



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

Twenty-eighth Session

Rome, 20 October - 2 November 1995

FIRST REPORT OF THE GENERAL COMMITTEE

CONTENTS

	Paragraphs
AGENDA FOR THE SESSION	1-5
ESTABLISHMENT OF COMMISSIONS AND TENTATIVE TIMETABLE OF THE SESSION	6-9
APPOINTMENT OF THE CHAIRMEN AND VICE CHAIRMEN OF THE THREE COMMISSIONS	10-11
RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE	12-14
ADMISSION OF OBSERVERS FROM APPLICANTS FOR MEMBERSHIP	15
ADMISSION OF OBSERVERS FROM BELARUS, RUSSIAN FEDERATION AND UKRAINE	16
ADMISSION OF NEW MEMBER NATIONS	17-19
CONTRIBUTIONS OF NEW MEMBER NATIONS	20-21
APPOINTMENT OF THE INDEPENDENT CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL	22-23
ELECTION OF MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL	24-27
RIGHT TO VOTE	28-31

RIGHT OF REPLY	32
VERBATIM RECORDS	33-37
STATEMENTS BY HEADS OF DELEGATIONS	38
ADMISSION OF OBSERVERS FROM INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND INTERNATIONAL NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS	39-40
STATEMENTS IN PLENARY MEETINGS OF THE CONFERENCE BY INTERNATIONAL NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS HAVING CONSULTATIVE STATUS	41-42
INFORMAL MEETING OF OBSERVERS FROM NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS	43
ATTENDANCE BY LIBERATION MOVEMENTS	44
CONCLUSION	45

Agenda for the Session¹

1. The General Committee examined the Provisional Conference Agenda set forth in document C 95/1.
2. The Committee was informed that the Government of Algeria had requested in the name of the Maghreb countries and Chad, in accordance with Rule II-5 of the General Rules of the Organization, that an additional item entitled "Desert Locust Situation and Actions Required" be added to the Provisional Agenda, and that this request had been circulated to all Members of the Organization on 25 September 1995.
3. The Committee was also informed that the Director-General had submitted document C 95/24 "Draft Revised Agreement between OAU and FAO" including a Draft Resolution for discussion under item 18 "Other Constitutional and Legal Matters".
4. The Committee recommends that the Conference adopt the Provisional Agenda with the additional item "Desert Locust Situation and Actions Required" inserted in Part I as a new item after item 13, and that document C 95/24 be examined under item 18 "Other Constitutional and Legal Matters".
5. Having noted that at the request of the Hundred and Eighth Council Session, the Provisional Agenda printed in document C 95/1 was followed by a list of subjects on which information documents were tabled, the Committee also recommends that delegates wishing to comment on these documents be given an opportunity to do so under item 27: Any Other Matters, and that in the light of the new working methods of the Conference consideration be also given to deciding on the need for continuing to have progress and other reports tabled at future Conference Sessions.

Establishment of Commissions and Tentative Timetable of the Session²

6. At its Hundred and Eighth Session the Council formulated proposals concerning the organization and timetable for the Twenty-eighth Session of the Conference - proposals which were communicated to all Member Nations in document C 95/12. The Committee recommends that the Conference establish three Commissions to consider and report on Parts I, II and III of the Agenda.
7. The attention of the Conference is called to the fact that, in order to accommodate requests for speaking time by Ministers who will be in Rome only during the first days of the Conference, it may be necessary to prolong the General Discussion during those days to 13.00 hours in the morning and 18.30 hours in the afternoon. However, the morning and the afternoon meetings must start on time to obtain any benefit from prolonging the meetings. It is hoped that in this way all the speakers wishing to speak on Saturday 21, Monday 23 and Tuesday 24 October will be able to do so. Should this prove impossible, an additional meeting could be planned for one evening. The duration of each intervention should not exceed 10 minutes.
8. With respect to the timetable, the Committee was informed that the additional item on the desert locust situation might be added to the Timetable of Commission I at its 8th meeting on the afternoon of Thursday 26 October and that the sub-item "Draft Revised Agreement between OAU and FAO" be considered by Commission III on Friday 27 October. The Committee also noted that since His Holiness Pope John Paul II had graciously offered to grant a Papal Audience on Monday 23 October to all delegates and observers attending the Conference Session to mark the 50th Anniversary of FAO, the meetings timetabled for the morning of 23 October would have to end earlier to facilitate those delegation members going to the Vatican City.

