



CONFERENCE

Thirty-ninth Session

Rome, 6-13 June 2015

Report of the Third Meeting of the General Committee

I. Voting Rights

1. At its first meeting (Saturday, 6 June 2015), the General Committee noted that eleven Member Nations had not paid sufficient amounts of their assessed contributions to retain their vote in the Conference. Since then the following changes outlined in paragraphs 2 to 6 have taken place.
2. Two Member Nation (Solomon Islands and South Sudan) made a payment which was sufficient for them to regain their right to vote
3. Two Member Nations (Antigua and Barbuda; Dominica) have not requested special consideration and have not registered at the Conference.
4. Two Member Nations attending the Session (Grenada and Turkmenistan) have not requested restoration of voting rights nor advised that payment was in process. The Secretariat had actively followed up with the delegations of these countries, but to date no request for restoration of voting rights has been received from Grenada nor Turkmenistan. The Committee noted that Grenada and Turkmenistan had effectively lost its voting rights.
5. Five Member Nations have requested special consideration under Article III.4 of the Constitution and request permission to vote:
 - Ukraine – letter of 20 May citing difficult economic circumstances caused by foreign military action
 - Somalia – letter dated 30 May citing difficult economic circumstances
 - Tajikistan – letter of 29 May citing a difficult economic situation causing shortfalls in its national budget
 - Comoros – letter dated 27 May citing exceptional difficult circumstances
 - Sao Tome and Principe – letter of 8 June citing political instability
6. Two of the Member Nations currently with voting rights problems, Sao Tome and Principe, and Tajikistan, propose to repay their arrears according to instalment plans. Subsequent to the submission by Tajikistan of their proposal to pay their arrears according to an instalment plan, Tajikistan made a payment of USD 12,582 as partial settlement of arrears. The instalment plan approved for Tajikistan has consequently been adjusted to reflect the arrears of contributions after taking into account this payment. The Committee therefore recommends that the Conference restore their voting rights (see resolution in *Appendix B* and *Appendix C*).



7. After using these criteria for a case-by-case evaluation of the five petitions, the General Committee recommends that voting rights should be restored to five Member Nations, Sao Tome and Principe, Tajikistan, which had submitted instalment plans, and Comoros, Somalia and Ukraine, which had requested special consideration under Article III.4 of the Constitution. Furthermore, the General Committee recommends that the issue of Member Nations in arrears to the extent of losing their voting rights be referred to the Spring session of the Finance Committee in Conference years

8. Furthermore, the General Committee recalled that the 36th Session of the Conference in 2009 had endorsed an instalment plan for Georgia to liquidate part of its arrears of contributions totalling USD 1,217,323.08 through the payment of six annual instalments of US 121,732.31 each from 2010 to 2015 with the remaining balance of the arrears being subject to reconsideration and rescheduling in 2015 (Resolution 1/2009).

9. The General Committee was informed that the Government of Georgia had made annual payments of the instalments referred to above, together with the payment of each current contribution in the calendar year of assessment, fulfilling the financial obligations of Georgia to the Organization. Georgia has requested by its letter dated 15 April 2015 to repay the remaining balance of arrears of USD 486,929.22 through the payment of four annual instalments of USD 121,732.31 each from 2016 to 2019. The Committee recommends that the Conference adopt a draft Resolution endorsing the instalment plan submitted by Georgia (*Appendix D*).

Appendix A List of Member Nations with potential voting rights problems as of 11 June 2015.

II. Appointment of the Independent Chairperson of the Council

10. The General Committee recommends that the Conference adopt the following resolution

Resolution .../2015

Appointment of the Independent Chairperson of the Council

THE CONFERENCE,

Taking into account Rule XXIII of the General Rules of the Organization regarding the Independent Chairperson of the Council and Resolution 9/2009 regarding the Independent Chairperson of the Council¹;

Having regard to the need to safeguard the independence and accountability of the role of the Independent Chairperson of the Council:

1. **Declares** that _____ is appointed Independent Chairperson of the Council until the Fortieth Session of the Conference (June 2017);
2. **Decides** that the conditions of appointment attached to the office of the Independent Chairperson of the Council will be as follows:
 - a) The Chairperson is required to be present in Rome for all sessions of the Council, the Conference, the Finance Committee and the Programme Committee and will normally be expected to spend at least six to eight months of the year in Rome;
 - b) An annual allowance equivalent to USD 23 831 will be paid to the Chairperson;
 - c) A *per diem* allowance equivalent to the applicable standard daily subsistence allowance (DSA) rate at 140% will be paid to the Chairperson while in Rome and when travelling in the performance of his functions;
 - d) The travel expenses of the Chairperson will be covered by the Organization when he travels in the performance of his functions;
 - e) In the performance of his functions, whether in Rome or while travelling, the Chairperson will be enrolled as a participant in the Basic Medical Insurance Plan (BMIP) and that the

¹ Basic Texts, Volume II, Section E

cost for such medical insurance coverage will be borne by the Organization for a total amount of USD 3,336.48 per annum;

- f) Secretariat services will be made available to the Chairperson to assist him in the performance of his functions;
- g) Interpretation services will be made available to the Chairperson, at his request, depending on the availability of resources;
- h) Office space, equipment and supplies required by the Chairperson in the performance of his functions will be made available to him;
- i) Assistance will be provided to the Chairperson in carrying out the necessary administrative formalities for the acquisition of the documents required for his stay in Rome and for his travels in the performance of his functions.

