

June 2011



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

Продовольствен-
ная и
сельскохозяйствен-
ная организа-
ция
Объединенных
Наций

Organización
de las
Naciones Unidas
para la
Agricultura y la
Alimentación

E

CONFERENCE

Thirty-seventh Session

Rome, 25 June - 2 July 2011

Possible Increase in the Membership of the Council

1. Ever since the earliest years of FAO, the General Rules of the Organization (GRO) have made provision (i) for renewal of the membership of the Council by thirds and (ii) for staggered terms of office of three years. At present, the Council has forty-nine Members. In accordance with Rule XXII, paragraph 1(b) of the GRO, the Conference makes provision so as to ensure that the terms of office of sixteen Members of the Council expire in each of two successive calendar years and seventeen in the third calendar year.

2. Since 1953, when the membership of the Council was set at 24 Member Nations, the Conference increased the membership of the Council and changed the allocation of seats by region¹. In all past situations where the Conference increased the number of seats of the Council and changed the allocation of seats by region, the revised rules were implemented with immediate effect, i.e., the number of seats was increased immediately and the Conference, following the amendment of the provisions of the Constitution and the GRO, immediately elected additional Members to the Council. Consequently, there was a need to implement transitional measures to take into consideration the ongoing staggered process of renewal of the membership of the Council. As the renewal of membership of the Council is carried out on a rolling basis, in order to give immediate effect to the increase of the membership of the Council it was necessary to elect Members for the remainder of the terms of office which were still running their course.

3. In practical terms, this means that whenever the Conference increased the membership of the Council, it had to elect new Members for a period of one year and for a period of two years, i.e. for the remainder of the terms of office which were running their normal course.

4. The proposal to increase the membership of the Council was made in a letter from the representative of Morocco of 23 February 2011 under Article XX, paragraph 3 of the Constitution whereby any Member Nation may propose amendments to Constitution in a communication to the Director-General. As required by this provision, the Director-General informed all Members of the proposal² and the matter is on the agenda of the Conference session (item 28). The proposal was for an

¹ Successively, this was done in 1959, 1961, 1965, 1976, 1973 and 1977.

² The proposed amendment to Article V, paragraph 1 of the Constitution was circulated to Members on 25 February 2011 (see C 2011/LIM/14), i.e. at least 120 days before the opening of the session at which the amendment is to be considered, in accordance with Article XX, paragraph 4 of the Constitution.

increase from forty-nine to sixty-one Members and the additional Members would be distributed as follows: one additional seat would be allocated to the Region of Southwest Pacific, two additional seats would be allocated each to the Regions of Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean, and the Near East, and three additional seats to the Region of Europe.

5. A possible approach to the immediate implementation of an increase in membership is presented in the following table. **The table reflects a possible choice of Members which would serve for shorter periods of time proposed by the secretariat only for the purpose of illustration of the scheme³.** The choice of such Members is a matter for the Regional Groups and for the Members themselves.

INCREASE IN COUNCIL SEATS – 12 ADDITIONAL SEATS

Term: November 2009 – 30 June 2012

(elected in November 2009)

(Number of Members elected: 16 ; number of Members to be elected in future in this group: 20)

4 additional Members for the rest of the period

Africa	+ 1
Asia	+ 1
Europe	+ 1
Grulac	+ 1
Near East	
South West Pacific	

Term: 1 January 2011 - June 2013

(elected in November 2009)

(Number of Members elected: 17; number of Members to be elected in future in this group: 21)

4 additional Members for the rest of the period

Africa	+ 1
Asia	+ 1
Europe	
Grulac	
Near East	+ 1
South West Pacific	+ 1

³ It should be noted that, in order to introduce the new pattern of sessions of the Conference, a transitional measure of one time reduction in the term of office of all Members of the Council from three years to two years and a half was introduced.

Term: 1 December 2011 - 30 June 2014

(to be elected in June/July 2011)

(Number of Members elected: 16; number of Members to be elected in future in this group: 20)

4 additional Members for this period

Africa

Asia

Europe + 2

Grulac + 1

Near East + 1

South West Pacific

Term: 1 July 2012 - 30 June 2015

(to be elected in June/July 2011)

(Number of Members to be elected under old rules: 16; number of Members to be elected in future: 20)

4 additional Members for this period

Africa + 1

Asia + 1

Europe + 1

Grulac + 1

Near East

South West Pacific