

codex alimentarius commission



FOOD AND AGRICULTURE
ORGANIZATION
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Agenda Item 5a)

CX/GP 06/23/5 Part I

JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME CODEX COMMITTEE ON GENERAL PRINCIPLES

Twenty-third Session

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PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE RULES OF PROCEDURE

DURATION OF THE TERM OF OFFICE OF THE MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

I. BACKGROUND

1. The proposed clarification of the duration of the term of office of the members of the Executive Committee has now been under consideration for some time and it may, therefore, be useful to recall the background to the matter, as follows.

A. Nineteenth (extraordinary) session (November 2003) and Twentieth session (April 2004) of the Codex Committee on General Principles

2. At its Nineteenth (extraordinary) Session the Committee noted that the issue of the clarification of the duration of the term of office of the Coordinators and other Members of the Executive Committee which had been raised could not be discussed¹. The matter was discussed in some detail, for the first time, at the Twentieth Session of the Committee, in April 2004. On that occasion, it was recalled that according to Rule III.4(b)² of the Rules of Procedure of the Commission, the duration of office of the Coordinators was decided by the Commission each time at their appointment, in terms of the number of regular sessions of the Commission, taking into account the meeting schedule of the Coordinating Committees and the Commission. At that time, it was recalled, by way of example, that the term of office of the Coordinators appointed by the Twenty-sixth Session of the Commission would run until the end of the Twenty-eighth Session of the Commission, scheduled for 2005 (i.e. a period of two years). The delegation of the United States noted that the term of the Chairperson and Vice-Chairpersons was from the end of the session at which they were elected until the end of the following regular session of the Commission while other members of the Executive Committee elected on a geographic basis held office from the end of the session at which they were elected until the end of the second succeeding regular session of the Commission. That delegation wondered whether the different lengths of terms should not be put into alignment and whether the duration of the term could be expressed in terms of number of years rather than number of sessions of the Commission. The Committee agreed to request the Codex Secretariat in cooperation with the Legal Counsels of FAO and

¹ ALINORM 04/27/33, paragraph 120.

² Currently Rule IV.2

WHO to prepare a discussion paper for the Twenty-first Session of the Committee to clarify the current rules of the Commission and relevant practices in the parent organizations³.

B. Twenty-first (extraordinary) Session (November 2004) of the Codex Committee on General Principles

3. A first document was prepared for the Twenty-first (extraordinary) session of the Committee⁴. The document described the relevant rules applicable to the various members of the Executive Committee, i.e. the Chairperson and the Vice-Chairpersons, “*the members elected on a geographical basis*” referred to in the practice of Codex as “*regional representatives*” and the Coordinators. The document recalled that the matter had acquired a new dimension as a result of the decision of the Commission, taken in 2003, but subject to reassessment, to hold annual sessions, as compared with the situation where the Commission had been holding biennial sessions for some thirty years. In addition, the matter seemed to have a link with the fact that the Coordinators were to become full Members of the Executive Committee. In line with the observations that had been made by the Delegation of the United States of America the document mentioned that it might be desirable to establish the same term of office for all Members of the Executive Committee, which could be defined on the basis of a given number of years and which would be independent from the pattern of sessions, since the Commission might wish to retain flexibility as to the schedule of its regular sessions.

4. At the Twenty-first (extraordinary) Session of the Committee the document was reviewed in the course of a largely inconclusive debate, where a wide range of views were expressed. All delegations recognized that the matter had acquired critical importance as a result of the decision taken by the Commission to hold annual sessions, thus shortening the duration of the terms of office of the Chairperson, the Vice-Chairpersons to one year and the members elected on a geographic basis to two years. Similarly, all delegations emphasized that, for the sake of the efficiency of the Executive Committee and, beyond that, of the Commission as a whole, there was a need for continuity in the office of all members of the Executive Committee. In turn, this called for a sufficiently long duration for their term of office and, if possible, for staged renewals of that term of office. While a solution whereby the duration of the term of all the office holders would be defined on the basis of a number of years appeared to be a simple one, it also appeared that, in practice it would be difficult to implement that solution for all members.