3. **Decides** that the implementation modalities of this Resolution will be agreed between the Chairperson and FAO.

(Adopted on _June 2015)

Appendix A

Member Nations with Potential Voting Rights Problems at 11 June 2015

	Member Nation	Amount in Arrears USD	Amount in Arrears Euro	Minimum Payment required to Ensure Vote in USD
1.	Antigua and Barbuda	\$ 260,291.98	€ 44,842.91	\$ 297,969.04
2.	Comoros	\$ 134,366.64	€ 3,814.26	\$ 129,293.14
3.	Dominica	\$ 11,841.22	€ 9,897.95	\$ 15,145.96
4.	Grenada	\$ 6,856.80	€ 3,814.26	\$ 1,783.30
5.	Sao Tome and Principe	\$ 214,630.44	€ 20,636.23	\$ 231,345.03
6.	Somalia	\$ 364,166.96	€ 20,636.23	\$ 380,881.55
7.	Tajikistan	\$ 37,618.70	€ 10,349.70	\$ 25,983.36
8.	Turkmenistan	\$ 674,429.50	€ 210,921.46	\$ 726,629.36
9.	Ukraine	\$ 763,504.31	€ 618,829.18	\$ 647,358.04
		\$ 2,467,706.55	€ 943,742.18	\$ 2,456,388.78

Summary Table of Letters from Member Nations with Potential Voting Rights Problems

	Member Nation	Criteria of "Conditions beyond the control of a Member Nation"			Instalment Plan	No Formal Request Received
		Financial Crisis of Limited Foreign Exchange	Political Instability	Wars, Conflicts or International Sanctions		
1	Antigua and Barbuda					X
2	Comoros	X				
3	Dominica					X
4	Grenada					X
5	Sao Tome and Principe		X		X	
6	Somalia	X				
7	Tajikistan	X			X	
8	Turkmenistan					X
9	Ukraine	X		X		

Appendix B**Resolution.../2015****Payment of Contributions – Sao Tome and Principe****THE CONFERENCE,**

Noting that the Government of Sao Tome and Principe had made a proposal that it liquidate its arrears of contributions over a period of 4 years commencing in 2016, in addition to paying each current contribution in the calendar year of assessment.

Decides that:

- 1) Notwithstanding Financial Regulation 5.5 the arrears of contributions of Sao Tome and Principe totalling USD 214,630.44 and EUR 20,636.24 shall be settled through the payment of four annual instalments of USD 53,657.61 and EUR 5,159.06 each from 2016 to 2019.
- 2) The first instalment shall be payable in 1 January 2016.
- 3) The annual payment of the instalments referred to above, together with the payment of each current contribution in the calendar year of assessment and any advances to the Working Capital Fund, shall be considered as fulfilment of the financial obligations of Sao Tome and Principe to the Organization.
- 4) Instalments shall be payable in accordance with Financial Regulation 5.5.
- 5) Default in payment of two instalments shall render this instalment plan null and void.

(Adopted ... June 2015)

Appendix C**Resolution.../2015****Payment of Contributions – Tajikistan****THE CONFERENCE,**

Noting that the Government of Tajikistan had made a proposal that it liquidate its arrears of contributions over a period of 5 years commencing in 2016, in addition to paying each current contribution in the calendar year of assessment.

Decides that:

- 1) Notwithstanding Financial Regulation 5.5 the arrears of contributions of Tajikistan totaling USD 37,618.70 and EUR 10,349.70 shall be settled through the payment of five annual instalments of USD 7,523.74 and EUR 2,069.94 each from 2016 to 2020.
- 2) The first instalment shall be payable in 1 January 2016.
- 3) The annual payment of the instalments referred to above, together with the payment of each current contribution in the calendar year of assessment and any advances to the Working Capital Fund, shall be considered as fulfilment of the financial obligations of Tajikistan to the Organization.
- 4) Instalments shall be payable in accordance with Financial Regulation 5.5.
- 5) Default in payment of two instalments shall render this instalment plan null and void.

(Adopted ... June 2015)

Appendix D**Resolution .../2015
Payment of Contributions – Georgia****THE CONFERENCE,**

Noting that the Government of Georgia had made a proposal that it liquidate its arrears of contributions over a period of four years commencing in 2016 in addition to paying each current contribution in the calendar year of assessment.

Decides that:

- 1) Notwithstanding Financial Regulation 5.5 the arrears of contributions of Georgia totalling USD 486,929.22 shall be settled through the payment of four annual instalments of USD 121,732.31 each from 2016 to 2019.
- 2) The first instalment shall be payable on 1 January 2016.
- 3) The annual payment of the instalments referred to above, together with the payment of each current contribution in the calendar year of assessment and any advances to the Working Capital Fund, shall be considered as fulfilment of the financial obligations of Georgia to the Organization.
- 4) Instalments shall be payable in accordance with Financial Regulation 5.5.
- 5) Default in payment of two instalments shall render this instalment plan null and void.

(Adopted ... June 2015)