¹ C 95/1

² C 95/12

9. The Committee recommends that the Conference approve the Tentative Timetable proposed by the Council with the variations indicated in paras 7 and 8 above. It is also understood that this Timetable may be subject to modifications in the light of progress made in the Plenary and in the Commissions.

Appointment of the Chairmen and Vice Chairmen of the Three Commissions³

10. In accordance with Rules VII-I and XXIV-5(b) of the General Rules of the Organization (GRO) and as indicated in document C 95/LIM/1, the Council at its Hundred and Ninth Session proposed the following candidates for chairmanship of the Commissions:

- Commission I: Thomas YANGA (Cameroon)
- Commission II: Jacques LAUREAU (France)
- Commission III: Thomas FORBORD (USA)

The Committee recommends that the Conference adopt the Council's proposal.

11. In accordance with Rule X-2(c) GRO the Committee recommends that the Vice-Chairmanship of the Commissions be distributed as follows:

- Commission I: Mohamed HARBY (Sudan)
Jan BIELAWSKI (Poland)
- Commission II: Shahid RASHID (Pakistan)
Kenji SHIMIZU (Japan)
- Commission III: Carlos DI MOTTOLA (Costa Rica)
Ernst ZIMMERL (Austria)

Resolutions Committee

12. The Council at its Hundred and Eighth Session recommended the establishment of a Resolutions Committee of the Conference consisting of seven members, one from each FAO region. Its terms of reference are described in document C 95/12, Appendix C, as are the criteria which should govern the formulation of resolutions.

13. The Committee recommends that the Conference adopt the Council's proposal, and that the following Member Nations, identified by the region to which they belong, sit on the Resolutions Committee.

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------------|
| - Africa | MOROCCO |
| - Asia | MALAYSIA |
| - Europe | MALTA |
| - Latin America and the Caribbean | CHILE |
| - Near East | KUWAIT |
| - North America | UNITED STATES OF AMERICA |
| - Southwest Pacific | NEW ZEALAND |

Delegations of the countries concerned are requested to communicate to the Chairman of the Conference, as early as possible, the name of their representatives on the Resolutions Committee.

³ C 95/LIM/1

14. The Committee also recommends that the Resolutions Committee be chaired by Francis Mifsud (Malta), the Representative of the Europe Region.

Admission of Observers from Applicants for Membership⁴

15. As is customary, the Director-General has provisionally invited the applicants for membership to be represented by observers until a decision has been taken on their application. The Conference will no doubt wish to confirm the invitations in respect of Azerbaijan, Georgia, Moldova, Tajikistan and Turkmenistan.

Admission of Observers from Belarus, Russian Federation and Ukraine

16. The Director-General has received from Belarus, Russian Federation and Ukraine letters expressing the interest of the Governments in attending the Twenty-eighth Session of the FAO Conference. Invitations to attend the Conference as observers were sent to the Governments concerned, pointing out, however, that they were subject to confirmation by the Conference, in accordance with the Principles Relating to the Granting of Observer Status to Nations (Basic Texts, Section L, para. B-1) which specify that Non-Member States of FAO may on request be invited "by the Conference... to be represented by an observer at a session of the Conference". The Committee recommends that the Conference confirm the invitations.

Admission of New Member Nations⁵

17. In conformity with the provisions of Rule XIX of the General Rules of the Organization, the following Applications for Membership had been received by the deadline of 20 September 1995:

- Azerbaijan
- Georgia
- Moldova
- Tajikistan
- Turkmenistan

18. Under Article II-2 of the Constitution, the Conference decides on the admission of additional Member Nations by a two-thirds majority of the votes cast provided that a majority of the Member Nations of the Organization is present. "Votes cast" means votes for and against, and does not include abstentions or defective ballots (Rule XII-4(a) GRO). Membership becomes effective on the date upon which the Conference approves the application.

