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والزراعة
للامم المتحدة

联合国
粮食及
农业组织

Food
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Продовольственная и
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организация
Объединенных
Наций

Organización
de las
Naciones
Unidas
para la
Agricultura
y la
Alimentación

COMMITTEE ON COMMODITY PROBLEMS

JOINT MEETING OF THE THIRTY-FIFTH SESSION OF THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL GROUP ON HARD FIBRES AND THE THIRTY-SEVENTH SESSION OF THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL GROUP ON JUTE, KENAF AND ALLIED FIBRES

Pasay City, Philippines, 20 October – 22 October 2009

PROVISIONAL AGENDA, AGENDA NOTES AND PROVISIONAL TIMETABLE

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- A. Election of Chairperson and Vice-Chairpersons
- B. Adoption of Provisional Agenda
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- B. Review of the strategy of the Intergovernmental Group on Hard Fibres: priorities for future activities
- C. Commodity development activities: Common Fund for Commodities (CFC) projects on hard fibres
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- E. Reports on subsidiary activities:
 - (i) Report of the Sixteenth Session of the IGG on Hard Fibres' Sub-Group of Sisal and Henequen Producing Countries (Pasay City, Philippines, 20-21 October 2009)
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AGENDA NOTES

1. The Joint Meeting of the Intergovernmental Group on Hard Fibres (Thirty-fifth Session) and the Intergovernmental Group on Jute, Kenaf and Allied Fibres (Thirty-sixth Session) will be held in Pasay City, Philippines, 21-22 October 2009, opening at 14.30 hours on 21 October. It will be preceded by the Sixteenth Session of the Sub-Group of Sisal and Henequen Producing Countries and by a Consultation on Natural Fibres on 20-21 October 2009.¹

I. ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS

A. ELECTION OF CHAIRPERSON AND VICE-CHAIRPERSONS

2. The Meeting will elect a Chairperson and two Vice-Chairpersons. The Joint Meeting of the Thirty-fourth Session of the Intergovernmental Group on Hard Fibres and the Thirty-sixth Session of the Intergovernmental Group on Jute, Kenaf and Allied Fibres in 2007 elected Mr A.C. Jose (India) as Chairperson, Mr P. Clasen (Germany) as First Vice-Chairperson and Mr K.W.E. Karalliyadda (Sri Lanka) as Second Vice-Chairperson.

B. REPORTING PROCEDURES

3. In accordance with the previously agreed reporting procedures², the Secretariat would draft a record of the major conclusions of the Meeting based on the Chairperson's concluding comments for each item discussed. The draft report would be considered by the Chairperson and the two Vice-Chairpersons prior to despatch to participants.

II. ECONOMIC AND POLICY ISSUES AND INTERGOVERNMENTAL ACTIONS ON HARD FIBRES AND JUTE

A. INFORMAL PRICE ARRANGEMENTS FOR SISAL, ABACA, JUTE AND KENAF

4. In light of the consideration of market prospects, which will have been broadly covered in the course of the preceding consultation, the Meeting may wish to review the need to recommend appropriate indicative prices for fibre products covered by the Group as has been the case in prior meetings.

5. For the purposes of reporting, the Joint Meeting of the Thirty-fourth Session of the Intergovernmental Group on Hard Fibres and the Thirty-sixth Session of the Intergovernmental Group on Jute, Kenaf and Allied Fibres in 2007 made the following recommendations:

- The practice of formulating the indicative price range for sisal based on c.i.f. prices should be discontinued and the indicative price range should be formulated on the basis of f.o.b. prices;

¹ This Joint Meeting of these two Intergovernmental Groups will be the sixth occasion on which they have met on a joint basis. The convening of joint meetings of related IGGs was endorsed by the Committee on Commodity Problems (CCP), at its Sixty-second Session in January 1999. The CCP also requested that efforts be made to organize on a trial basis one or more ad hoc conferences dealing with related commodities, and as a consequence each of the past four Joint Meetings of the two Groups has been held in conjunction with a Consultation on Natural Fibres.

² Commencing with the Joint Meeting of the Thirty-first Session of the Intergovernmental Group on Hard Fibres and the Thirty-third Session of the Intergovernmental Group on Jute, Kenaf and Allied Fibres in 2000, reports of the Joint Meetings of these Groups have been prepared by the Secretariat following the Sessions, and the drafts sent to the Chairperson for final approval. This arrangement is in accord with the conclusions of the CCP at its Sixty-second Session in 1999.

- The indicative price range for **Brazilian No. 3** fibre should be set at **US\$620 to US\$680 per tonne, f.o.b. Salvador;**
- The indicative price range for **East African UG** fibre should be set at **US\$800 to US\$1 000 per tonne, f.o.b.;**
- The indicative price for **sisal and henequen baler twine** should be set at **US\$24 per 18 kg bale of regular runnage, f.o.b. Salvador.**

6. For jute and abaca fibres, the Meeting made the following recommendations:

- **The indicative price for Bangladesh jute should be set at US\$420 to US\$500 (US\$450-US\$30 to US\$450+US\$50) per metric tonne sight, for BWD grade fibre f.o.b. Chittagong/Chalna**
- **The indicative range of the indicator price of abaca, namely the average of S2, G and JK hand cleaned non Davao grades, should remain at US\$128 to US\$185 per bale of 125 kg f.o.b. Manila port.**

B. REVIEW OF THE STRATEGY OF THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL GROUP ON HARD FIBRES: PRIORITIES FOR FUTURE ACTIVITIES

7. At its Twenty-ninth Session in 1996, the Intergovernmental Group on Hard Fibres adopted a development strategy for hard fibres in order to guide the Common Fund for Commodities (CFC) in reviewing projects submitted for funding. At the same time, strategy development was foreseen to serve a broader purpose for the Group, indicating its priorities and guiding the Secretariat in the work it undertakes in support of the Group.

