

REPORT

OF THE COUNCIL OF FAO

Hundred and Twenty-seventh Session
Rome, 22-27 November 2004



COUNCIL
(as from 1 January 2005)

Independent Chairman of the Council: Aziz Mekouar

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United States of America ³

¹ Term of office until the conclusion of the Thirty-third Session of the Conference, November 2005.

² Term of office until 31 December 2006.

³ Term of office until the conclusion of the Thirty-fourth Session of the Conference, November 2007.

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THE COUNCIL ARE UNDERLINED**

INTRODUCTION - PROCEDURE OF THE SESSION

1. The Hundred and Twenty-seventh Session of the Council was held in Rome from 22 to 27 November 2004 under the Chairmanship of Aziz Mekouar, Independent Chairman of the Council.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND TIMETABLE¹

2. The Council noted the Declaration of Competence and Voting Rights presented by the European Community and adopted the Agenda and Timetable for the Session, after having taken into consideration the request made by the G-77 to change the title of Item 14 from “Comprehensive and Independent External Evaluation of FAO” to “Independent External Evaluation of FAO” and to include it under “Other Matters” as Agenda Item 17.3. The Agenda is given in *Appendix A* to this Report.

ELECTION OF THREE VICE-CHAIRPERSONS, AND DESIGNATION OF THE CHAIRPERSON AND MEMBERS OF THE DRAFTING COMMITTEE²

3. The Council elected three Vice-Chairpersons for its Session: Ilia Krastelnikov (Bulgaria), Mohammad Saeid Noori-Naeini (Iran, Islamic Republic of) and Muhammad Ismail Qureshi (Pakistan).

4. The Council elected Noel D. De Luna (Philippines) as Chairperson of the Drafting Committee with the following membership: Australia, Burkina Faso, Canada, Chile, Congo, Cuba, Egypt, Finland, Germany, Japan, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Romania and the Syrian Arab Republic.

¹ CL 127/1-Rev.2; CL 127/INF/1-Rev.1; CL 127/INF/6; CL 127/LIM/4; CL 127/PV/1; CL 127/PV/8.

² CL 127/PV/1; CL 127/PV/8.

WORLD FOOD AND AGRICULTURE SITUATION

STATE OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE 2004³

5. The Council expressed appreciation for document CL 127/2 and generally concurred with its depiction of the current world food and agriculture situation. Many Members provided additional information on the food, agriculture and food security situation in their respective countries and regions.

6. The Council expressed its strong concern over the insufficient progress in reducing the number of undernourished in the world and urged a renewed commitment and effort to meet the goal of the World Food Summit and the Millennium Declaration of halving hunger by 2015. The Council also noted that the reduction at the global level covered wide variations in performance, with rapid progress in a few countries along with a stagnating or deteriorating situation in many others.

7. The Council emphasized the need for strengthened and concerted efforts at the national, regional and international levels to accelerate progress towards the elimination of food insecurity in the world. The Council noted that progress in combatting hunger and poverty would be achieved when all the causes of underdevelopment had been suitably dealt with and that lessons needed to be drawn from successes in reducing undernourishment. It also requested FAO to continue monitoring the world food security situation while striving to improve up to date information collection and assessment methods.

8. The Council noted with concern a number of recent trends and developments with negative implications for world food security. In particular:

- the existence of a large number of food crises in the world, notably due to adverse climatic conditions and armed conflict that exacerbated chronic food insecurity, especially when repeated or prolonged;
- the risks to crop production and food security posed by plant and animal pests and diseases, including the recent outbreak of Avian Influenza in the Asian and North American Regions, and of Desert Locusts in Western Africa and other regions, and the need for continued international support to prevent future outbreaks;
- the inadequate levels of investment in the agricultural sector, especially in countries with higher undernourishment rates; and
- the potential negative effects of price instability on food imports and export earnings.

9. Many Members launched a vibrant appeal to the international community and to the institutions of the UN System to set up a sustainable and effective mechanism which, under the auspices of FAO and endowed with the relative means, would pursue its mission of a coordinated and in-depth campaign for the total eradication of the Desert Locust plague which was known to be cyclical.

10. The Council, recognizing the important contributions that had been made by a number of donors, acknowledged the need for additional international resources in emergencies to avert famine situations. The Council also noted the importance of ensuring that emergency assistance be conducive to rehabilitation of the agricultural sector. As reflected in Guideline 15 of the Voluntary Guidelines to Support the Progressive Realization of the Right to Adequate Food in the Context of National Food Security, many Members felt that food aid based on sound needs

³ CL 127/2; CL 127/PV/2; CL 127/PV/8.

assessment should be targeted to the most vulnerable people and only used in internationally-recognized emergencies.

11. The Council underlined the crucial role of agricultural and rural development in reducing poverty and undernourishment, and stressed the importance of increasing resource flows and effectiveness in ways that supported sustainable economic growth and social development.

12. The Council noted the contribution of international trade, including agriculture, in promoting economic development and in eliminating poverty and food insecurity. It also recognized the importance of a fair and market-oriented trading system under the Doha Development Agenda, and the recent consensus reached in the WTO July 2004 Package of Framework Agreements. It called on FAO to continue supporting agricultural market liberalization efforts through its analytical work on the impact of trade on food security in developing countries, and assistance to them in facilitating their understanding of, and participation in, multilateral trade negotiations.

13. Many Members underlined the positive contribution provided by FAO's Special Programme for Food Security (SPFS) and by South-South Cooperation (SSC). A number of Members also stated their readiness to share their experience and expertise within the framework of South-South Cooperation.

14. Many Members requested that FAO support the final Declaration of the Summit For Action Against Hunger and Poverty (New York, 20 September 2004).

15. The Council noted the need to pay special attention to the food and agriculture component of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD), and welcomed the recent Maputo Declaration, "Together Shaping Our Future," of the Heads of State and Government of the African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States that recognized the fundamental importance of agricultural development to economic growth.

16. The Council noted that achieving food security required a complex set of measures, including but not limited to food production and supply. The Council particularly emphasized the need for measures that promoted access to food and income-generating opportunities.

REPORT OF THE THIRTIETH SESSION OF THE COMMITTEE ON WORLD FOOD SECURITY (ROME, SEPTEMBER 2004)⁴

17. The Council endorsed the Report of the Thirtieth Session of the Committee on World Food Security (CFS), and the conclusions and recommendations contained therein. With regard to the World Food Summit goal, the Council expressed concern that progress in reducing the number of undernourished remained very slow at the global level. It stressed in particular that the situation in sub-Saharan African countries was disturbing. The Council noted that efforts to fight hunger remained insufficient. In this connection, the Council recalled that rural development was essential for sustainable development and for poverty and hunger eradication, and called on countries to accord higher priority to food security through agriculture and rural development in national strategies and budgets. Several Members informed the Council on the actions taken by their governments to overcome poverty and hunger.

18. The Council stressed that the primary responsibility for the fight against poverty and hunger rested with national governments. It agreed on the overriding importance of strong political will and an enabling political, social, economic and sustainable natural resource environment, conducive to economic growth and poverty reduction. The Council emphasized that efforts at national level should be supported by a conducive international environment, and agreed on the need to enhance the allocation of resources, including Official Development Assistance

⁴ CL 127/10; CL 127/PV/3; CL 127/PV/8.

(ODA), to agricultural and rural development. Many Members stressed the importance of alleviating the debt burden of developing countries. The Council underlined the importance of food aid, particularly under emergency situations, but stressed that hunger could not be sustainably eradicated by food aid alone.

19. The Council referred to the impact of the locust plague in West and North Africa, to the recent emergencies caused by a series of hurricanes in Central America and the Caribbean, and to their effects on national food security and on worsening the poverty and hunger of the poor. Several Members affected by the locust crisis expressed their gratitude to FAO and donor countries for the support provided and appealed for additional assistance to supplement major efforts already under way. The Council recommended that donor countries, FAO and UN Agencies concerned accelerate coordinated and urgent assistance to the affected countries to prevent the situation from deteriorating further.

