



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

Продовольственная и
сельскохозяйственная организация
Объединенных Наций

Organización de las
Naciones Unidas para la
Alimentación y la Agricultura

منظمة
الغذية والزراعة
للأمم المتحدة

E

COUNCIL

Hundred and Fifty-fifth Session

Rome, 5-9 December 2016

Policy on Proclamation and Implementation of International Years

Background

1. The Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) has recognized that the celebration of International Years can further international co-operation and understanding.¹ In the recent past, FAO has played a key role in implementing, facilitating or supporting the following International Years:

- 2002 Mountains;
- 2004 Rice;
- 2008 Potato;
- 2009 Natural Fibres;
- 2011 Forests;
- 2013 Quinoa;
- 2014 Family Farming;
- 2015 Soils;
- 2016 Pulses.

2. While International Years are by definition time-bound, they are expected to catalyze longer-term forms of information exchange, e.g. through partnerships and networking arrangements as well as through longer-term programmes and projects, including sustained donor support.

3. In December 2006 the UNGA requested the Secretary-General to draw the attention of the Specialized Agencies and organizations of the UN system to the guidelines for International Years published in December 1980. The Guidelines set out criteria and procedures for the proclamation of International Years, which UN system bodies are advised to take into account when reviewing proposals for International Years. (see *Appendices A and B*)

4. In November 2007 the 34th Session of the FAO Conference noted “*an apparent increase in the frequency with which International Years are proclaimed, and ... urged that careful consideration in conjunction with other UN Agencies be given to the issue of funding well in advance and the rationale of the designation of any future Years.*” (C 2007/REP, paragraph 81).

5. In June 2012 the 144th Session of the Council approved the “FAO Policy on Proclamation and Implementation of International Years” (see *Appendix C*).

¹ See ECOSOC Resolution 1980/67 set out in Appendix A.



Process

6. International Years are proclaimed by a resolution of the UN General Assembly, while proposals may originate from UN bodies. In the case of FAO, further to endorsement of a resolution calling for an International Year by the Conference, the Director-General writes to the Secretary-General of the United Nations requesting that the proposal be submitted to the General Assembly, which may decide to bring draft resolutions to the attention of ECOSOC.
7. Irrespective of the origin of proposals, UNGA resolutions on International Years usually specify the responsibilities assigned to the concerned UN bodies. Hence, FAO may be invited to play a lead role in implementation e.g. a lead role in implementation for the International Year of Mountains, a facilitation role for the International Years of Rice, Potato, and Natural Fibres or a support role in the case of the International Year of Forests.
8. In response to any UNGA Resolution on an International Year, FAO plays its due role during the course of the year, in collaboration with the other actors involved: governments, regional and international organizations, civil society organizations, and the private sector.
9. When the proposal to call for an International Year originates within FAO e.g. at the initiative of a Member or group of Members, or if emerging from a FAO Governing Body, it is usually reviewed by the relevant Technical Committee and by the Council.

Implementation of International Years

10. A lead unit with expertise in the subject matter of an International Year generally acts as focal point within the Organization, to coordinate for instance the preparation of communication materials and the scheduling of events at headquarters, and at the regional and country level. The workload involved would depend on whether FAO has a lead, facilitation or support role.
11. Groups comprising representatives of stakeholders (governments, organizations, technical associations, private sector, and civil society) are normally set up to catalyze decentralized programmes. Thus, national committees are often established to coordinate International Year activities at country level.
12. FAO involvement in the implementation of an International Year entails costs that are normally additional to those of planned activities under the Regular Programme. Hence, extra-budgetary resources are required and Trust Funds are set up to gather them.