5. Eventually,

“Having noted the complex nature of the matter, as well as the fact, pointed out by some delegations, that the Commission had not specifically requested the Committee on General Principles to proceed with the consideration of a possible revision of the Rules of Procedure on this matter, the Committee asked the secretariat to prepare another discussion paper for its next session. The paper should seek to present possible options for harmonising, to the extent possible, the duration of the terms of office of all Members of the Executive Committee, their implications, as well as all relevant scenarios, mainly based on the terms of office being equal to two regular sessions of the Commission, renewable once, with a limit of three or four years. Such document would allow the Committee to develop concrete proposals on the issue, for consideration by the Commission at its forthcoming session”⁵.

C. Twenty-second Session (April 2005) of the Codex Committee on General Principles

6. In subsequent exploratory discussions regarding the preparation of a document for the Twenty-second Session of the Committee, held from 11 to 15 April 2005, it was recalled that it should deal essentially with substantive options and proposals for the issue under discussion and that no wording for any proposed amendments should be developed. The document prepared for the Twenty-second Session also

³ ALINORM 04/27/33A, paragraphs 125 – 127.

⁴ Document CX/GP 04/21/10.

⁵ ALINORM 05/28/33, paragraph 117.

recalled that a number of amendments to the Rules of Procedure were expected to be adopted at the Twenty-seventh Session of the Codex Alimentarius Commission in July 2005⁶.

7. The document referred to the Twenty-second session of the Committee reviewed four options as follows: (a) term of office to continue to be defined only on the basis of the pattern of regular sessions of the Commission; (b) term of office to be defined by the Commission at each session; (c) term of office to be established by reference to regular sessions, on the understanding that it would not exceed a given number of years; (d) term of office to be established by reference to a given number of years irrespective of the pattern of session.

8. In the ensuing debate, many delegations supported option (c), while some favoured option (a) or did not have a strong preference between those two options. Option (c) was favoured because it appeared to best reconcile flexibility with respect to the pattern of sessions of the Commission with a reasonable degree of continuity in the membership of the Executive Committee, while avoiding the risk of excessively long terms of office. Delegations favoured the same term of office for both the Chairperson and the Vice-Chairpersons and the members elected on a geographic basis, as well as the possibility of re-election to a second term. It was also suggested in the discussion that the terms of office of all Members of the Executive Committee should not terminate simultaneously but should follow a progressive schedule⁷.

9. Furthermore, the delegation of the United States of America, supported by other delegations noted that the term of office of the Coordinators should be approached differently from that of the other members of the Executive Committee insofar as the term of office of the Coordinators was tied to the cycle of meetings of regional coordinating committees, which were held every two years. **For this reason, the delegations that expressed views on this issue favoured a term of office of two years with the possibility of re-appointment for another term.** The Secretariat noted that, in the past, the pattern of meetings of regional coordinating committees had varied widely, but had recently settled on a two-year cycle and would likely remain so for the foreseeable future due to financial implications, as well as the conditions set by Codex sessions schedules.

10. **Eventually the Committee agreed to focus its further discussions on option (c) and requested the Secretariat to prepare a document for its Twenty-third Session presenting models of implementation of that option with a view to finalizing proposed amendments to the Rules of Procedure. The models to be elaborated by the Secretariat should be based on a term of office extending to two regular sessions of the Commission, with the possibility of re-election for a second term of the same duration, but with a maximum of four years of tenure. The Committee also agreed that the model concerning the term of office of the Coordinators should take into account the discussion held at that session.** The Committee agreed to ask the Commission to approve as new work the revision of the Rules of Procedure concerning the duration of the terms of office of the officers of the Commission and other members of the Executive Committee⁸. The proposal for new work was subsequently approved by the 28th Session of the Commission.

II. CURRENT PROVISIONS REGARDING THE TERM OF OFFICE OF THE MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

11. Rule V, paragraph 1 of the Rules of Procedure of the Commission reads currently as follows:

“ The Executive Committee shall consist of the Chairperson and the Vice-Chairpersons of the Commission, and the Coordinators appointed on the basis of Rule IV, together with seven further Members elected by the Commission at regular sessions from among the Members of the Commission, one each coming from the following geographic locations: Africa, Asia, Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean, Near East, North America, South-West Pacific (...).”

⁶ These amendments were eventually adopted and it is on the basis of the new provisions of the Rules of Procedure, reproduced below in this document, that the matter had to be considered.

⁷ ALINORM 05/28/33A, paragraph 108.

⁸ ALINORM 05/28/33A, paragraphs 109-111.