20. The Council recognized with satisfaction that the Committee had welcomed the WTO July 2004 Package of Framework Agreements, and supported the Committee's view that serious work was needed to provide substance to the consensus reached. It also supported the Committee's recommendation that trade analysis continue to be part of the assessment of the world food security situation, and that FAO assist developing countries in building their capacity to benefit from the opportunities provided by a liberalized trading environment.

21. The Council supported the decision of the Committee to hold a Special Forum in 2006 in order to review progress made in the achievement of the Summit objectives, consonant with the recommendations contained in objective 7.3 viz 7.3 (g) and 7.3 (h). The Council agreed that at the Thirty-first Session of the Committee in 2005, a Multistakeholder Dialogue would take place, funded from within available resources between governments, international organizations and representatives of civil society.

22. The Council noted that, based on its recommendation at its Hundred and Twenty-fifth Session, the CFS had considered the revised reporting format for monitoring of the implementation of the World Food Summit Follow-up. The Council agreed that the Secretariat should convene a regionally-balanced Working Group of Experts to review and finalize a revised reporting format and a related set of indicators.

**INTERGOVERNMENTAL WORKING GROUP FOR THE ELABORATION OF
A SET OF VOLUNTARY GUIDELINES TO SUPPORT THE PROGRESSIVE
REALIZATION OF THE RIGHT TO ADEQUATE FOOD IN THE CONTEXT OF
NATIONAL FOOD SECURITY (SEPTEMBER 2004)⁵**

23. The Council recalled that at the request of the World Food Summit: *five years later*, the Hundred and Twenty-third Session of the Council had established an Intergovernmental Working Group (IGWG) to elaborate a set of Voluntary Guidelines to Support the Progressive Realization of the Right to Adequate Food in the Context of National Food Security. The Fourth Session of the IGWG had adopted the text of the Voluntary Guidelines on 23 September 2004, and had submitted it to the Thirtieth Session of the Committee on World Food Security (Rome, 20-23 September 2004). That Session of the Committee had endorsed the Guidelines and had submitted them to the Council for final adoption.

24. The Council expressed its gratitude to the Chair of the IGWG, its Members and Observers, as well as the Secretariat for the successful conclusion of the negotiations which had been conducted in a transparent and participatory manner.

25. The Council adopted the Voluntary Guidelines to Support the Progressive Realization of the Right to Adequate Food in the Context of National Food Security, attached to this Report as

⁵ CL 127/10-Sup.1; CL 127/PV/3; CL 127/PV/4; CL 127/PV/8.

Appendix D. The Council recommended that Members implement the Guidelines, decided to bring the Guidelines to the attention of the next Session of the Conference, and requested the Director-General to ensure their wide dissemination to all relevant UN Bodies and Agencies.

26. Many Members furthermore requested the Secretariat to ensure, through mainstreaming and inclusion in the next PWB proposal, adequate follow-up action on the Voluntary Guidelines, including the preparation of information, communications and training materials, and to strengthen its capacity to assist Members in their implementation. Many Members also requested the Secretariat to seek additional extrabudgetary resources to further mainstream the Voluntary Guidelines.

REPORT OF THE EIGHTEENTH SESSION OF THE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE (ROME, FEBRUARY 2004)⁶

27. The Council acknowledged the growing burden of non-communicable diseases in both developed and developing countries. It agreed that the subject was complex and that further studies by Member Nations at national and regional levels would be required.

28. The Council stressed that fighting hunger and malnutrition had to remain a high priority for FAO. A majority of Members expressed the view that the scientific basis for the Expert Report recommendations was inadequate and that the application of its global recommendations at individual country level would need to take into account the specific circumstances of each country.

29. Many Members encouraged FAO, in accordance with its core mandate, to continue its collaboration with the World Health Organization (WHO) on diet, nutrition and non-communicable diseases, and to provide Members with policy advice on the role of nutrition and a healthy diet in preventing such diseases. The Council suggested that, within the financial means available to FAO, a thorough assessment be made, taking account of the specific cultural and social characteristics of individual countries, of the linkages between changing food consumption patterns and non-communicable diseases, of the possible effects of changing demand on agricultural production systems and commodity trade, and of supply responses through diversification.

30. The Council observed that in document CL 127/9, on the page entitled “Matters Requiring the Attention of the Council” preceding the Committee on Agriculture (COAG) Report itself, the correct wording of the second bullet should have been that “many Members (*not the Committee*) recognized that the Expert Report could be a useful resource for Governments in considering nutritional recommendations to alleviate the growing burden of non-communicable diseases”. With that observation, the Council endorsed the Report of the Eighteenth Session of COAG.

⁶ CL 127/9; CL 127/PV/4; CL 127/PV/8.

ACTIVITIES OF FAO AND WFP

WORLD FOOD PROGRAMME

Annual Report of the WFP Executive Board on its Activities in 2003⁷

31. The Council commended the World Food Programme for its work in 2003, as reflected in the Annual Report of the WFP Executive Board on its activities.

32. Noting that the Annual Report had already been extensively discussed at the annual session of WFP's Executive Board in May 2004, the Council noted that there were no specific pending issues for discussion before it.

33. The Council welcomed the increased financial contributions, as well as the expansion of the donor base. The Council acknowledged the concerns expressed with respect to the decreasing level of multilateral funding.

34. Some Members recommended that WFP provide an account of work carried out in tackling the underlying causes of food emergencies for its next Annual Report, on the basis of guidelines issued by the Thirty-second Session of the FAO Conference in 2003.

35. Many Members requested that WFP continue its work to strengthen early warning systems and the capacity of developing countries to respond to natural and man-made disasters.

Election of Six Members to the WFP Executive Board⁸

36. In accordance with Resolution 6/99 adopted by the Thirtieth Session of the FAO Conference on 13 November 1999, the Council was required to elect six members of the WFP Executive Board from among FAO Member Nations for the period 1 January 2005 to 31 December 2007.

37. The Council elected the following members from the respective lists to the WFP Executive Board for a term of office of three years (1 January 2005 to 31 December 2007):

<u>List</u>	<u>Members</u>
A	Congo Niger
B	Thailand
C	Haiti
D	Canada Germany

38. The Council took note that El Salvador had resigned from the WFP Executive Board and agreed that Nicaragua occupy the List C seat thus vacated as of 1 January 2005. It also noted that Belgium had resigned from the WFP Executive Board and agreed that Switzerland occupy the List D seat thus vacated as of 1 January 2005.

⁷ CL 127/3; CL 127/PV/4; CL 127/PV/8.

⁸ CL 127/4; CL 127/4-Sup.1; CL 127/PV/4; CL 127/PV/8.

OUTCOME OF THE SECOND FAO/WHO GLOBAL FORUM OF FOOD SAFETY REGULATORS (BANGKOK, OCTOBER 2004) AND OF REGIONAL MEETINGS ON FOOD SAFETY⁹

39. The Council was informed of the main outcome of the Second FAO/WHO Global Forum of Food Safety Regulators (Bangkok, 12-14 October 2004) and of the FAO/WHO Regional Conference on Food Safety for Asia and the Pacific (Seremban, 24-27 May 2004). The Council expressed its appreciation to the Governments of Thailand and Malaysia for hosting the events, and congratulated FAO and WHO on their successful organization. It noted with satisfaction the large number of participants, and in particular the attendance of many participants from the Least Developed Countries.

40. The Council stressed the role of the first two Global Fora in facilitating information exchange and experience sharing among food safety regulators, and in promoting the transfer of knowledge and technology in food safety. It took note of the Secretariat's intention to continue the consultation process with Member Nations of FAO and WHO on the desirability, feasibility, format and content of possible future fora through an electronic forum and through a discussion with delegates on the occasion of the next session of the Codex Alimentarius Commission. The Council agreed to retain this item on the Agenda for future deliberations, at which time the Secretariat would report on the outcome of the consultation process. Many Members stressed that it would be premature to have the Third Global Forum before 2009, as sufficient time was required for making effective use of the previous fora results. In this context, they also pointed out that the objectives of any Third Global Forum had still to be defined.

41. The Council was informed of plans to convene joint FAO/WHO Regional Conferences on Food Safety for the Near East, Africa, and the Americas and the Caribbean in 2005, provided sufficient extrabudgetary funds were mobilized for this purpose. Several Members supported the convening of the African Regional Food Safety Conference in Zimbabwe in 2005, and called upon donors to provide the necessary funding for this event.