19. The Committee recommends that the Conference hold the vote for the admission of Azerbaijan, Georgia, Moldova, Tajikistan and Turkmenistan at the plenary meeting on the afternoon of Friday 20 October. The result of the vote will be announced later in the same meeting, followed by the ceremony for installing the new Members. As is customary, the Chairman will welcome the new Members and each of them may make a brief statement.

Contributions of New Member Nations

20. In accordance with Regulation 5.8 of the Financial Regulations, the Conference determines the amount of the contribution to be paid by newly admitted Member Nations, beginning with the quarter in which the application is approved.

⁴ C 95/10, C 95/10-Sup.1.

⁵ C 95/15

21. According to the established principles and customs, the minimum contribution due from these new members for the last quarter of 1995 and the advance to be made to the Working Capital Fund are provisionally:

Nation	Contribution Last Quarter (\$)	Working Capital Fund Advance (\$)
Azerbaijan	100,880	32,500
Georgia	100,880	32,500
Moldova	69,840	22,500
Tajikistan	15,520	5,000
Turkmenistan	23,280	7,500

Appointment of the Independent Chairman of the Council⁶

22. By the date determined by the Council, i.e. 18 August 1995, one nomination had been received for the office of Independent Chairman of the Council, that of José Ramón Lopez Portillo (Mexico). This nomination was notified to all Member Nations by Circular Letter G/CF-4/3 of 25 August 1995.

23. Under the terms of Rule XXIII-1(b) GRO, the General Committee determines and announces the date of the election. The Committee recommends that a secret ballot for this appointment take place in the afternoon of Friday 27 October 1995.

Election of Members of the Council⁷

24. Rule XXII-10(a) GRO provides that the Conference, on the recommendation of the General Committee, shall, not later than the end of the third day of the Conference Session, decide the date of election of members of the Council and the date by which nominations must be submitted.

25. The Committee accordingly recommends:

- a) that the election begin on the morning of Friday 27 October; and
- b) that nominations for the Council seats to be filled at the present session be communicated to the Secretary-General of the Conference (B-202) by 12.00 hours on Saturday 21 October at the latest, to permit the General Committee to communicate to the Conference the valid nominations received at least three working days before the date selected for the election in accordance with Rule XXII-10(d) GRO.

26. In this connection, the Conference will note in particular the following provisions of paragraphs 3, 4, 5 and 7 of Rule XXII of the General Rules of the Organization:

"3. In selecting Members of the Council, the Conference shall give due consideration to the desirability of:

- a) including in its membership a balanced geographical representation of nations interested in the production, distribution and consumption of food and agricultural products;
- b) ensuring the participation in the work of the Council of such Member Nations as contribute in a large measure toward the success of the Organization;

⁶ C 95/15

⁷ C 95/11

- c) giving to the greatest possible number of Member Nations an opportunity, by rotation of membership, to serve on the Council."

"4. Member Nations shall be eligible for re-election."

"5. No Member Nation shall be eligible for election to the Council if it is in arrears in payment of its financial contributions to the Organization in an amount equal to or exceeding the contributions due from it for the two preceding calendar years."

"7. A Member of the Council shall be considered to have resigned if it is in arrears in payment of its financial contributions to the Organization in an amount equal to or exceeding the contributions due from it for the two preceding calendar years, or if it has not been represented at two consecutive sessions of the Council."

27. All relevant information concerning the seats for which nominations must be submitted, and forms for submitting nominations, will be found in document C 95/11.

Right to Vote

28. The General Committee notes that the following Member Nations have not paid sufficient amounts of their assessed contributions to retain their vote in the Conference.

29. 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".