A. Term of office of the Chairperson and Vice-Chairpersons of the Codex Alimentarius Commission

12. Rule III, paragraph 1, of the Rules of Procedure provides that the Commission is required to elect a Chairperson and three Vice-Chairpersons from among the representatives, alternates and advisers (hereinafter referred to as “*delegates*”) of the Members of the Commission. “*They shall be elected at each session and shall hold office from the end of the session at which they were elected until the end of the following regular session. The Chairperson and Vice-Chairpersons may remain in office only with the continuing endorsement of the respective Member of the Commission of which they were a delegate at the time of election. The Directors-General of FAO and WHO shall declare a position vacant when advised by the Member of the Commission that such endorsement has ceased. The Chairperson and Vice-Chairpersons shall be eligible for re-election but after having served two consecutive terms shall be ineligible to hold such office for the next succeeding term*”⁹.

13. In a situation where the Commission holds annual sessions, the Chairperson and Vice-Chairpersons of the Commission hold office for a period of up to two years. In a situation where the Commission meets on a biennial basis, they may hold office for a period of up to four years.

B. Term of office of the Members of the Executive Committee elected on a geographic basis

14. Members elected on a geographic basis “*hold office from the end of the session of the Commission at which they were elected until the end of the second succeeding regular session and shall be eligible for re-election, but after having served two consecutive terms shall be ineligible to hold such office for the next succeeding term*” (Cf. Rule V, paragraph 1, of the Rules of Procedure).

15. In a situation where the Commission holds annual sessions, the Members elected on a geographic basis may hold office for up to four years. In a situation where the Commission meets on a biennial basis they may hold office up to eight years.

C. Term of office of the Coordinators

16. The coordinators are appointed by the Commission, exclusively on the proposal of a majority of the Members of the Commission which constitute the region or group of countries concerned. Under the terms of Rule IV, paragraph 2, “*appointment of Coordinators shall be made exclusively on the proposal of a majority of the members of the Commission which constitute the region or group of countries concerned. Coordinators shall hold office from the end of the session of the Commission at which they were appointed until not later than the end of the third succeeding regular session, the precise term being determined by the Commission in each instance. After having served two consecutive years, the Coordinators shall be ineligible to hold such office for the next succeeding term*”¹⁰.

17. According to the practice generally followed by the Commission on the basis of the above provisions, Coordinators have been appointed for periods of two years.

III. POSSIBLE MODELS FOR THE TERM OF OFFICE OF THE VARIOUS MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

18. In considering this matter, it is important to keep in mind that as per the guidance provided by the Committee, the term of office of the officers of the Commission and other members of the Executive Committee **is to be based, in all cases, on the regular session of the Commission and should not exceed four years**. Under Rule VI, paragraph 1 of the Rules of Procedure, “*the Commission shall hold in principle one regular session each year*”. Notwithstanding this provision, for many years the Commission has been holding one session every two years. Recently, however, as a result of the recommendations and conclusions

⁹ The list of past Chairpersons and Vice-Chairpersons is provided at each regular session of the Commission.

¹⁰ According to the practice generally followed by the Commission on that basis, Coordinators have been appointed for periods of two years. An appendix to document CX/GP 05/22/9 provides information on the term of office of the Coordinators of the Commission.

of the Joint FAO/WHO Evaluation of the Codex Alimentarius and other FAO and WHO Work on Food Standards, the Commission started holding annual sessions. Whether or not this pattern of sessions will remain is a matter entirely for the Commission, but it is nevertheless likely that the Commission could revert to a pattern of one session every two years. It is important to keep this observation in mind when dealing with the matter.

19. In the same vein, the fact that the pattern of sessions of the Commission may not be a stable, uniform one, may also complicate the treatment of the issue under consideration, as can be seen from the proposals below.

A. Proposals regarding the term of office of the Chairperson and Vice-Chairpersons of the Codex Alimentarius Commission

20. It is proposed that the provisions regarding the term of office of the Chairperson and Vice-Chairpersons of the Commission should remain as they stand at present, because, under whatever circumstances which might arise, they remain consistent with the guidance provided by the Committee. Indeed, the Commission is required to elect a Chairperson and three Vice-Chairpersons from among the representatives, alternates and advisers. These are elected at each session and shall hold office from the end of the session at which they are elected until the end of the following regular session. The Chairperson and Vice-Chairpersons are eligible for re-election, but after having served two consecutive terms shall be ineligible to hold such office for the next succeeding term. Consequently, under the present pattern of regular sessions (one session per year), the Chairperson and the Vice-Chairpersons hold office for a term of one year and may be appointed for a further term of one year. If the Commission were to revert to a pattern of biennial sessions, then they would hold office for a term of two years, renewable once. In all cases, they would remain within the overall upper limit of four years.