Appendix A

Resolution 1980/67. International Years and anniversaries

The Economic and Social Council,

Recognizing the contribution that the celebration of international years can make to the furtherance of international co-operation and understanding,

Mindful of the need to consider carefully proposals for the designation of international years and anniversaries,

Recalling its resolution 1368 (XLV) of 2 August 1968, in which it expressed the hope that new proposals for the designation of international years and anniversaries would be avoided except on the most important occasions,

Recalling also its resolution 1800 (LV) of 7 August 1973 and General Assembly resolution 3170 (XXVIII) of 17 December 1973,

Taking note with appreciation of the report of the Secretary-General on international years and anniversaries,⁷³ submitted pursuant to Council decision 1979/64 of 3 August 1979, and of the revised guide-lines for future international years contained in paragraph 29 of the addendum to that report,

1. *Adopts* the guide-lines contained in the annex to the present resolution as its criteria and procedures with regard to future proposals for international years;
2. *Submits* those criteria and procedures to the General Assembly for consideration at its thirty-fifth session;
3. *Invites* the respective legislative organs of the specialized agencies and organizations of the United Nations system to adopt those criteria and procedures;
4. *Also invites* States Members of the United Nations to take those criteria and procedures into account in considering proposals for international years.

*45th plenary meeting
25 July 1980*

⁷³ E/1980/64 and Add.1.

ANNEX

Guide-lines for future international years

I. Criteria for the proclamation of international years

1. The proposed subject of the year should be consistent with the purposes and principles of the United Nations, as stated in the Charter of the United Nations.
2. The subject should be of priority concern in the political, social, economic, cultural, humanitarian or human rights fields.
3. The subject should be of concern to all or to the majority of countries, regardless of their economic and social systems, and should contribute to the development of international co-operation in solving global problems, with special attention to problems affecting developing countries.
4. The desirability of proclaiming international years and the selection of their themes should in general be determined from the point of view of their possible contribution to solving existing international problems, thus contributing to the strengthening of universal peace.
5. The subject should be one involving action at the international and national levels.
6. The subject should be one for which there is a reasonable expectation that an international year would generate significant follow-up at both the national and the international level in the form of new activities or the strengthening of existing ones.
7. Every effort should be made to ensure that there is an interval of at least two years between international years and a longer interval between years designated for similar subjects.
8. Years should be designated to focus on one subject or on closely related subjects.
9. International years should be proclaimed only when celebrations of shorter duration, such as a month, a week or a day, will not suffice.
10. When a world conference on a particular subject has been or is being separately convened, or when a subject is already of wide international concern and effective organizations and programmes exist to further its ends, an international year should not normally be proclaimed.

II. Procedures preceding the proclamation of international years

11. A final decision on a proposal for an international year should be taken by the General Assembly, not earlier than one full year after the introduction of the proposal, thus allowing the views of all Member States to be taken into account and allowing the competent organs to make a thorough assessment of the proposal in the light of its practical desirability and the probability of real results.
12. Proposals for international years made under the auspices of organizations within the United Nations system should, before the proclamation of the years, be brought to the attention of the Economic and Social Council, to enable the Council, in so far as the proposals fall within its competence, to advise on the timing of the proposed years and to evaluate their purpose in the light of the present guide-lines.
13. A year should not be proclaimed before the basic arrangements necessary for its financing have been made and such financing should in principle be based on voluntary contributions.
14. A year should not be proclaimed before the basic arrangements necessary for its organization have been made.

III. *Procedures for organizing the celebration of international years*

15. The basic objectives of each year should be clearly defined.
16. In general, there should be a period of two years between the proclamation of an international year and the beginning of that year.
17. Years having economic or social themes should be primarily directed towards promoting international development efforts in practical ways.
18. Measures and activities to be carried out at the international level should complement and support measures and activities at the national level.
19. There should ordinarily be national committees or other mechanisms for preparing for, conducting and following up the international year at the national level.
20. There should be effective co-ordination of the activities of all United Nations organizations and bodies concerned, so as to avoid any duplication of activities.
21. The proclamation of international years and activities connected with them should not lead to a proliferation of posts in the United Nations Secretariat or in the secretariats of other international organizations; furthermore, expenditures should normally be met from existing resources in the regular budget.
22. As a rule, special secretariats established for the celebration of international years should be dissolved immediately upon the conclusion of those years.

