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Food and Agriculture
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Продовольственная и
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Organización de las
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منظمة
الغذية والزراعة
للأمم المتحدة

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CONFERENCE

Forty First Session

Rome, 22-29 June 2019

Report of the Second Meeting of the General Committee

Voting Rights

1. Article III.4 of the Constitution states: “A Member Nation which is in arrears in the payment of its financial contribution to the Organization shall have no vote in the Conference if the amount of its arrears equals or exceeds the amount of the contributions due from it for the two preceding calendar years. The Conference may, nevertheless, permit such a Member Nation to vote if it is satisfied that the failure to pay is due to conditions beyond the control of the Member Nation”.
2. The Committee noted that ten Member Nations listed in the Annex to this Report have not paid a sufficient amount of their assessed contributions to retain their vote in the Conference
3. Ten Member Nations have requested special consideration under Article III.4 of the Constitution and permission to vote:
 - Iran (Islamic Republic of) - letter dated 3 April 2019 referring respectively to unilateral financial sanctions and partial payments of its debt in local currency to the FAO Representation in Teheran (GC 2019/INF/1);
 - Venezuela – letter received 5 June 2019 citing imposition of economic sanctions (GC 2019/INF/2 and GC/INF/2 Addendum);
 - Turkmenistan – letter received 13 June 2019 informing of intention to prepare proposals to settle its arrears (GC 2019/INF/3);
 - Somalia – letter received 17 June 2019 citing debt accumulated during collapse of central government institutions, fragile government and unstable situation in the country due to terrorism (GC 2019/INF/4);
 - Liberia – letter received 18 June 2019 citing serious economic constraints due to various factors including the rapid fall in prices of its major export commodities such as rubber and iron ore (GC 2019/INF/5);
 - Chad – letter received 18 June 2019 citing various economic factors, which are weighing on its fiscal situation, including its multiple security commitments in Lake Chad and Mali with the G5 Sahel and the decline in oil barrels in recent years (GC 2019/INF/6);
 - Sao Tome and Principe – letter received 18 June 2019 citing serious constraints on economic situation due to high level of debt, restrictions imposed by IMF and low level of internal revenues (GC 2019/INF/8);
 - Central African Republic – letter received 18 June 2019 citing economic constraints due to the economic crisis from 2012 to 2015, and economic disruption due to hostilities of armed groups occupying the country (GC 2019/INF/9).

- Papua New Guinea - letter received 22 June 2019 citing the impact on the economy of the earthquake in 2018 as well as various other factors affecting the economic situation of the country (GC 2019/INF/10)
- Comoros – letter received 23 June 2019 citing the very serious impact of a cyclone on the country (GC 2019/INF/11).

4. Four of the Member Nations currently with voting rights problems, Comoros, Liberia, Sao Tome and Principe and Papua New Guinea propose to repay their arrears according to an instalment plan.

5. After using these criteria for a case-by-case evaluation of the ten petitions and the discussions related to them, the General Committee recommends that voting rights should be restored to the ten Member Nations: Central African Republic, Chad, Comoros, Iran (Islamic Republic), Liberia, Papua New Guinea, Sao Tome and Principe, Somalia, Turkmenistan, Venezuela. This is without prejudice to future discussion on criteria that may be reviewed by the governing bodies. The General Committee recommended that the relevant governing bodies examine the possibility that the issue of restoration of voting rights of countries in arrears be considered before the opening of the Conference session.

Appendix A List of Member Nations with potential voting rights problems as of 22 June 2019

Appendix A

Member Nations with Potential Voting Rights Problems at 22 June 2019

	Member Nation	Amount in Arrears USD	Amount in Arrears Euro	Minimum Payment required to Ensure Vote in USD
1.	Central African Republic	\$ 8,694.78	€ 5,723.78	\$ 5,601.93
2.	Chad	\$ 40,912.37	€ 20,908.51	\$ 31,563.69
3.	Comoros	\$ 240,621.49	-	\$ 230,546.55
4.	Iran (Islamic Republic of)	\$ 3,318,345.97	€ 1,574,795.40	\$ 1,076,874.33
5.	Liberia	\$ 8,167.52	€ 5,723.78	\$ 5,074.67
6.	Papua New Guinea	\$ 10,827.98	€ 37,790.69	\$ 17,817.88
7.	Sao Tome and Principe	\$ 225,392.21	€ 28,267.33	\$ 251,639.92
8.	Somalia	\$ 374,928.73	€ 28,267.32	\$ 401,176.43
9.	Turkmenistan	\$ 897,851.41	€ 369,086.29	\$ 1,147,744.98
10.	Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)	\$ 4,969,440.19	€ 3,299,260.96	\$ 2,956,533.73