

AMENDMENTS OF THE STATUTES OF THE FISHERY COMMITTEE FOR THE EASTERN CENTRAL ATLANTIC²³

115. The Council noted that the Fishery Committee for the Eastern Central Atlantic (CECAF) was established by the Director-General, following the decision taken by the Council at its Forty-eighth Session in 1967, under Article VI, paragraph 2 of the FAO Constitution.
116. The Council further noted that, in 1992, at its Hundred and Second Session, it had approved amendments to the Terms of Reference for CECAF, which had been made necessary by a number of developments affecting the fisheries situation in West Africa, and authorized the Director-General to promulgate the amendments to the Terms of Reference.
117. The Council was informed that following the adoption by the Conference at its Twenty-ninth Session, in November 1997 of Resolution 13/97 entitled "Review of FAO Statutory Bodies", CECAF initiated a process of review of its mandate, functions and structure and to that effect had requested the Director-General to convene a Technical Consultation to review the matter. The Technical Consultation (Lagos, 27-30 November 2001) had noted that further changes had taken place which should be reflected in the Terms of Reference of the Committee. In particular, the Technical Consultation was of the view that CECAF should be entrusted with wider scientific and technical functions, but these should concentrate on a few key priority areas with a regional or sub-regional focus and that they should be duly reflected in the revised Terms of Reference. At its Sixteenth Session (Santa Cruz de Tenerife, Spain, 22-24 October 2002), CECAF endorsed the revised Terms of Reference and recommended that they be submitted to the Council for approval.
118. The Council approved the revised Terms of Reference of the Fishery Committee for the Eastern Central Atlantic (CECAF) as given in *Appendix E* to this Report.
119. The Council decided to authorize the Director-General to promulgate the revised Terms of Reference of the Fishery Committee for the Eastern Central Atlantic (CECAF).

COMPOSITION OF THE PROGRAMME AND FINANCE COMMITTEES²⁴

120. The Council noted that the matter had been placed on its agenda at the request of one Member of the Council acting on behalf of the Asia Group. The Council noted that at its Hundred and Twenty-second session it had agreed, on the basis of a proposal from the Asia Group, to discuss at its next session the existing formula for the representation of regions on the Programme and Finance Committees. The Council further noted that, at its Hundred and Twenty-third Session, held in October and November 2002, the Asia Group had reiterated the importance of fair and equitable representation of regions in the Programme and Finance Committees, and the need to bring the composition of these Committees in line with ground realities. On that occasion, the Council agreed that Regional Groups should consult and report thereon to the session of the Council in June 2003. The Council also noted that the Asia Group had discussed the issue and defined some preliminary options for discussion, including a proposal to establish a Working Group to elaborate a better option, taking into account concerns of all regions.
121. The Council noted that there was a wide range of different opinions on the question of regional representation within the Programme and Finance Committees and that, given its complexity, as well as its broader implications for other Statutory Bodies of FAO, it was not possible to reach a consensus at this time.
122. The Council noted that the Asia Regional Group could continue to hold consultations with other regional groups, if needed, to further advance the issue.

²³ CL 124/19; CL 124/PV/8; CL 124/PV/9.

²⁴ CL 124/INF/21; CL 124/INF/21-Sup.1; CL 124/PV/8; CL 124/PV/9.

APPENDIX E

**REVISED TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THE FISHERY COMMITTEE FOR THE
EASTERN CENTRAL ATLANTIC (CECAF)**

The purpose of the Committee shall be to promote the sustainable utilization of the living marine resources of the area defined under paragraph I above, by the proper management and development of the fisheries and fishing operations.

To this end, it shall have the following functions and responsibilities:

- a. to keep under review the state of these resources and of the industries based on them;
- b. to promote, encourage and coordinate research in the area related to the living resources thereof and to draw up programmes required for this purpose and to organize such research as may appear necessary;
- c. to promote the collection, interchange, dissemination and analysis or study of statistical, biological, environmental and socio-economic data and other marine fishery information;
- d. to establish the scientific basis for regulatory measures leading to the conservation and management of marine fishery resources, to formulate such measures through subsidiary bodies, as required, to make appropriate recommendations for the adoption and implementation of these measures and to provide advice for the adoption of regulatory measures by Member Governments, sub regional or regional organizations, as appropriate;
- e. to provide advice on monitoring, control and surveillance, especially as regards issues of a sub-regional and regional nature;
- f. to encourage, recommend and coordinate training in the priority areas of the Committee;
- g. to promote and encourage the utilization of the most appropriate fishing craft, gear and techniques;
- h. to promote liaison among and with competent institutions within the sea area served by the Committee and to propose and keep under review working arrangements with other international organizations which have related objectives within that area, insofar as the Constitution, the General Rules, regulations and facilities of the Organization permit; and
- i. to carry out such other activities as may be necessary for the Committee to achieve its purpose, as defined above.