PROGRESS REPORT FROM THE SECRETARIAT OF THE COMMISSION ON GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE¹⁰

42. The Council endorsed the Report of the Tenth Regular Meeting of the Commission for Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture and complimented the Commission on the progress it had made over its twenty years of existence. It welcomed the Commission's proposed Multi-year Programme of Work, which would need to be reflected in the Organization's Medium-Term Plan. It also recognized the need to mobilize the Regular Programme of Work and Budget and human resources of FAO, in support of the work of the Commission; to match priorities with available financial and human resources; and, if required, to mobilize extrabudgetary resources. It welcomed the convening of the First International Technical Conference on Animal Genetic Resources in 2007.

43. The Council endorsed the Report of the Second Meeting of the Commission acting as Interim Committee for the International Treaty. While recognizing the progress achieved during the meeting, many Members expressed disappointment and concern about the efficiency of the large number of regional coordination meetings that had limited the time available in plenary. Many other Members noted that such coordination was necessary and had contributed to the advances made at the meeting. The Council also stressed that the focus should be on the preparatory work to support the implementation of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture by preparing the First Session of the Governing Body. A number of Members stated that, as far as possible, resources for the Secretariat and Governing

⁹ CL 127/18; CL 127/PV/4; CL 127/PV/8.

¹⁰ CL 127/20, CL 127/PV/7, CL 127/PV/8.

Body of the International Treaty should come from the Regular Programme of the Organization. Other Members stated that the resources for the implementation of the Treaty should come from extrabudgetary resources. It was noted that these matters required further deliberations by the Governing Bodies of the Treaty and the Organization.

44. The Council thanked the Members that had contributed to the work of the Interim Committee, and the European Commission for having hosted the Expert Group on the Terms of the Standard Material Transfer Agreement in Brussels in October 2004. It welcomed the offer of Spain to host the First Session of the Governing Body. It also welcomed the offer of the United States of America to provide for the meeting of the Contact Group for the Drafting of the Standard Material Transfer Agreement, and the intention of Switzerland to make a contribution for the preparatory work of the Interim Secretariat of the Treaty for the First Session of the Governing Body.

PROGRAMME, BUDGETARY, FINANCIAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION REPORT 2002-2003¹¹

45. The Council welcomed the continued efforts to improve the Programme Implementation Report (PIR), noting that the changes introduced were consistent with the progress made over recent years in the application of Results-Based Budgeting (RBB) principles in FAO.
46. The Council recalled that the PIR was intended to meet accountability requirements for Members in full complementarity with evaluation reports, the contents of which would be summarized in the Programme Evaluation Report (PER). It recognized that there were, necessarily, basic differences in timeframe and scope between the two documents.
47. Some Members mentioned areas where they would welcome the provision of further information, such as additional financial analysis, country level data, and information on impact reporting in order to respond to accountability requirements and to provide the necessary analytical foundations for future programme planning. On the other hand, many Members felt that efforts should be made to reduce the size of the document and avoid duplication. The Council was advised of the practical difficulties in reducing the size of the document while providing more detailed information.
48. The Council noted, in this connection, that the Programme and Finance Committees had made a number of suggestions for further improvements in the document, that included the consolidation of some sections and the need for increased outcomes reporting. It therefore requested that the Committees and the Secretariat explore how the PIR could be enhanced by taking into account, where possible and desirable, the various requests of Members, and by possibly taking advantage of the FAO Web site as a modality for providing much of the information.
49. The Council was satisfied that overall delivery under the Regular Programme had included close to full utilization of budgeted resources. Many Members expressed their concern that FAO's scarce resources may be too thinly spread over too many activities and consequently hampering FAO's overall effectiveness. Therefore, FAO should have a stronger focus on priority-setting already in the context of the next Summary Programme of Work and Budget. Many Members emphasized the importance of a vigorous Field Programme, noting in particular the expansion of the Special Programme for Food Security (SPFS) in the last biennium and the essential contributions made by the Technical Cooperation Programme. They looked forward to further extrabudgetary support to the Field Programme, in line with present positive trends.
50. The Council endorsed the document prior to its consideration by the Conference.

MEDIUM TERM PLAN 2006-2011¹²

51. The Council addressed the Medium-Term Plan (MTP) 2006-2011, with the benefit of the comments of the Programme and Finance Committees, including the detailed review of its substantive contents carried out by the Programme Committee. It welcomed the improvements in the document, including the application for the first time of Results-Based Budgeting principles to the non-technical and technical cooperation areas. The Council recalled that the rolling plan approach, as endorsed by the Conference, should focus the document on new programme entities

¹¹ C 2005/8; C 2005/8-Corr.1; CL 127/PV/4; CL 127/PV/8.

¹² CL 127/7; CL 127/PV/4; CL 127/PV/5; CL 127/PV/6; CL 127/PV/8.

and changes to existing entities. The Council welcomed the application of this approach in the current version, and encouraged further steps in this direction in future versions.

52. The Council welcomed the analysis in the document of the application of three basic criteria for priority-setting, which were consistent with the guidance it had provided at earlier sessions (i.e. conformity with the Organization's mandate and relevance to its strategic objectives; expressed priority and usefulness to a broad section of the Membership or to special groups identified by the Governing Bodies; and FAO's comparative advantage).

53. Many Members recommended that greater prominence be given in future documents to the contribution of FAO to the implementation of internationally-agreed development goals, in particular those of the Millennium Declaration. The Council was informed in this connection that such contributions would be better highlighted in a document for the next session of the Committee on World Food Security and that the issue would be duly taken into account in the revision of FAO's Strategic Framework. The importance of pursuing close partnerships with other UN System organizations and of ensuring active participation of FAO in key country-level policy exercises was also emphasized. Some Members regretted that opportunities for extrabudgetary support had not been listed in this version.

54. The Council appreciated that proposals for capital budgeting had been presented for the first time in the MTP to implement the Capital Expenditure Facility, as approved by the last session of the Conference. It concurred with the endorsement of these proposals by the Finance Committee, including the proposal to carry forward any unused balance of arrears as at 31 December 2005 to this Capital Expenditure Facility.

55. The Council reiterated that resource projections in the MTP were of an indicative nature. It recognized that the proposals in the document embodied Real Growth (RG) at a percentage of 2.2 percent per annum, while it was also possible to identify the programme implications of Zero Real Growth (ZRG) resource levels. Among other factors with potential impact on contributions, the Council took note that the amount of US\$14.1 million which had been added by the last FAO Conference to Assessed Contributions for the 2004-05 biennium for the ongoing amortization of After Service Medical Care (ASMC) liabilities, was no longer sufficient on the basis of the latest actuarial valuations. It recognized that the Finance Committee would be considering options for handling this at its next session.

56. Many Members stressed that FAO's effective action depended on the availability of adequate resources. They felt that the 2.2 percent per annum RG rate was not commensurate with expressed demand for FAO services in all regions. They were, however, prepared to accept it, if conducive to general consensus and endorsement. Other Members emphasized that this RG rate was not consistent with recent budgetary decisions in FAO and the difficulties experienced by many countries in meeting their financial obligations to the Organization. The Council recognized that alternative scenarios for the next MTP and PWB would be necessary to enlighten the Membership about the possible impact of alternative allocations, including Zero Real Growth (ZRG), Zero Nominal Growth (ZNG) and Real Growth (RG). In this context, many Members expressed their preference for a more substantive justification for the proposed significant budget increase for the TCP.

57. The Council recalled that the final decisions on the budget level and assessments for the next biennium would take place in connection with the examination of the Summary (SPWB) and full Programme of Work and Budget (PWB) 2006-07 proposals. Among other aspects, while noting that the issue had been under active consideration in the Finance Committee, it looked forward to continued coverage of concrete and future potential efficiency savings in the PWB documents.