B. Proposals regarding the term of office of the Members of the Executive Committee elected on a geographic basis

21. In order to implement proposals under the guidance provided by the Committee, at its Twenty-second session in respect of the members elected on a geographic basis, consideration could be given to amending Rule V, paragraph 1 of the Rules of Procedure of the Commission. So that the term of office of the members elected on a geographic basis could be established on the basis of the regular sessions of the Commission, combined with a limitation in the maximum number of years – set at four - which a member could serve, there might be a need to reflect in that Rule the possibility of different patterns of sessions. Revised wordings for Rule V, paragraph 1 could therefore be along the following lines:

*“1. The Executive Committee shall consist of the Chairperson and Vice-Chairpersons of the Commission and the Coordinators appointed on the basis of Rule IV together with seven further Members elected by the Commission at regular sessions from among the Members of the Commission one each coming from the following geographic locations: Africa, Asia, Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean, Near East, North America, South West Pacific. Not more than one delegate from any one country shall be a member of the Executive Committee. **The following rules apply to the Members of the Executive Committee elected on a geographic basis:***

- (i) When the Commission holds annual sessions, Members shall hold office from the end of the session of the Commission at which they were elected until the end of the second succeeding regular session and shall be eligible for re-election, but after having served two consecutive terms, shall be ineligible to hold such office for the next succeeding term.*
- (ii) When the Commission holds biennial sessions, Members shall hold office from the end of the session of the Commission at which they were elected until the end of the second succeeding regular session and shall not be eligible for re-election.*
- (iii) In the event that the Commission should alternate annual sessions and biennial sessions, nominations which would have the effect of extending the maximum duration of office of the same Member beyond four years shall not be receivable”.*

OR

“1. *The Executive Committee shall consist of the Chairperson and Vice-Chairpersons of the Commission and the Coordinators appointed on the basis of Rule IV together with seven further Members elected by the Commission at regular sessions from among the Members of the Commission one each coming from the following geographic locations: Africa, Asia, Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean, Near East, North America, South West Pacific. Not more than one delegate from any one country shall be a member of the Executive Committee. Members elected on a geographic basis shall hold office from the end of the session of the Commission at which they were elected until the end of the second succeeding regular session and shall be eligible for re-election if they have not served for more than two years in their current term, but after having served two consecutive terms shall be ineligible to hold such office for the next succeeding term.*”

22. Proposed Rule V, paragraph 1, is required in view of the fact the pattern of sessions of the Commission could vary in future, consistent both with Rule VI, paragraph 1 of the Rules of Procedure and past practice. Thus, in a cycle of annual sessions the Commission, at the **session of 2013**, could appoint, first, under proposed Rule V, paragraph 1 (i) the members elected on a geographic basis. They would hold office for a period of two years, i.e. until the end of the session of the second succeeding regular session, **i.e. the session of 2015**. At this session, the Commission could decide to revert to a pattern of biennial sessions and hold its next regular session only in 2017. Under proposed Rule V, paragraph 1, (ii), the members elected at the session of **2015** would hold office until the session of **2019**. These members would thus serve for a period of six years, until 2020. To avoid this result under proposed Rule V, paragraph 1(iii), nominations which would have the effect of extending beyond four years the overall duration of the term of office would be irreceivable. In other words, in this particular example, members elected in 2013 for a two year term, could not be nominated in 2015 for a four year term, as they would exceed the limit of four years.

C. Proposals regarding the term of office of the Coordinators

23. A few proposals regarding the term of office of the Coordinators could be considered.

24. As pointed out above, in the course of the deliberations at the Twenty-second session of the Committee, the delegation of the United States of America, supported by other delegations, noted that the term of office of the Coordinators should be approached differently from that of the other members of the Executive Committee, insofar as the term of office of the Coordinators was tied to the cycle of meetings of regional coordinating committees, which were held every two years. For this reason, the delegations that expressed views on this issue favoured a term of office of two years with the possibility of re-appointment for another term. In the course of the deliberations at the Twenty-first session of the Committee similar considerations were put forward by a number of delegations. On that occasion, the Secretariat also noted that, in the past, the pattern of meetings of regional coordinating committees had varied widely, but that, more recently, it had settled on a two-year cycle and would likely remain so for the foreseeable future due to financial implications, as well as the conditions set by Codex sessions schedules.

