



منظمة الأغذية
والزراعة
للأمم المتحدة

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

Organización
de las
Naciones
Unidas
para la
Agricultura
y la
Alimentación

CONFERENCE

Thirty-fourth Session

Rome, 17 - 24 November 2007

Streamlining of the Membership Rules of the Open Committees of the FAO Council (Draft Resolution)

(Extract from the Report of the Hundred and Thirty-first Council Session)

(November 2006)

STREAMLINING OF THE MEMBERSHIP RULES OF THE OPEN COMMITTEES OF THE FAO COUNCIL¹

96. The Council concurred with the view of the CCLM that the current biennial requirement of notification of Membership of the Open Committees of the FAO Council resulted in cumbersome and time-consuming administrative processes, without offering added value to the substantive work of the Committees. The Council welcomed the proposal that the General Rules of the Organization be amended to the effect that Members would submit notifications to the Director-General of their intention to participate in the work of one or more "Open Committee(s)" of the Council, and that their Membership of a specified Committee would remain valid as long as the concerned Member did not fail to attend two consecutive sessions of the Committee or notify its intention to withdraw.

97. Therefore, the Council agreed to recommend to the Conference, for adoption at its Thirty-fourth Session in November 2007, the following draft Conference Resolution approving amendments to the relevant Rules of the General Rules of the Organization.

¹ CL 131/5; CL 131/PV/8; CL 131/PV/11

Draft Resolution for the Conference

Amendment to Rule XXIX.2, Rule XXX.2, Rule XXXI.2, Rule XXXII.2, and Rule XXXIII.2 of the General Rules of the Organization

THE CONFERENCE,

Having taken note of the views of the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters, at its Eightieth Session (Rome, 2-3 October 2006), on the proposed amendments to Rule XXIX.2 (Members of the Committee on Commodity Problems), Rule XXX.2 (Members of the Committee on Fisheries), Rule XXXI.2 (Members of the Committee on Forestry), Rule XXXII.2 (Members of the Committee on Agriculture), and Rule XXXIII.2 (Members of the Committee on World Food Security) of the General Rules of the Organization;

Considering that the Council, at its Hundred and Thirty-first Session (Rome, 20-25 November 2006), agreed to transmit to the Conference, for approval, the proposed amendments to the above mentioned Rules XXIX.2, XXX.2, XXXI.2, XXXII.2, and XXXIII.2 of the General Rules of the Organization;

Having noted that these Rules that require biennial notification of Membership to the “Open Committees” of the Council resulted in cumbersome and time-consuming administrative processes, without offering any added value to the substantive work of such Committees, and that the proposed amendment to the above Rules dealing with Membership to these Committees would allow streamlining administrative procedures with respect to participation of Members;

Having further noted that there has to be formal recognition of the effective presence of Members at the meetings of the above Committees to avoid the validity of the deliberations being questioned, but that it is equally evident that the present system based on expiry of Membership at the end of each biennium places an administrative burden on Permanent Representatives, Government Offices and the Secretariat, and that reducing this burden would significantly contribute to efficiency savings in governance;

Recalling that the principle of loss of Membership after failure to attend two consecutive sessions of one of the Governing Bodies of the Organization is already contained in Rule XXII.7 of the General Rules of the Organization governing Membership of the FAO Council, which provides that “A Member of the Council shall be considered to have resigned if ... it has not been represented at two consecutive sessions of the Council”;

Decides:¹

to amend Rule XXIX.2, Rule XXX. 2, Rule XXXI.2, Rule XXXII.2, and Rule XXXIII.2 of the General Rules of the Organization as follows:

“2. The notification... may be made at any time and Membership acquired on the basis thereof shall be ~~for a biennium~~ considered valid unless the Member has not been represented at two consecutive sessions of the Committee, or has notified its withdrawal from it. The Director-General shall circulate, at the beginning of each session of the Committee, a document listing the Members of the Committee.”

(Adopted on ... November 2007)

¹ Words struck out to be deleted, words underlined to be added.