58. In addressing the substance, the Council agreed that the MTP proposals had been framed with the clear intent to be broadly responsive to the varied needs of the Membership. It reiterated the importance of maintaining an adequate balance between normative and operational activities

and noted that core activities under the Regular Programme should not be excessively dependent on extra-budgetary resources. The Council supported the new Priority Area for Inter-disciplinary Action (PAIA) on the implications of the HIV/AIDS pandemic on food and agriculture and looked forward to the review of PAIAs by the Programme Committee. It further noted that the Programme Committee would continue to address priority-setting at its next session.

59. In their interventions, Members stressed a number of areas to which they attached particular importance, including: national capacity-building in general; technical assistance to developing countries, including in relation to WTO trade negotiations and in the context of New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD), natural resources management and soil and water conservation; the two components of Emergency Prevention System for Transboundary Animal and Plant Pests and Diseases (EMPRES) dealing with locusts and animal health; assistance in the context of the Avian Influenza epidemic; support to the implementation of the Voluntary Guidelines for the Right to Food; support for development and implementation of Africa's priorities; biotechnology and biosecurity; fisheries, including attention to Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fisheries and support to regional Fisheries Bodies; forestry, including support to regional commissions; key international instruments such as the IPPC, Codex, and the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources; the GIEWS and FIVIMS; data collection and FAOSTAT; gender mainstreaming; the Technical Cooperation Programme (TCP) and Special Programme for Food Security (SPFS).

60. In conclusion, the Council gave its general endorsement of the substantive content of the Medium-Term Plan as a basis for the preparation of PWB proposals for the next biennium, taking account of the comments made by the Programme and Finance Committees, the results of discussions in its Technical Committees early next year, and its own reactions, as summarized above.

REPORTS OF THE JOINT MEETINGS OF THE PROGRAMME COMMITTEE AND THE FINANCE COMMITTEE (MAY 2004 AND SEPTEMBER 2004)¹³

Savings and Efficiencies in Governance

61. The Council noted that the Committees had continued to address this item, dealing with improved arrangements for COAG and Committee on Commodity Problems (CCP) sessions and with the implications of a shorter FAO Conference in November 2005, and that the Committees would return to some aspects of the latter issue at their next Joint Meeting.

Other Matters Arising out of the Reports

62. The Council noted that the Committees had also addressed at their Joint Meeting in May 2004 proposed adjustments to the Programme of Work and Budget 2004-05 and that they had endorsed them, thus facilitating the implementation of programmes against an approved budget in the current biennium. A more detailed assessment of these adjustments was carried out by the Programme Committee at its own session. The Council was advised that it had not yet proved possible to make sufficient efficiency savings to redress some of the cuts made to Programme 3.1.2 *Policy Assistance to Various Regions* and 5.2.1 *Financial Services*, but that every effort would be made to do so to the extent possible in the remainder of the biennium.

63. The Council also took note that the Committees had recognized the importance attached to the reinstatement of the cancelled session of Consultation on Agricultural Information Management (COAIM) or some acceptable alternative approach, and that they would consider proposals from the Secretariat at their next sessions in the context of the SPWB 2006-07.

¹³ CL 127/8; CL 127/16; CL 127/PV/6; CL 127/PV/8.

**REPORTS OF THE NINETY-FIRST (ROME, MAY 2004) AND
NINETY-SECOND (ROME, SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER 2004) SESSIONS OF THE
PROGRAMME COMMITTEE¹⁴**

64. The Council noted that, beyond the detailed examination of proposed adjustments to the Programme of Work and Budget 2004-2005, of the substantive contents of the Medium-Term Plan (MTP) 2006-2011 and of the Programme Implementation Report (PIR) 2002-2003, the Programme Committee had addressed several important evaluation reports and documents, and in particular the Evaluation of FAO's Decentralization.

65. The Council echoed the feelings of the Committee in welcoming the depth and independence of the evaluation of FAO's Decentralization and the timeliness of the exercise. The Council recognized that the evaluation report was of a particularly complex nature and contained many valuable suggestions and ideas, in addition to formal recommendations.

66. The Council further noted that the Committee would consider at its next session a comprehensive response to the evaluation and attendant action plan. This response would include:

- a costed and time-bound implementation plan which would build on the recommendations and suggestions in the evaluation report but also include management's proposals for addressing issues through alternative means, where it considered this appropriate;
- proposed additional measures stemming from management's own analysis;
- analysis of areas of potential efficiency savings; and
- management's response to each of the recommendations of the evaluation.

67. The Council looked forward to further advice from the Committee on the basis of this more detailed discussion, while recognizing that related proposals could be progressively incorporated into the Programme of Work and Budget for consideration by the Governing Bodies.

68. The Council noted that the Programme Committee had also examined a document on "Policy and Operational Framework of the Technical Cooperation Programme (TCP)"¹⁵. It further noted that preliminary proposals for strengthening the TCP would be considered by the Committee at its next session. In this connection, the Council welcomed the fact that the Evaluation Service would undertake a review of certain aspects of the TCP, including recommendations for strengthening its effectiveness and the results of a consultative process with Governments and other external stakeholders.

69. The Council underscored its expectation that this TCP review process should be carried out in such a way as to contribute to further strengthening of the Programme, its adaptation to changing contexts, and the enhancement of its impact in Member Nations.

**REPORTS OF THE HUNDRED AND SIXTH (ROME, FEBRUARY 2004),
HUNDRED AND SEVENTH (ROME, MAY 2004) AND HUNDRED AND EIGHTH
(ROME, SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER 2004) SESSIONS OF THE FINANCE
COMMITTEE¹⁶**

70. The Council considered and adopted the Reports of the Hundred and Sixth, Hundred and Seventh and Hundred and Eighth Sessions of the Finance Committee and in particular discussed the following items:

¹⁴ CL 127/11; CL 127/12; CL 127/PV/6; CL 127/PV/8.

¹⁵ PC 92/7.

¹⁶ CL 127/13; CL 127/14; CL 127/15; CL 127/PV/6; CL 127/PV/8.

Status of Contributions and Arrears¹⁷

71. The Council considered the status of contributions and arrears of the Organization at 18 November 2004, and noted that the percentage of current assessments received compared reasonably with that of the previous year at the same date, but showed a significant shortfall compared to the same period two years before. The Council noted that over 32 percent of the Membership of the Organization had made no payment towards their US\$ portion of 2004 assessments, and 45 percent of the Membership had not made any payment towards their Euro portion of 2004 assessments.

72. The Council expressed concern over the high level of arrears outstanding, noting that fifty-three Member Nations still had arrears outstanding from 2003 and previous years and thirty-four owed arrears in such amounts as would prejudice their Right to Vote in accordance with Article III.4 of the Constitution. It further noted that the shortfall in receipts of contributions resulted in the deterioration of the cash-flow situation, causing the Organization to resort to external borrowing and thus increasing interest costs. While appreciating the often-difficult financial situations of some countries, the Council urged all Member Nations to pay their contributions in full to enable the Organization to continue to fulfil its mandate.

Budgetary Performance 2002-2003¹⁸

73. The Council reviewed the Director-General's Thirty-seventh Annual Report on Budgetary Performance to Member Nations for 2002-2003, as well as the report of the discussions of the Finance Committee at its Hundred and Seventh Session in May 2004.

74. The Council noted that the Director-General had managed the Regular Programme Appropriations in accordance with the Financial Regulations. Further, it took note of the transfers between budgetary chapters and of the fact that they fell within the levels previously approved by the Finance Committee at its Session in September 2003.

Results of the Application of the New Methodology for Equitable Geographic Distribution¹⁹

75. The Council recalled that in December 2003 the Conference had decided to introduce a new methodology for the determination of equitable geographic distribution. In this connection, the Conference had requested the Secretariat to submit a report through the Finance Committee to the Council on the results of the application of the new methodology²⁰, including the possible impact of adding a post grade-weighting factor to the system.

76. The Council noted that the application of the new formula had resulted in a significant increase in the number of equitably-represented countries. Only small variations in representation status were found among the three options analyzed. Many Members requested the Secretariat that when applying the new methodology for the determination of equitable geographic distribution, it should not include the post grade-weighting factor.

77. The Council took note of the analysis of the application of the new methodology, including the comments of the Finance Committee thereon, and concluded that the new system should be permitted to operate for some time before any further revisions were considered.

¹⁷ CL 127/LIM/1; CL 127/PV/6; CL 127/PV/8.