25. Accordingly, an amendment to Rule IV, paragraph 2 of the Rules of Procedure, along the following lines, could be considered:

“Appointment of Coordinators shall be made exclusively on the proposal of a majority of the Members of the Commission which constitute the region or group of countries concerned. Coordinators shall hold office for a period of two years from the end of the session of the Commission at which they were appointed and may be appointed for a further term of two years. Without prejudice to this term of office, the Commission may make such arrangements as may be necessary in order to ensure continuity in the functions of Coordinators”.

26. The first part of proposed Rule IV, paragraph 2 of the Rules of Procedure is self-explanatory and deemed to be generally in accordance with the fairly straightforward guidance provided by the Committee, that the term of office of the Coordinators should be for two-year periods renewable once. The last sentence

of Rule IV, paragraph 2, is again intended to deal with possible implications of changes in the pattern of the sessions of the Commission. An example of this situation could be as follows. At its session of 2003, the Commission appointed a particular Coordinator for term of two years. The Commission held a session in 2004 at which no appointments took place. At its session of 2005 the Commission renewed the appointment of that Coordinator for a further two-year period. At its annual session of 2006 the Commission could decide to revert to a pattern of annual sessions in which case it would hold only a session in 2008. If such were to happen, then the Commission would have to designate, at its session of 2006, another Coordinator, whose term of office would begin by mid-2007, after the end of the second term of office of two years of the Coordinator.

27. Another option could be considered. While less precise, this option, building upon existing Rule IV, paragraph 2, would involve an element of flexibility that it might be useful to retain. Provision could, thus, be made in generic terms for the appointment by the Commission of the Coordinators which would hold office for periods of two years, without any specific reference to the sessions of the Commission. In actual practice, the Commission would make such necessary arrangements as would be required for the implementation of the system. Thus, Rule IV, paragraph 2 could be amended to read:

“Appointment of Coordinators shall be made exclusively on the proposal of a majority of the Members of the Commission which constitute the region or group of countries concerned. Coordinators shall hold office for periods of two-years, subject to such related arrangements as the Commission may decide. After having served two consecutive terms, the Coordinators shall be ineligible to hold such office for the next succeeding term”.

28. A provision along the above lines might respond to the functional requirements of the Commission.

29. Notwithstanding the above, the *statu quo* could also be an option to be considered. Under the current provisions of Rule IV, paragraph 2 of the Rules of Procedure “*coordinators shall hold office from the end of the session at which they were appointed until not later than the end of the third succeeding regular session*”. This provision provides sufficient flexibility which has allowed the Commission to adjust the real duration of the term to two years, at least in its recent history. Therefore it does not seem that there are compelling reasons for changing this provision. However, consideration could still be given to changing “*third*” to “*second*”, because in practice the coordinators are nominated until the “next” session if the Commission is likely to meet in two years time or until the “second” succeeding session under the annual session scenario.

IV. STAGED RENEWAL OF THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

30. In the course of the latest discussions at the Committee, it was suggested that the terms of office of all Members of the Executive Committee should not terminate simultaneously but should follow a progressive schedule.

31. In examining further the possibility of establishing a system of staged renewals of the members of the Executive Committee that are elected on a geographic basis, it appeared that the rationale, the formulation and subsequent implementation of such a system could be a fairly complex one, which is furthermore compounded by the fact that there are no definite rules governing the schedule of regular sessions of the Commission. **The Committee is therefore invited to advise further on this matter in light of the following considerations.**

32. First, in line with the observations made by the Committee, the future practice of the Codex Commission could evolve easily towards a situation where all the members, or most of the members of the Executive Committee (i.e. the Chairperson, the three Vice-Chairpersons, the members elected on a geographic basis and the coordinators), would have their mandates renewed at the same time. This is all the more so, as the renewal of the membership is done in the context of regional consultations and nominations tend to be treated in the context of “a package”, as is normal in such type of situations.

