be invited to participate in the meetings of the special and standing Committees.

4. Members of the Committees shall be appointed at the regular session of the Commission and each Committee shall elect its own Chairperson.

## ARTICLE VIII

### Rules and Regulations

Subject to the provisions of this Constitution, the Commission may, by a majority of two-thirds of its membership, adopt and amend its own Rules of Procedure and Financial Regulations, which shall be in conformity with the General Rules and Financial Regulations of the Organization. The Rules of the Commission and any amendments thereto shall come into force upon approval by the Director-General of the Organization, the Financial Regulations and amendments thereto being subject to confirmation by the Council of the Organization.

## ARTICLE IX

### Observers

1. Any Member Nation of the Organization that is not a Member of the Commission and any Associate Member *of the Organization*, may be invited to, or, upon its request, be represented by an observer at sessions of the Commission. It may submit memoranda and participate without vote in the discussions.
2. States which, while not Members of the Commission nor Members or Associate Members of the Organization, are Members of the United Nations, any of its Specialized Agencies or the International Atomic Energy Agency may, upon request and subject to the concurrence of the Commission through its Chairperson and to the provisions relating to the granting of observer status to nations adopted by the Conference of the Organization, be invited to attend in an observer capacity sessions of the Commission.
3. Participation of international organizations in the work of the Commission and the relations between the Commission and such organizations shall be governed by the relevant provisions of the Constitution and the General Rules of the Organization as well as by the rules on relations with international organizations adopted by the Conference or Council of the Organization. All such relations shall be dealt with by the Director-General of the Organization. The relations between the Organization and the WOAHA are governed by such agreement between the Organization and the WOAHA as may be in force.

## ARTICLE X

### Executive Committee

1. An Executive Committee shall be established and shall be composed of the Chairperson and the ~~two~~ *First and Second* Vice-Chairpersons of the Commission and six delegates of Members selected by the Commission at the end of its regular session. Due regard should be taken to ensure that the membership of the Executive Committee is equitably geographically representative. The Chairperson and the Vice-Chairpersons of the Commission shall be the Chairperson and Vice-Chairpersons of the Executive Committee.
2. Members of the Executive Committee shall hold office until the end of the next regular session without prejudice to the right of re-election.
3. If a delegate in the Executive Committee becomes permanently unavailable for unavoidable reasons, the Member represented by that delegate shall be requested to nominate a new delegate for the remainder of the term.

4. The Executive Committee shall meet at least twice at reasonable intervals between any two successive regular sessions of the Commission.
5. The Secretary of the Commission shall act as Secretary to the Executive Committee.

## **ARTICLE XI**

### **Functions of the Executive Committee**

The Executive Committee shall:

1. Make proposals to the Commission concerning policy matters and the programme of activities;
2. Implement the policies and programmes approved by the Commission;
3. Submit to the Commission the draft programme and Administrative Budget, and the accounts for the past biennium;
4. Prepare the report on the activities of the Commission during the past biennium for approval by the Commission and transmission to the Director-General of the Organization;
5. Undertake such other duties as the Commission may delegate to it, in particular with reference to emergency action under Article V (1).

## **ARTICLE XII**

### **Administration**

1. The staff of the Secretariat of the Commission shall be appointed by the Director-General with the approval of the Executive Committee, and for administrative purposes shall be responsible to the Director-General. They shall be appointed under the same terms and conditions as the staff of the Organization.
2. The expenses of the Commission shall be paid out of its Administrative Budget except those relating to such staff and facilities which can be made available by the Organization. The expenses to be borne by the Organization shall be determined and paid within the limits of the biennial budget prepared by the Director-General and approved by the Conference of the Organization in accordance with the General Rules and the Financial Regulations of the Organization.
3. Expenses incurred by delegates, their alternates, experts and advisers when attending sessions of the Commission and its Committees as government representatives, as well as the expenses incurred by observers at sessions, shall be borne by the respective governments or organizations. The expenses of experts invited by the Commission to attend meetings of the Commission or its Committees in their individual capacity shall be borne by the budget of the Commission.

## **ARTICLE XIII**

### **Finance**

1. Each Member of the Commission undertakes to contribute annually its share of the administrative budget in accordance with a scale of contribution. This scale of contribution shall be adopted by the Commission with a two-thirds majority of its Members in accordance with the Financial Regulations of the Commission.
2. Contributions of States which acquire membership between two regular sessions of the Commission shall be determined by the Executive Committee in accordance with the Financial Regulations of the Commission; for this purpose, such criteria as may be specified in the Financial Regulation shall apply. The determination made by the Executive Committee shall be subject to confirmation by the Commission at its next regular session.

3. Annual contributions provided for under paragraphs 1 and 2 above shall be payable before the end of the first month of the year to which they apply.
4. Supplementary contributions may be accepted from a Member or Members or from organizations or individuals for emergency action or for the purpose of implementing special schemes or campaigns of control which under Article V the Commission or Executive Committee may adopt or recommend.
5. All contributions from Members shall be payable in currencies to be determined by the Commission in agreement with each contributing Member.
6. All contributions received shall be placed in a Trust Fund administered by the Director-General of the Organization in conformity with the Financial Regulations of the Organization.
7. At the end of each financial period, any uncommitted balance of the Administrative Budget shall be retained in the Trust Fund and made available for the following years' budget.