8. The strategy document has been reviewed on three occasions by Joint Meetings of the two Groups. At the last Joint Meeting in 2007, it was noted that since global events transpire rapidly, any strategy ought to be reappraised at each Meeting of the Groups, rather than being reviewed less periodically. The current version of the Strategy will be provided to the Meeting as document CCP:HF 04/4-JU 04/4 (Revised).

9. In the context of economic and policy issues, it is envisaged that the Group's Strategy will be subject to modification, fine tuning, strengthening or otherwise, following the recommendations from the preceding consultation on Global Challenges Facing Hard Fibres, Jute and Other Natural Fibres, and would provide the foundations for the Intergovernmental Action Plan.

C. COMMODITY DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES: COMMON FUND FOR COMMODITIES (CFC) PROJECTS ON HARD FIBRES³

10. The Secretariat will present a document (CCP:HF-JU 09/2) which details recent progress on hard fibre projects and on the status of projects proposed for financing. The Meeting will consider the need for any further action on them, as well as the formulation and promotion of potential new project concepts. Project proposals on hard fibres for consideration by the Group should reach the Secretariat before the end of August 2009.

D. STATUS OF THE INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF NATURAL FIBRES 2009

11. As the International Year of Natural Fibres (IYNF) draws to a conclusion, the Secretariat will summarize the progress made towards implementing the Year. Delegates are also invited to share their own experiences in implementation. The discussion will then turn to sustaining the momentum that the IYNF has generated, ensuring that beyond 2009, the IYNF will serve as a

³ The Intergovernmental Group on Hard Fibres is a designated International Commodity Body (ICB) under the rules of the Common Fund for Commodities, and in this role it has promoted projects on sisal, abaca and coir. The Intergovernmental Group on Jute, Kenaf and Allied Fibres does not have a similar responsibility.

catalyst for global natural fibre development programmes that can contribute towards rural development and poverty alleviation.

E. REPORTS ON SUBSIDIARY ACTIVITIES

(i) Sixteenth Session of the Sub-Group of Sisal and Henequen Producing Countries, Pasay City, Philippines, 20-21 October 2009

12. The Sub-Group is scheduled to meet on 20 and 21 October 2009, and its report will be presented to the Joint Meeting as CCP:HF-JU 09/2.

*(ii) Consultation on Natural Fibres, Pasay City, Philippines
20-21 October 2009*

13. For the benefit of those who did not participate, a verbal report on the Consultation will be presented to the Joint Meeting.

III. WORK PROGRAMME, MANDATE AND OPERATIONAL PROCEDURES

A. INTERGOVERNMENTAL ACTION PLAN

14. Notwithstanding the need for revisions to the Groups' strategy based on the recommendations from the prior consultation, members are invited to propose priority areas and themes of work which would form the Groups' immediate Intergovernmental Action Plan.

15. The Groups may also wish to introduce mechanisms to ensure the relevancy and the feasibility of their strategy. This could be achieved by monitoring implementation through verifiable indicators and regular reporting from stakeholders. The Secretariat would coordinate the collection and dissemination of this information to the Groups on a timely basis.

B. FUTURE ROLE OF THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL GROUPS ON HARD FIBRES AND ON JUTE, KENAF AND ALLIED FIBRES

16. It is the broad responsibility of the Secretariat to ensure that policy makers and development partners are better informed about the factors shaping commodity markets; further, that they improve institutional capacity to formulate and implement relevant programmes to promote food security, poverty alleviation and rural development via market mechanisms and initiatives; and, that through monitoring field project activities, country awareness of market opportunities be enhanced.

17. With reference to CCP:HF 00/7 - JU 00/7, *Amended Terms of Reference and Rules of Procedure of the Intergovernmental Group on Hard Fibres*, which will be provided to the Group, delegates are invited to discuss how the Secretariat's mandate can be fulfilled more effectively, especially the work it undertakes in support of the Group.

IV. OTHER MATTERS

A. DATE AND PLACE OF THE NEXT SESSIONS OF THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL GROUPS ON HARD FIBRES AND ON JUTE, KENAF AND ALLIED FIBRES

B. OTHER BUSINESS

PROVISIONAL TIMETABLE

Tuesday, 20 October 2009

09.00 hours	Opening of the Consultation on Natural Fibres
16.30 hours	Opening of the Sixteenth Session of the IGG on Hard Fibres Sub-Group of Sisal and Henequen Producing Countries

Wednesday, 21 October 2009

09.00 hours	Adoption of the Report of the Sub-Group of Sisal and Henequen Producing Countries
10.00 hours	Consultation on Natural Fibres (<i>continued</i>)
14.30 hours	Opening of the Joint Meeting of the Thirty-fifth Session of the Intergovernmental Group on Hard Fibres and the Thirty-seventh Session of the Intergovernmental Group on Jute, Kenaf and Allied Fibres

Thursday, 22 October 2009

10.00 hours	Joint Meeting of the Thirty-fifth Session of the Intergovernmental Group on Hard Fibres and the Thirty-seventh Session of the Intergovernmental Group on Jute, Kenaf and Allied Fibres (<i>continued</i>)
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