30. The Committee noted the recommendations of the Council at its Hundred and Seventh Session that the approach to the restoration of voting rights for Members in arrears envisaged in Article III.4 of the Constitution, should be more restrictive than that taken in previous sessions of the Conference. The Committee will take up this matter at a subsequent meeting of the General Committee, in connection with its consideration of applications for the restoration of voting rights.

31. In the meantime, however, the Committee recommends to the Conference, in accordance with past practice, that all Member Nations in attendance be authorized to vote on Friday 20 October on Item 23 of the Agenda (Applications for Membership in the Organization) on the understanding that contacts with them shall be continued with a view to regularizing their arrears situation.

**MEMBER NATIONS WITH POTENTIAL
VOTING RIGHTS PROBLEMS**
**SITUATION AS AT:
18 OCTOBER 1995**

Member Nations	Amounts in Arrears	Years Applicable	Contributions Due for Two Preceding Years	Minimum Payment Required to Ensure Vote
	\$		\$	\$
Member Nations in Arrears				
Afghanistan	94 396.00	1992-94	62 718.00	31 679.00
Bolivia	123 078.29	1990-94	62 718.00	60 361.29
Burundi	117 287.63	1990-94	62 718.00	54 570.63
Cambodia	308 960.00	1982-94	62 718.00	246 243.00
Chad	196 938.44	1990-94	62 718.00	134 221.44
Comoros	145 314.50	1990-94	62 718.00	82 597.50
Cook Islands	62 718.00	1993-94	62 718.00	1.00
Djibouti	102 607.00	1992-94	62 718.00	39 890.00
Dominican Republic	730 480.00	1986-94	188 792.00	541 689.00
Gabon	491 695.91	1990-94	188 792.00	302 904.91
Gambia	121 845.22	1991-94	62 718.00	59 128.22
Grenada	122 235.00	1990-94	62 718.00	59 518.00
Guatemala	244 460.55	1991-94	125 436.00	119 025.55
Guinea	62 718.00	1993-94	62 718.00	1.00
Guinea-Bissau	94 396.00	1992-94	62 718.00	31 679.00
Iraq	2 132 104.00	1990-94	909 092.00	1 223 013.00
Jamaica	99 435.00	1991-94	62 718.00	36 718.00
Liberia	185 653.60	1988-94	62 718.00	122 936.60
Mali	70 599.97	1992-94	62 718.00	7 882.97
Niger	150 076.00	1990-94	62 718.00	87 359.00
Peru	560 565.00	1992-94	439 026.00	121 540.00
Qatar	376 308.00	1993-94	376 308.00	1.00
Rwanda	88 695.51	1992-94	62 718.00	25 978.51
Sao Tome and Principe	122 236.00	1991-94	62 718.00	59 519.00
Seychelles	124 804.54	1990-94	62 718.00	62 087.54
Sierra Leone	174 050.14	1989-94	62 718.00	111 333.14
Solomon Islands	94 396.00	1992-94	62 718.00	31 679.00
Somalia	198 140.00	1988-94	62 718.00	135 423.00
Suriname	178 734.00	1988-94	62 718.00	116 017.00
Togo	98 618.01	1991-94	62 718.00	35 901.16
Yemen	108 330.03	1991-94	62 718.00	45 613.03
Yugoslavia	6 811 144.00	1990-94	2 269 332.00	4 541 813.00
Member Nations with Conference Authorized Instalment Plans				
Antigua and Barbuda	231 194.90	1988-94	62 718.00	168 477.90
Equatorial Guinea	147 662.60	1991-94	62 718.00	84 945.60

Right of Reply

32. At its fourteen previous sessions, the Conference had decided that, if a delegate wished to reply to criticisms of his Government's policy, he should preferably do so on the day on which such criticisms had been voiced after all those wishing to participate in the discussion had had an opportunity to speak. The Committee recommends that these same arrangements be followed at the present session.

Verbatim Records

33. Rule XVIII-1 GRO lays down that verbatim records shall be kept for all Conference plenary and commission meetings. The right of delegates to check the accuracy of the record of their interventions is expressly recognized in Rule XVIII-2 GRO.