¹⁸ CL 127/PV/6; CL 127/PV/8.

¹⁹ CL 127/6; CL 127/PV/6; CL 127/PV/8.

²⁰ Resolution 15/2003 on Methodology for Equitable Geographic Distribution.

78. The Council welcomed the information provided on staffing statistics broken down by region, nationality, grade and gender²¹. The Council noted the serious under-representation of one region (even under the new methodology), and stressed the need for further efforts to remedy the situation.

Other Matters Arising out of the Reports

Audited Accounts – FAO 2002-2003

79. The Council noted that the External Auditor had issued an unqualified opinion on the FAO Audited Accounts for the biennium 2002-2003 and that, for most recommendations, the Organization had either taken adequate action or had assured the External Auditor that it would do so.

80. The Council, noting the comments and clarifications provided by the External Auditor and the Secretariat to the Finance Committee, decided to submit the Audited Accounts for the 2002-2003 biennium to the Conference for adoption.

81. Accordingly, the Council submitted the draft resolution below to the Conference:

Draft Resolution for the Conference

FAO Audited Accounts 2002-03

THE CONFERENCE,

Having considered the Report of the 127th Session of the Council, and

Having examined the 2002-03 FAO Audited Accounts and the External Auditor's Report thereon

Invites the Secretariat to further implement the recommendations of the External Auditors, and

Adopts the Audited Accounts.

Incentive Scheme to Encourage Prompt Payment of Contributions – Determination of Discount Rate

82. The Council took note of the Finance Committee's view expressed in several past sessions²² that the Incentive Scheme had no real impact in encouraging prompt payment by Member Nations.

83. The Council noted that the Committee had proposed that the rates of discount to be credited against 2005 contributions in US dollars and Euros be set at zero on a trial basis. Some Members observed that setting the discount rate to zero constituted a suspension of the Incentive Scheme, and noted their opposition to this. The Council further noted the Committee's proposal that the effect of a discount rate of zero on Members' timing of payments in early 2005 should be analysed against past behaviour, as this could reveal whether the Incentive Scheme had any relevance.

Liabilities for After Service Medical Costs

84. The Council noted the updated information provided to the Finance Committee on all the schemes of staff-related liabilities reflecting the financial situation of the liabilities as reported in the FAO 2002-03 Audited Accounts and based on the latest actuarial valuations at 31 December 2003, as well as developments in the 2004-05 biennium and funding issues.

²¹ CL 127/15, Annex III.

²² Ref. CL 119/13, paras. 39-41; CL 120/15, paras. 47-51; CL 123/15, paras. 59-62.

85. The Council was informed that total staff-related liabilities, recorded and unrecorded, had increased significantly from 31 December 2001 to 31 December 2003 due primarily to a “one-time” change in methodology for the 2003 actuarial valuation of the After Service Medical Care (ASMC). The 2001 calculations had been based on a single valuation for the scheme participants of all Rome-based UN Agencies, using a notional apportionment of retirees amongst the Agencies. The 2003 method of computing ASMC liability had reflected two calculations, one for FAO and IFAD and one for WFP which now handled its own valuation. This resulted in a different combination of age groups in the two calculations and, because FAO was an older organization compared to WFP and IFAD, the distribution of liability had resulted in a significant increase in the FAO share and a reduction in the liabilities of the other participating Agencies. The magnitude of the increase had become evident with the release of the results of the 2003 Actuarial Valuation by the actuaries in February 2004. The Council took note that future biennial actuarial calculations would reflect normal demographic changes and, therefore, the liabilities should not fluctuate so significantly.

86. The Council recalled that the funding of staff-related liabilities was provided, first, from the investment income of long-term investments earmarked for staff-related liabilities, and second, from budget appropriations, which started in 2004-05. The Conference in 2003 had approved partial funding of the ASMC liability of US\$14.1 million in 2004-05 based on the latest Actuarial Valuation, which was as of 31 December 2001. The Council noted that funding would need to increase to US\$30 million for the 2006-07 biennium to offset the increased biennial amortization for ASMC calculated as at 31 December 2003. This was necessary for the gradual elimination of the unfunded liability by matching funding with amortization over the next several biennia. The need to adjust biennial ASMC funding in accordance with the latest Actuarial Valuation had been recognized by the Council at its Hundred and Twenty-fifth session in 2003 when it endorsed the inclusion of US\$14.1 million in the 2004-05 Budget Resolution towards the ASMC liability. The Council recognized that insufficient funding would cause the unfunded portion of the liability to increase, compounding the difficulties of reaching full funding in future years.

87. The Council expressed concern regarding this issue and noted the need to examine options available for funding the additional US\$15.9 million needed in the 2006-07 Budget in respect of the increased ASMC amortisation arising from the latest actuarial report. It noted that the Finance Committee at its May 2005 Session would review proposals and the range of options available on the funding of the ASMC liability and formulate a recommendation to Council on the amount of funding to be included in the 2006-07 Budget Appropriation.

CONSTITUTIONAL AND LEGAL MATTERS

REPORTS OF THE SEVENTY-SIXTH (ROME, MARCH 2004) AND SEVENTY-SEVENTH (ROME, OCTOBER 2004) SESSIONS OF THE COMMITTEE ON CONSTITUTIONAL AND LEGAL MATTERS²³

88. The Council considered and adopted the Reports of the Seventy-sixth and Seventy-seventh Sessions of the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters (CCLM).

Proposed Amendment to Rule VIII.5 of the Rules of Procedure of the Codex Alimentarius Commission (Advisory Functions of the Executive Committee in Respect of the Granting, by the Directors-General of FAO and WHO, of Observer Status to International Non-Governmental Organizations)

89. The Council endorsed the CCLM's view that the proposed Rule, as well as its underlying approach, were consistent with existing procedures. The Council took note that the proposed amendments will be considered, for approval, by the Codex Alimentarius Commission. The proposed wording for the revised Rule is the following:

“Rule VIII. Observers

5. Participation of intergovernmental organizations in the work of the Commission and the relations between the Commission and such organizations shall be governed by the relevant provisions of the Constitutions of FAO or WHO, as well as by the applicable regulations of FAO or WHO on relations with intergovernmental organizations; such relations shall be handled by the Director-General of FAO or WHO, as appropriate.

6. Participation of international non-governmental organizations in the work of the Commission and the relations between the Commission and such organizations shall be governed by the relevant provisions of the Constitution of FAO or WHO, as well as by applicable regulations of FAO or WHO on relations with international non-governmental organizations. Such relations shall be handled by the Director-General of FAO or WHO, as appropriate, on the advice of the Executive Committee. The Commission shall develop and keep under review principles and criteria concerning the participation of international non-governmental organizations in its work, consistent with the applicable regulations of FAO or WHO.”

Legal Status of Bodies Established Under Article XIV of the FAO Constitution

90. The Council agreed that the legal status of bodies established under Article XIV of the FAO Constitution has to be seen in such a way as to reconcile, in a suitable manner, the requirements of functional autonomy of such bodies and the fact that they are placed and operate under the framework of FAO. The constituent instruments of bodies under Article XIV of the FAO Constitution do not entrust them with legal personality, i.e. capacity to hold rights and obligations of their own, and, therefore, they have to act through FAO or drawing on the legal capacity of FAO. The Council considered in particular the following issues:

²³ CL 127/5; CL 127/21; CL 127/21-Corr.1 (English, French and Spanish; CL 127/21-Corr.1 (French only); CL 127/PV/7; CL 127/PV/8.

- (a) Legal capacity of bodies under Article XIV of the FAO Constitution to perform legal and material acts with particular reference to the possibility of entering into agreements

91. The Council decided that a procedure for the conclusion of contracts and agreements, other than informal working arrangements, be followed in future. Such contracts and agreements should be reported to the Organization prior to conclusion, with a view to ascertaining any possible policy, programme or financial implications for the Organization, in keeping with the spirit of Part R of the Basic Texts. The secretaries of the bodies could be authorized to sign the contracts and agreements, which should make appropriate reference to the status of the bodies under Article XIV of the FAO Constitution. The Council noted that, in reviewing any proposed contracts and agreements, FAO would take account of the functional requirements of the bodies concerned and would not interfere with their substance, except in the event that they should have policy, programme or financial implications for FAO.

