

conference

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FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS ROME

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Twenty-sixth Session

Rome, 9 - 28 November 1991

APPOINTMENT OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE FAO CONFERENCE TO THE STAFF PENSION COMMITTEE

General

1. Article 4(a) of the Regulations of the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Fund provides that "the fund shall be administered by the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Board, a staff pension committee for each member organization, and a secretariat to the Board and to each such committee". Under Article 6(c) the staff pension committee of each member organization "shall consist of members and alternate members chosen by the body of the organization corresponding to the General Assembly, its chief administrative officer, and its participants in service ...".

2. The FAO Staff Pension Committee consists of:

- three members (with three alternates) appointed by the Conference of FAO;
- three members (with three alternates) appointed by the Director-General; and
- three members (with alternates) appointed by the FAO participants.

3. The members and alternates of the FAO Staff Pension Committee representing the conference are:

MEMBERS

Mr W.A. Elkherei
Alternate Permanent
Representative of
Saudi Arabia to FAO

Mr S. Fernandez Illanes
Alternate Permanent
Representative of Chile
to FAO

Mrs C. Koliou-Petrakakou
Deputy Permanent
Representative of Greece
to FAO

ALTERNATES

Mr M.Z. Ghazalli
Alternate Permanent
Representative of
Malaysia to FAO

Mr S.D. Hill¹
Alternate Permanent
Representative of USA
to FAO

Mr J.P. Lungu
Alternate Permanent
Representative of Zambia
to FAO

4. In view of the time factor and to avoid undue travel costs in connection with attendance at Staff Pension Committee meetings which are held in Rome, the Conference has usually appointed representatives who are resident in Rome.

Responsibilities of the FAO Staff Pension Committee

5. The responsibilities of the FAO Staff Pension Committee are to:

- (a) review the Pension Fund Regulations and Administrative Rules with respect to possible amendments thereto in order to formulate the position of the Committee's delegation to the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Board, which in turn makes recommendations, as appropriate, to the United Nations General Assembly;
- (b) interpret and apply the Regulations and Administrative Rules of the Pension Fund in cases of contestation by FAO participants of a decision by the Secretary of the FAO Staff Pension Committee concerning participants' entitlements and/or status;
- (c) grant disability benefits to FAO participants (on average 10 to 15 cases per year) and review extension of disability benefits in payment (approximately 25 cases per year), in accordance with the Regulations and Rules of the UN Joint Staff Pension Fund.

6. The Committee meets in Rome as the need arises (normally 8 to 10 times a year for meetings lasting half a day). The Committee appoints the three members (and alternates) representing the Organization in the UN Joint Staff Pension Board, the higher administrative body of the Fund, reporting directly to the UN General Assembly. The three FAO members

¹ Mr Hill left Rome in July 1991 and has not been replaced.

represent the FAO Conference, the Director-General and FAO Participants respectively. Regular sessions of the Board are held not less frequently than once every two years. There are also meetings of the Standing Committee of the Board held yearly, attended by at least one member of the FAO Staff Pension Committee.

7. The FAO Staff Pension Committee plays an important role in the general effort to harmonize UN pensions and their administration with the requirements of organizations of the UN common system and of their staff, who may serve and retire in all countries of the world. The characteristics of the international Civil Service of the UN system require particular care as well as in-depth treatment of the issues that are brought to the attention of the UN General Assembly.

Proposal to Extend the Term of Office of the Representative of the Conference

8. At present, at each regular session the Conference appoints three members and three alternates to the Staff Pension Committee for a term of office of two years.

9. The FAO Staff Pension Committee, at its 223rd meeting, held on 24 April 1990, recommended that the term of office of its members and alternate members be extended from 2 to 3 years, as the United Nations Pension System has become complex and longer exposure to its operations is essential to deal effectively with the issues involved. This recommendation has already been implemented for the representatives of the participants on the Staff Pension Committee and will be implemented for representatives of the Director-General on the Staff Pension Committee, upon the expiry of their mandates at the end of this year.

10. In order to implement the recommendation with regard to the representatives of the Conference, the following procedure could be followed. At each regular Session of the Conference one member and one alternate would be appointed for a term of office of three years starting in the following January and one member and one alternate would be appointed for a term of office of three years starting in January of the subsequent year.

11. Transitional arrangements would have to be applied, in order to facilitate rotation and avoid a total renewal of members at the same time. These transitional arrangements could be as follows. At its present Session the Conference would appoint one member and one alternate for a term of office of three years and two members and two alternates for a term of office of two years. At its regular Session of 1993, the Conference would appoint one member and one alternate for a term of office of three years starting in January 1994 and one member and one alternate for a term of office of three years starting in January 1995. At the regular Session of 1993 it would still be necessary to appoint one member and one alternate for a term of office of two years starting in January 1994.

12. Difficulties could arise as a result of the possible transfer from Rome, before the expiry of this mandate, of a member or alternate member of the Staff Pension Committee elected by the Conference. In such event, the FAO Council should elect the member or alternate member for the seat

which became vacant for the remainder of the term of office. This has been normally done, within the context of the present term of office of two years, under the authority of a decision taken by the Conference at its eighth session in 1956. At that session the Conference "authorized the Council to appoint replacements of its representatives on the Staff Pension Committee should any representative resign or be transferred from Rome (...) as the case may be" (Report of the Eighth Session of the FAO Conference, 1956, Paragraph 439).

13. The Conference is therefore invited:

- (a) to decide to extend the term of office of its members and alternates of the Staff Pension Committee from two to three years;
- (b) to decide, as a transitory measure, to appoint one member and one alternate for the period 1 January 1992 - 31 December 1994 and two members and two alternates for the period 1 January 1992 - 31 December 1993.