34. The accuracy of the records may be maintained by either correcting typing and other errors, or by amending a word or phrase actually used. In practice such corrections or amendments to statements are accepted only from the delegation which made the statement, and should be submitted within 48 hours of circulation of the draft verbatim record concerned.

35. In 1961 a procedure was formally adopted by the Conference whereby speakers who so desire may have their statements inserted in the record without delivering them in Plenary. This procedure is still followed and is recommended in the interests of saving time.

36. While the Committee sees no objection in principle to the insertion of statements in the records when time does not permit them to be delivered, it recognizes the difficulties which might arise if no occasion is given to delegates to exercise the "right of reply" to any criticism of their government's policy made in the inserted statement.

37. The Committee therefore recommends that the Conference continue to permit the insertion of such statements on conditions that:

- a) the Plenary, or the Commission concerned, is informed by its Chairman that a statement not actually delivered, or a substantive addition to a statement that has been delivered, is being inserted in the record;
- b) the text handed over to the Chairman for insertion is in English, French or Spanish, the languages used in the verbatim records;
- c) the provisional verbatim record containing the additional statement is circulated at least three days before the close of the Session; and
- d) delegations attending the Session are able to avail themselves of the right of reply by having an opportunity to make, prior to the close of the Session, a written statement relating to the additional statement.

Statements by Heads of Delegations⁸

38. The Committee recommends that a list of speakers be published daily in the Journal of the Conference, in the order in which they will be called upon by the Chairman, and further recommends that statements be limited to a maximum of 10 minutes.

⁸ C 95/12

Admission of Observers from Intergovernmental and International Non-Governmental Organizations⁹

39. The list of Intergovernmental and International Non-Governmental Organizations which have been invited by the Director-General to be represented in an observer capacity at this session of the Conference is given in document C 95/13. The invitations sent to Intergovernmental Organizations with which FAO does not have a formal agreement and to International Non-Governmental Organizations which do not have consultative status with FAO are extended on a provisional basis and are subject to approval by the Conference.

40. After having reviewed this list, the Committee recommends that the Conference confirm the said provisional invitations.

Statements in Plenary Meetings of the Conference by International Non-Governmental Organizations having Consultative Status

41. The General Committee was apprised of requests from the following International Non-Governmental Organizations in Consultative Status with FAO, to address the Plenary of the Conference:

- International Confederation of Free Trade Unions (ICFTU)
- International Federation of Agricultural Producers (IFAP)

42. Having examined this request, the Committee, in accordance with Rule X-2(g) of the General Rules of the Organization, is now reporting to the Conference, and recommends that the Conference grant speaking time to the above mentioned organizations on the understanding that a maximum time limit of five minutes will be observed and that in no case will such organizations be given priority in speaking over representatives of Member Nations.

Informal Meeting of Observers from Non-Governmental Organizations¹⁰

43. The Council recommended that, as at previous sessions of the Conference, observers from Non-Governmental Organizations be invited to attend an informal meeting, so that their advice and suggestions on the Organization's activities and programmes may be communicated to the Conference. It is suggested that this meeting take place on the morning and afternoon of Saturday 21 October. The Committee recommends that the Conference accept this proposal.

Attendance by Liberation Movements

44. In conformity with the suggestion made by the Council at its Hundred and Eighth Session, the Palestine Liberation Organization has been invited to attend the Conference in an observer capacity. The Committee recommends that the Conference confirm this invitation.

Conclusion

45. Lastly, the Committee recommends that the Conference confirm all the detailed arrangements for the session and that, except for the cases mentioned in paragraph 7 above, the normal working hours for the meetings of both Plenary and Commissions be 09.30 to 12.30 hours, and 14.30 to 17.30 hours. Night meetings may also be convened 30 minutes after the meeting, that is, from 18.00 to 20.00 hours, if required. The Committee also invites all delegations to observe the working hours with the maximum punctuality.

⁹ C 95/13

¹⁰ C 95/12