92. The Council requested the Director-General to monitor the implementation of this procedure, with a view to assessing whether amendments to Part R of the Basic Texts were required.

- (b) Procedures for the selection and appointment of secretaries of bodies under Article XIV of the FAO Constitution

93. The Council recognized that, in cases where the secretary of a body is appointed by the Director-General with the approval of the body concerned, the need arises to harmonize the requirements inherent in the status of the secretaries of functional autonomy and technical accountability towards the concerned bodies and of administrative accountability towards the Organization, as officials of FAO. The Council noted that the selection and appointment process cannot be seen as one including two parallel and independent segments consisting, on the one hand, in the identification of a candidate by the body and, on the other hand, his or her appointment by the Director-General who would be required merely to appoint the selected candidate, without any form of involvement in the process of identification of qualified candidates. The Council stressed that this would not be consistent with the applicable legal framework, including the constitutional duties of the Director-General in the selection and appointment of staff.

94. The Council agreed that the procedure adopted recently by the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM), at its Extraordinary Session (Malta, 19-23 July 2004), provided a legally acceptable solution for the appointment of secretaries of bodies under Article XIV of the FAO Constitution having autonomous budgets. The Council invited the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC) to amend its Rules of Procedure, as far as the selection and appointment procedure of its secretary is concerned, along the lines of the procedure approved by the GFCM, on the understanding that the revised procedure would apply only in future.

- (c) Status of documents or decisions having policy, financial or programme implications for the Organization

95. The Council confirmed that any documents or decisions having policy, programme or financial implications for FAO must be reported to the Organization and that the Organization must be given a timely opportunity to express its views. The Council noted that such requirement is without prejudice to the functional autonomy of bodies under Article XIV of the FAO Constitution on technical matters and that, from a practical point of view, there is a need for the concerned secretaries to assess, in cooperation with the competent FAO unit, each particular situation in light of this requirement. The Council noted also that, should any document or decision having policy, programme or financial implications for the Organization be prepared during sessions of the bodies concerned, the representative of the Director-General should be allowed to present the position of the Organization.

96. The Council requested the Director-General to keep the matter under review in order to assess whether any amendments to Part R of the Basic Texts are needed.

- (d) Status of Member Organizations of FAO within bodies under Article XIV of the FAO Constitution

97. The Council reaffirmed that the status of Member Organizations in bodies under Article XIV of the FAO Constitution - except for special situations where, in view of its full competence, the Member Organization was a Member of a body to the exclusion of its Members - was the same as in FAO. Accordingly, membership was based on the fundamental principle of the alternative exercise of membership rights of a Member Organization and its Members in areas of their respective competence.

98. The Council also confirmed that, in cases where a Member Organization participates in a particular body on the basis of the principle of the alternative exercise of membership rights, it may not hold office. The Council recommended that this be duly reflected in the Rules of Procedure of relevant bodies established under Article XIV of the FAO Constitution.

Proposal for the Establishment of a South West Indian Ocean Fisheries Commission (SWIOFC) under Article VI of the FAO Constitution

99. The Council adopted the following Resolution:

Resolution 1/127

Statutes of the South West Indian Ocean Fisheries Commission

THE COUNCIL,

Noting the wishes expressed to the FAO Council, at its One Hundred and Sixteenth Session in June 1999, by the former members of the Committee for the Development and Management of Fisheries Resources in the South West Indian Ocean, i.e. Comoros, France, Kenya, Madagascar, Mauritius, Mozambique, Seychelles, Somalia and Tanzania, for the establishment of a regional organization to promote the sustainable development, conservation, rational management and best utilization of fisheries resources in the region with special emphasis on fisheries targeted at non-tuna species;

Taking into consideration that the coastal States have established areas of national jurisdiction in accordance with the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea of 10 December 1982, and general principles of international law, in the exercise of their sovereign rights for the purpose of exploring and exploiting, conserving and managing the living marine resources in those areas;

Noting the objectives and purposes stated in Chapter 17 of Agenda 21 adopted by the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in 1992;

Recognizing the relevant provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea of 10 December 1982 and taking into account the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries, 1995;

Recognizing further the economic and geographical considerations and the special requirements of developing States, including small-island developing States, and their coastal communities, for equitable benefit from living marine resources;

Recognizing furthermore that the coastal States in the region face common or similar problems in the development and proper utilization of the fisheries resources in their coastal waters, and need a mechanism for international cooperation in facing these common or similar problems, which would be furthered by the establishment of an advisory commission on fisheries management and development;

Hereby establishes under Article VI.1 of the Constitution of the Organization a fisheries advisory commission, to be known as the South West Indian Ocean Fisheries Commission, the Statutes of which are attached to this Report as *Appendix E*.

(Adopted on 25 November 2004)

Seating Arrangements for the European Community in Meetings of the Codex Alimentarius Commission and its Subsidiary Bodies

100. The Council approved the special seating arrangements for the European Community in meetings of the Codex Alimentarius Commission and its subsidiary bodies, whereby the delegation of the European Community sits next to the delegation of the country holding the rotating presidency of the Community. The Council emphasized that such arrangements must be seen in light of the special nature of the Codex Alimentarius Commission and its work and shall not set a precedent in respect of the practice followed by the Organization since 1991, neither in the Council nor in any other bodies or meetings of the Organization.

Correction of Errors in the Basic Texts in the Different Languages

101. The Council, in order to harmonize all five versions of the General Rules of the Organization in the different languages, approved the following corrections:

- a) Spanish version of Rule XXXVI. "Appointment of the Director-General", of the General Rules of the Organization. In paragraph 1(a), the English version refers to "...by the date set by the Council", and the French version mentions "...dans les délais fixés par le Conseil", whereas the Spanish version mistakenly refers to "...en la fecha fijada por el Consejo". The correct representation of the Rule in Spanish should read "...en el plazo fijado por el Consejo". The Arabic and Chinese versions are consistent with the English and French versions as described here.
- b) Arabic version of the same Rule XXXVI of the General Rules. In paragraph 1(a) the English version refers to "*such date ... shall be not later than 30 days before...*", the French version contains the phrase "*le délai ainsi fixé ... est d'au moins 30 jours avant la session du Conseil*", and the Spanish version states "*la fecha fijada ... debe ser 30 días antes por lo menos del período de sesiones del Consejo*". However, the Arabic version mistakenly mentions that such period shall be not *less* than 30 days before such date. The correct representation of the rule in Arabic should read "يوما قبل 30 ينبغي ألا يتجاوز الموعد المحدد". The Chinese version is consistent with the English, French and Spanish versions as described here.
- c) French version of Rule XLVIII, "Suspension and amendment of Rules". In the last sentence of paragraph 2 the English version refers to "*..an appropriate committee*", and the Spanish version correctly mentions "*..comité correspondiente*". However, the French version erroneously refers to "*..un comité ad hoc*" and this should read "*..un comité approprié*". The Arabic and Chinese versions are consistent with the English and Spanish versions as described here.

Information on Developments in the UN System Regarding Registered Partnerships and Same-sex Marriages

102. The Council took note of some developments that occurred in the United Nations recently, and supported the CCLM recommendation that the CCLM discuss the issue and prepare a proposal at its spring session, thus allowing the Organization and its Members to take an active approach on the issue at the session in June 2005 of the Council.

OTHER CONSTITUTIONAL AND LEGAL MATTERS

*Invitations to Non-Member Nations to attend FAO Sessions*²⁴

103. In accordance with Paragraphs B-1 and B-2 of the "Statement of Principles relating to the Granting of Observer Status to Nations",²⁵ the Council agreed that the Russian Federation attend its Session as an observer.

*Date for Nominations to the Office of Director-General*²⁶

104. By Resolution 11/99 of the Thirtieth Session of the Conference (Rome, 12-23 November 1999), the Director-General was appointed for a period of six years from 1 January 2000, the term of office expiring on 31 December 2005. Under the provisions of Rule XXXVI-1(a) GRO, it was necessary for the Council to set the date for Nominations to the Office of Director-General.