IV. *Procedures for the evaluation of international years*

23. Each international year should have objectives likely to lead to identifiable and practical results.
24. Procedures for evaluation should be established during the preparatory process and should form part of the implementation and follow-up of each international year.
25. Evaluation should, *inter alia*, assess the activities generated during the year and continuing after the year ends, as well as modifications in ongoing activities attributable to the year, with a view to integrating those activities, if necessary, in regular programmes.
26. Evaluation after the year should be based on reporting arrangements designed especially for the subject of the international year; it should facilitate the follow-up process and it should provide guidance for future international years.
27. Evaluation should be carried out within the budgetary resources provided, and the results of such evaluation should be submitted to the existing appropriate intergovernmental bodies for consideration.

Appendix B**Resolution Adopted by the General Assembly**
*[on the report of the Second Committee (A/61/432)]***61/185. Proclamation of international years**

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 53/199 of 15 December 1998 on the proclamation of international years and Economic and Social Council resolution 1980/67 of 25 July 1980 on international years and anniversaries and the guidelines contained in the annex thereto, adopted by the General Assembly in its decision 35/424 of 5 December 1980,

1. *Requests* the Secretary-General to draw the attention of the specialized agencies and organizations of the United Nations system to the guidelines for future international years contained in the annex to Economic and Social Council resolution 1980/67, and to make those guidelines available;
2. *Stresses* the need to take into account and apply the criteria and procedures contained in the guidelines in considering future proposals for international years.

83rd plenary meeting
20 December 2006

Appendix C

Extract from the Report of the 144th Session of Council (11-15 June 2012)

40. The Council approved the draft Policy on the Proclamation and Celebration of International Years as proposed in document CL 144/13, “*FAO Policy on Proclamation and Implementation of International Years*”, and reproduced [*below*].

FAO Policy on Proclamation and Implementation of International Years*Criteria for selection of themes*

- 1) A subject proposed for an International Year should be consistent with the purposes and principles listed in the main constitutional instruments of concerned UN system entities (i.e. the United Nations Charter, the FAO Constitution, etc).
- 2) The International Year should address a priority concern to all, or the majority of countries, and should contribute to the development of international cooperation in solving global problems, in particular those affecting developing countries.
- 3) The International Year, if endorsed, should involve concrete action at the international and national levels and should be expected to generate significant follow-up at both levels in the form of new activities or the strengthening of existing ones.
- 4) There should be an interval of at least two years between two International Years, and a longer interval between years concerning similar subjects. The Conference will not call for the proclamation of more than one International Year at a time.
- 5) The proclamation of an International Year should be considered only when celebrations of shorter duration (a month, week or day) would not suffice.
- 6) An International Year should not be proclaimed when a World Conference has been convened separately on the same subject, or when a subject is already of wide international concern and effective programmes exist to further its ends.

Procedures to be followed and other requisites

- 1) Adequate time should be allowed for full consultations, including the fact that a final decision on a proposal is taken by the United Nations General Assembly not earlier than one full year after the introduction of the proposal in order to take into account the views expressed by Members, and to allow a thorough assessment of the proposal by the competent organs.
- 2) In general, there should be a period of two years between the proclamation and the beginning of an International Year.
- 3) An International Year will not be proclaimed unless full financing (which in principle should be based on voluntary contributions) and all organizational arrangements are confirmed.
- 4) There should be effective coordination of the activities of United Nations organizations and bodies concerned so as to build on inherent synergies and avoid duplication.
- 5) Each International Year should have objectives that are likely to lead to identifiable and practical results.
- 6) Arrangements for evaluation should be established in the preparatory phase and form part of the implementation of, and follow-up, to each International Year.