#### **ARTICLE XIV**

##### **Amendments**

1. This Constitution may be amended by the Commission by a two-thirds majority of the membership of the Commission.
2. Proposals for the amendment of the Constitution may be made by any Member of the Commission in a communication addressed to both the Chairperson of the Commission and the Director-General of the Organization. The Director-General shall immediately inform all Members of the Commission of all proposals for amendments.
3. No proposal for the amendment of the Constitution shall be included in the agenda of any session unless notice thereof has been received by the Director-General of the Organization at least 120 days before the opening of the session.
4. Amendments shall become effective only with the concurrence of the Council of the Organization.
5. An amendment not involving additional obligations for Members of the Commission shall take effect from the date of the decision of the Council.
6. An amendment which, in the view of the Commission, involves additional obligations, for Members of the Commission shall, after approval by the Council, bind the Members of the Commission who have accepted the amendment, as from the date on which it has been accepted by two-thirds of the membership of the Commission, and thereafter for each remaining Member of the Commission upon the date of receipt by the Director-General of the instrument of acceptance of the amendment by that Member.
7. The instruments of acceptance of amendments involving additional obligations shall be deposited with the Director-General who shall inform all Members of the Commission of the receipt of such instruments.
8. The rights and obligations of any Member of the Commission that has not accepted an amendment involving additional obligations shall for a period not exceeding two years as from the date of entry into force of the amendment, continue to be governed by the provisions of the Constitution as they stood prior to the amendment. Upon expiry of the afore-mentioned period, any Member of the Commission that has not accepted such amendment shall be bound by the Constitution as so amended.
9. The Director-General shall inform all Members of the Commission of the entry into force of any amendment.

## ARTICLE XV

### Acceptance

1. Acceptance of this Constitution shall be effected by the deposit of an instrument of acceptance with the Director-General of the Organization and shall take effect, as regards Members of the Organization or the WOAAH, on receipt of such instrument by the Director-General who shall forthwith inform each of the Members of the Commission.
2. Membership of States that are eligible for membership under Article I, but are neither Members of the Organization nor of the WOAAH, shall become effective on the date on which the Commission approves the application for membership in conformity with the provisions of Article I. The Director-General shall inform each of the Members of the Commission of the approval of any application for membership.
3. Acceptance of the Constitution may be made subject to reservations. The Director-General of the Organization shall notify forthwith all Members of the Commission of the receipt of any application for membership or any instrument of acceptance of the Constitution either of which contains a reservation. A reservation shall become effective only upon unanimous approval by the Members of the Commission. The Members of the Commission not having replied within three months from the date of the notification by the Director-General of the reservation shall be deemed to have accepted the reservation. Failing unanimous approval by the Members of the Commission of a reservation, the nation making the reservation shall not become a party to this Constitution.

## ARTICLE XVI

### Withdrawal

1. Any Member may withdraw from the Commission at any time after the expiration of one year from the date on which its acceptance took effect or from the date on which the Constitution entered into force, whichever is the later, by giving written notice of withdrawal to the Director-General of the Organization who shall forthwith inform all Members of the Commission. The withdrawal shall become effective one year from the date of receipt of the notification of withdrawal.
2. Non-payment of two consecutive annual contributions shall be regarded as implying withdrawal of the defaulting Member from the Commission.
3. Any Member of the Commission withdrawing from the Organization *or* the WOAAH, when such withdrawal results in this Nation no longer being a Member of either of these two Agencies, shall be deemed to have withdrawn simultaneously from the Commission.

## ARTICLE XVII

### Settlement of Disputes

1. If there is any dispute regarding the interpretation or application of this Constitution, the Member or Members concerned may request the Director-General of the Organization to appoint a Committee to consider the question in dispute.
2. The Director-General shall there-upon, after consultation with the Members concerned, appoint a Committee of experts which shall include representatives of those Members. This Committee shall consider the question in dispute, taking into account all documents and other forms of evidence submitted by the Members concerned. This Committee shall submit a report to the Director-General of the Organization who shall transmit it to the Members concerned and to the other Members of the Commission.
3. The Members of the Commission agree that the recommendations of such a Committee, while not binding in character, will become the basis for renewed consideration by the Members concerned of the matter out of which the disagreement arose.

4. The Members concerned shall share equally the expenses of the experts.

### **ARTICLE XVIII**

#### **Termination**

1. This Constitution shall be terminated by a decision of the Commission taken by a three-fourths majority of the membership of the Commission. It shall automatically be terminated should membership, as a result of withdrawals, comprise fewer than six Nations.
2. On termination of the Constitution all assets of the Commission shall be liquidated by the Director-General of the Organization and after settlement of all liabilities the balance shall be distributed proportionally amongst Members on the basis of the scale of contributions in force at the time. Nations whose contributions are in arrears for two consecutive years and hence deemed to have withdrawn in conformity with Article XVI (2) shall not be entitled to a share of the assets.

### **ARTICLE XIX**

#### **Entry into Force**

1. This Constitution shall enter into force upon receipt by the Director-General of the Organization of notifications of acceptance from six Member Nations of the Organization or of the WOAHA, providing that their contributions represent in the aggregate not less than 30 percent of the Administrative Budget provided for in Article XIII (1).
2. The Director-General shall notify all Nations having deposited notifications of acceptance of the date on which this Constitution comes into force.
3. The text of this Constitution drawn up in the English, French and Spanish languages, which languages shall be equally authoritative, was approved by the Conference of the Organization on the Eleventh day of December 1953.
4. Two copies of the text of this Constitution shall be authenticated by the Chairperson of the Conference and the Director-General of the Organization, one copy of which shall be deposited with the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the other in the archives of the Organization. Additional copies of this text shall be certified by the Director-General and furnished to all Members of the Commission with the indication of the date on which Constitution has come into force.