33. However, it is important to emphasize that, from a strictly legal point of view, there is no requirement that, under the existing rules as described above, the renewal of all members should take place at the same time. While there has been a move towards the alignment of the terms of office and the possibility of renewal of the terms of office, the members remain free “*to run or not to run for office*” which, in itself would provide a basis for a staged renewal of the membership of the Executive Committee. This would be especially the case, as far as the Coordinators are concerned, insofar as the office of Coordinators involves, in practice, obligations in terms of organization of the regional coordinating committees, which not all Members may necessarily wish to assume for more than a term of two years. In other words, from a legal point of view, there are, at least in theory, ample possibilities of renewal of the membership of the members of the Executive Committee every two years, as their mandates expire. The whole system as currently formulated included inherent possibilities of a staged renewal of membership. As a matter of fact, the current membership of the Executive Committee as renewed in 2005 includes three new members elected on geographic basis (i.e. first term) and four members serving from the previous cycle (i.e. second term). If such renewal does not materialize, this is due to practical, rather to reasons of a legal nature.

34. Second, in the United Nations family, there is indeed a fairly well established practice reflected in the constituent instruments of various organizations, including the United Nations, FAO and WHO, that the main bodies of restricted membership of the organizations are appointed in accordance with various systems of staged renewal of the membership. This is intended to introduce an element of continuity in the work of the bodies in question and to avoid a renewal of all the members at the same time. At the United Nations bodies whose membership is renewed in a staged manner include the Security Council in respect of 10 non-permanent Members and the Economic and Social Council which includes at present 54 Members. In FAO the Council, which consists of 49 Members is renewed in a staged manner in accordance with fairly detailed procedures set out in the basic texts. The Conference of FAO, which elects the members of the Council, makes provision such as to ensure that the terms of office of sixteen Members of the Council shall expire in each of the two successive calendar years and seventeen in the third calendar year. The Conference holds a regular session once every biennium towards the end of odd years and elects then the members of the Council. However, it does not seem that there exists any such practice in respect of executive committees or committees exercising functions of the nature of a bureau such as the Executive Committee of the Codex Commission. This, in itself, would not be an impediment to the formulation of any rules on the matter.

35. Third, in view of the general *modus operandi* of the Codex Alimentarius Commission and of the fact that a substantial number of members of the Commission are more familiar with its work as demonstrated by a comparatively high stability in the composition of the delegations, at least as compared with delegations to other bodies of FAO, the need for a system of staged renewals of the membership of the Executive Committee may be less critical.

36. Fourth, the practical formulation of such a system would presumably require a totally different approach to the election of members of the Executive Committee which, in a few respects, would deviate from the guidance provided by the Committee on General Principles. Indeed, under the guidance provided by the Committee, the pattern of the regular sessions of the Commission – whatever it might be in future – should continue to provide the basis for the election and definition of the term of office of the members of the Executive Committee. However, a system could be contrived whereby the terms of office of the members of the Executive Committee elected on a geographic basis - but not those of the Chairperson and the Vice-Chairpersons and the Coordinators - could be defined by reference to calendar, civil years rather than to regular sessions of the Commission. In practical terms, this would lead to a situation where the offices of Chairperson, Vice-Chairpersons and Coordinators, on the one hand, and those of members elected on a geographic basis, on the other hand, would rotate, be renewed necessarily according to different cycles. This would imply necessarily a staggered renewal of the mandates. This would involve some amendments to Rule V, paragraph 1 of the Rules of Procedure. The last sentence of this Rule could basically read as follows:

“Members elected on a geographic basis shall hold office for a period of two years starting at the beginning of the calendar year following the year on which they were elected by the Commission. They shall be eligible for re-election for a further period of two years, but after having served two consecutive terms shall be ineligible to hold such office for the next succeeding term. At each regular session, the Commission shall make such arrangements as

may be required for the appointment of members of the Executive Committee elected on a geographic basis”.

37. The introduction of this system would require transitional measures in terms of extension of the mandate of the incumbents at the time of adoption of the new Rules. Such transitional measures would not necessarily need to be set out in the Rules of Procedure; they could be approved by the Commission at the session, in conjunction with the adoption of the revised Rules of Procedure.

38. It is suggested that the Committee should offer its views on the proposal.

39. It is important to emphasize, as a general observation regarding the whole subject matter, that any uncertainty that may continue to exist in respect of the current and future pattern of sessions of the Commission will certainly have an impact upon the treatment of the issue at hand.

V. SUGGESTED ACTION BY THE COMMITTEE

40. The Committee is invited to review this document and provide such views as may be required. The Committee is more specifically invited to offer its views on:

- 40.1. the proposals regarding the term of office of the members elected on a geographic basis (cf. paragraph 21);
- 40.2. the proposals regarding the term of office of the Coordinators (cf. paragraphs 23-29); and
- 40.3. the observations and proposals concerning the staged renewal of the members of the Executive Committee (paragraphs 30-39).