105. The Council decided that Nominations to the Office of Director-General should be communicated to the Secretary General of the Conference and Council at the latest by 8 April 2005 at 12.00 hours, and that such Nominations should be circulated by the Secretary General to all Member Nations of the Organization by 29 April 2005.

*Applications for Membership in the Organization*²⁷

106. The Council was informed of the application for membership received from the Government of the Republic of Belarus.

107. Pending a decision by the Conference on this application and pursuant to Rule XXV.11 of the General Rules of the Organization and paragraphs B-1, B-2 and B-5 of the "Statement of Principles relating to the Granting of Observer Status to Nations", the Council authorized the Director-General to invite the applicant country to participate, in an observer capacity, in the present Council session, as well as regional and technical meetings of the Organization of interest to it.

²⁴ CL 127/LIM/2; CL 127/PV/1; CL 127/PV/8.

²⁵ See FAO *Basic Texts*, Volume II, Section L (Appendix).

²⁶ CL 127/19; CL 127/PV/1; CL 127/PV/8.

²⁷ CL 127/17; CL 127/PV/1; CL 127/PV/8.

OTHER MATTERS

CALENDAR OF FAO GOVERNING BODIES AND OTHER MAIN SESSIONS FOR 2005 AND PROVISIONAL CALENDAR FOR 2006²⁸

108. The Council approved the Calendar for 2005, as reproduced in *Appendix F* to this Report, while noting that the dates for 2006 were indicative. The Calendar of FAO Governing Bodies and Other Main Sessions for 2006 would be approved by the Hundred and Thirtieth Session of the Council in November 2005 on the basis of a Provisional Calendar 2006-2007 to be examined at that Session.

APPOINTMENT OF A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE FAO CONFERENCE TO THE STAFF PENSION COMMITTEE²⁹

109. In accordance with Article 6(c) of the Regulations of the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Fund, the Council – on behalf of the Conference – appointed His Excellency Don Oscar Antonio Oyuela Castellón, Alternate Permanent Representative of the Republic of Honduras to FAO, as alternate member to the Staff Pension Committee for the period ending 31 December 2006, to replace and complete the term of office of Her Excellency Doña Victoria Guardia Alvarado de Hernández, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Costa Rica to FAO, appointed by Conference at its Thirty-Second Session for the period 1 January 2004 to 31 December 2006.

ADVANCE FUNDING FOR EMERGENCY AND REHABILITATION ACTIVITIES³⁰

110. The Council noted the Director-General's proposal to extend the target funding level of the Special Fund for Emergency and Rehabilitation Activities (SFERA) to US\$20 million and to create an emergency trust fund with an annual target funding level of US\$80 million.

111. Some Members appreciated the proactive response of the Organization in determining the need for extrabudgetary funding for emergency preparedness and rapid response, as well as the ongoing actions to identify internal procedural constraints, following the review of the SFERA by the Finance Committee at its Hundred and Eighth Session in September 2004.

112. The Council noted that no commitments were sought from donors at this stage, and that the arrangements on how the trust funds could operate, and their optimal funding level, would also depend upon the extent of support that would be attained as a result of further consultation and discussion with donors.

INDEPENDENT EXTERNAL EVALUATION OF FAO³¹

113. The Council agreed to launch an Independent External Evaluation of FAO. The evaluation aims at strengthening and improving FAO, taking into consideration FAO's performance in conducting its mandate. In doing this, the evaluation process represented FAO's contribution to the overall efforts of the international community to strengthen the UN System through appropriate reform. The Evaluation would consider all aspects of FAO's work,

²⁸ CL 127/LIM/3; CL 127/PV/7; CL 127/PV/8.

²⁹ CL 127/LIM/5; CL 127/PV/7; CL 127/PV/8.

³⁰ CL 127/22, CL 127/PV/7, CL 127/PV/8.

³¹ CL 127/LIM/4; CL 127/LIM/6; CL 127/PV/1; CL 127/PV/5; CL 127/PV/7; CL 127/PV/8.

institutional structure and decision processes, including its role within the international system. It could also be a resource for the review of the Strategic Framework.

114. The Council thus decided to establish an Inter-Sessional Working Group (ISWG) to formulate proposals for the scope, conduct and institutional arrangements for the evaluation for consideration by the Council. The ISWG would consist of a core group of up to three Members of each regional group and the coordinator of the Group of 77. All Member Nations would be entitled to participate in the ISWG. The First Meeting of the ISWG would be convened by the Independent Chairman of the Council. At this meeting, the ISWG would establish its modalities of work and decide on the Chairpersonship. The Secretariat would provide the administrative and technical support, as well as any information required by the ISWG.

115. The Council decided that the ISWG would prepare proposals for:

- a) terms of reference for a committee, to be established under Article VI of the FAO Constitution, to oversee, on behalf of the Council, the entire evaluation process;
- b) terms of reference of the Independent External Evaluation of FAO, including the scope; content; methodology; composition, expertise and criteria for selection of the evaluation team; cost estimates; reporting process; and timetable for completion of the evaluation; and
- c) definition of an appropriate supporting role for the Secretariat.

116. The ISWG would present its proposals preferably to the Hundred and Twenty-eighth Session of the Council in June 2005, and in any case not later than the Hundred and Twenty-ninth Session in November 2005.

117. All phases of the evaluation process, commencing with the work of the ISWG, would be financed from extra-budgetary resources, in full accordance with the financial rules and regulations of the Organization.

COMMENTS ON INFORMATION DOCUMENTS³²

118. The Council welcomed the upcoming International Conference on Water for Food and Ecosystems which was being jointly organized by FAO and the Government of the Netherlands in the Hague, from 31 January to 5 February 2005.

119. The Council welcomed the initiatives of many Members in implementing the International Year of Rice 2004.

120. The Council stressed the importance of the Ministerial Meeting on Fisheries to be held in Rome in March 2005, and the need to address the issues of the use of flags of convenience by IUU fishing vessels, and making Regional Fisheries Management Organizations more effective and accountable therein. The Council welcomed the organization of a parallel meeting of Ministers of Fisheries on the specific issue of the NEPAD Fisheries Programme.

121. The Council also stressed the importance of the Ministerial Meeting on Forests to also be held in Rome in March 2005. Some Members proposed that FAO convene a meeting of Forestry Ministers every four or five years before the Committee on Forestry (COFO) is held.

122. The texts of the declarations made on these matters can be found in document CL 127/PV/7.

³² CL 127/PV/7, CL 127/PV/8.

**DATE AND PLACE OF THE HUNDRED AND TWENTY-EIGHTH SESSION OF
THE COUNCIL**

123. The Council agreed to convene its Hundred and Twenty-eighth Session in Rome from 20 to 25 June 2005.

APPENDIX A

**AGENDA FOR THE HUNDRED AND TWENTY-SEVENTH
SESSION OF THE COUNCIL**

I. INTRODUCTION - PROCEDURE OF THE SESSION

1. Adoption of the Agenda and Timetable
2. Election of three Vice-Chairpersons, and Designation of the Chairperson and Members of the Drafting Committee

II. WORLD FOOD AND AGRICULTURE SITUATION

3. State of Food and Agriculture 2004
4. Report of the Thirtieth Session of the Committee on World Food Security (Rome, September 2004)
 - 4.1 Intergovernmental Working Group for the Elaboration of a Set of Voluntary Guidelines to Support the Progressive Realization of the Right to Adequate Food in the Context of National Food Security
5. Report of the Eighteenth Session of the Committee on Agriculture (Rome, February 2004)

III. ACTIVITIES OF FAO AND WFP

6. World Food Programme
 - 6.1 Annual Report of the WFP Executive Board on its Activities in 2003
 - 6.2 Election of Six Members to the WFP Executive Board
7. Outcome of the Second FAO/WHO Forum of Food Safety Regulators (Bangkok, 12-14 October 2004) and of Regional Meetings on Food Safety
8. Progress Report from the Secretariat of the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture

**IV. PROGRAMME, BUDGETARY, FINANCIAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE
MATTERS**

9. Programme Implementation Report 2002-2003
10. Medium Term Plan 2006-2011

11. Report of the Joint Meeting of the Programme Committee and the Finance Committee (Rome, May and September 2004)
 - 11.1 Savings and Efficiencies in Governance
 - 11.2 Other Matters Arising out of the Reports
12. Report of the Ninety-first (Rome, May 2004) and Ninety-second Session of the Programme Committee (Rome, September 2004)
13. Reports of the Hundred and Sixth (Rome, February 2004), Hundred and Seventh (Rome, May 2004) and Hundred and Eighth (Rome, September 2004) Sessions of the Finance Committee
 - 13.1 Status of Contributions 2004
 - 13.2 Budgetary Performance 2002-2003
 - 13.3 Results of the Application of the New Methodology for Equitable Geographic Distribution
 - 13.4 Other Matters Arising out of the Reports

V. CONSTITUTIONAL AND LEGAL MATTERS

14. Report of the Seventy-sixth (Rome, March 2004) and Seventy-seventh (Rome, October 2004) Sessions of the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters
15. Other Constitutional and Legal Matters
 - 15.1 Invitations to Non-Member Nations to attend FAO Sessions
 - 15.2 Date for Nominations to the Office of Director-General
 - 15.3 Applications for Membership in the Organization

V. OTHER MATTERS

16. Calendar of FAO Governing Bodies and other Main Sessions 2005-2006
17. Any Other Matters
 - 17.1 Appointment of a Representative of the FAO Conference to the Staff Pension Committee
 - 17.2 Advance Funding for Emergency and Rehabilitation Activities
 - 17.3 Independent External Evaluation of FAO

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APÉNDICE B

代表和观察员名单

LIST OF DELEGATES AND OBSERVERS

LISTE DES DÉLÉGUÉS ET OBSERVATEURS

LISTA DE DELEGADOS Y OBSERVADORES

الرئيس المستقل

独立主席

Independent Chairman

Président indépendant

Presidente Independiente

: Aziz MEKOUAR (Morocco)

عزيز مكوار (المغرب)

نواب الرئيس

副主席

Vice-Chairpersons

Vice-présidents

Vicepresidentes

: Iliya KRASSTELNIKOV (Bulgaria)

: Mohammad SAEID NOORI-NAEINI (Iran, Islamic Republic of)

: Muhammad Ismail QURESHI (Pakistan)

أعضاء المجلس

理事会成员

MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL**MEMBRES DU CONSEIL****MIEMBROS DEL CONSEJO****ANGOLA**

Représentant

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 Ministère de l'agriculture et du
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 Luanda

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Alternate Permanent Representative to
FAO
Rome

Saulo ARANTES CEOLIN
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Alternate Permanent Representative to
FAO
Rome

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Sofia

BURKINA FASO

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JAMAHIRIYA ARABE LIBYENNE -
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الجمهورية العربية الليبية

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مندوب

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المستشار والممثل الدائم المناوب لدى المنظمة
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مندوب
على فهد الهاجري
السفير والممثل الدائم لدى المنظمة
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المراقبون من الدول الأعضاء التي لا تتمتع بعضوية المجلس
非理事会成员的成员国观察员

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**DEMOCRATIC PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC
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 الوزير المفوض والممثل الدائم المناوب لدى المنظمة
 روما

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المراقبون من الدول الأعضاء في الأمم المتحدة
联合国会员国的观察员

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APPENDIX C**LIST OF DOCUMENTS**

CL 127/1-Rev.2	Provisional Annotated Agenda
CL 127/2	State of Food and Agriculture 2004
CL 127/3	Report of the WFP Executive Board to ECOSOC and the FAO Council on its Activities in 2003
CL 127/4	Membership of the WFP Executive Board
CL 127/4-Sup.1	Supplement to document CL 127/4
CL 127/5	Report of the 76th Session of the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters (CCLM) (Rome, 30 March 2004)
CL 127/6	Results of the Application of the New Methodology for Equitable Geographic Distribution
CL 127/7	Medium Term Plan 2006-2011
CL 127/8	Report of the Joint Meeting of the 91st Session of the Programme Committee and the 107th Session of the Finance Committee (Rome, 12 May 2004)
CL 127/9	Report of the 18th Session of the Committee on Agriculture (Rome, 9-10 February 2004)
CL 127/10	Report of the 30th Session of the Committee on World Food Security (CFS) (Rome, 20-23 September 2004)
CL 127/10-Sup. 1	Intergovernmental Working Group for the Elaboration of a Set of Voluntary Guidelines to Support the Progressive Realization of the Right to Adequate Food in the Context of National Food Security (Rome, 23 September 2004). Final Report of the Chair
CL 127/11	Report of the 91st Session of the Programme Committee (Rome, 10-14 May 2004)
CL 127/12	Report of the 92nd Session of the Programme Committee (Rome, 27 September - 1 October 2004)

CL 127/13	Report of the 106th Session of the Finance Committee (Rome, 16 February 2004)
CL 127/14	Report of the 107th Session of the Finance Committee (Rome, 10-18 May 2004)
CL 127/15	Report of the 108th Session of the Finance Committee (Rome, 27 September - 1 October 2004)
CL 127/16	Report of the Joint Meeting of the 92nd Session of the Programme Committee and the 108th Session of the Finance Committee (Rome, 29 September 2004)
CL 127/17	Application for Membership in the Organization
CL 127/18	Outcome of the Second FAO/WHO Global Forum of Food Safety Regulators (Bangkok, 12-14 October 2004) and of Regional Meetings on Food Safety
CL 127/19	Date for Nominations for the Office of Director-General
CL 127/20	Progress Report from the Secretariat of the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture
CL 127/21	Report of the 77th Session of the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters (CCLM) (Rome, 7-8 October 2004)
CL 127/21-Corr.1 (English/French / Spanish only)	Corrigendum to document CL 127/21
CL 127/22	Advance Funding for Emergency and Rehabilitation Activities
<u>C 2005 Series</u>	
C 2005/8	Programme Implementation Report 2002-2003
C 2005/8-Corr.1	Corrigendum to Document C 2005/8
<u>CL 127/INF/Series</u>	
CL 127/INF/1-Rev.1	Provisional Timetable
CL 127/INF/2-Rev.1	Provisional List of Delegates and Observers
CL 127/INF/3	Provisional List of Documents
CL 127/INF/4	Entry into Force of the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade
CL 127/INF/5	Changes in Representation of Member Nations on the Programme and Finance Committees
CL 127/INF/6	Statement of Competence and Voting Rights Submitted by the

European Community (EC) and its Member States

- CL 127/INF/7 Implementation of Decisions taken at the 125th and 126th Sessions of the Council
- CL 127/INF/8 Progress Report on the Implementation of the International Code of Conduct on the Distribution and Use of Pesticides
- CL 127/INF/9 International Year of Rice 2004
- CL 127/INF/10 The Special Programme for Food Security (SPFS) Response to the Independent External Evaluation conducted in 2001-2002
- CL 127/INF/11 no document
- CL 127/INF/12 no document
- CL 127/INF/13 Summaries of the Main Recommendations of Regional Conferences held in 2004
- CL 127/INF/14 Preparations for the FAO Ministerial Meeting on Forests (14 March 2005)
- CL 127/INF/15 Preparations for the FAO Ministerial Meeting on Fisheries (12 March 2005)
- CL 127/INF/16 Report of the Joint Inspection Unit (A/59/34)
- CL 127/INF/17 Programme of Work of the Joint Inspection Unit for 2004 (A/59/75)

CL 127/LIM/ Series

- CL 127/LIM/1 Status of Contributions 2004
- CL 127/LIM/2 Invitations to Non-Member Nations to attend FAO Sessions
- CL 127/LIM/3 Calendar of FAO Governing Bodies and other Main Sessions 2005-2006
- CL 127/LIM/4 A Comprehensive and Independent External Evaluation of FAO (Paper submitted by Canada and the United States of America on Behalf of the North America Group)
- CL 127/LIM/5 Appointment of Representatives of the FAO Conference to the Staff Pension Committee
- CL 127/LIM/6 Director-General's Report on the Proposal to Carry out a Comprehensive and Independent External Evaluation of FAO

CL 127/REP/Series

CL 127/REP/1

CL 127/REP/2 Add.1 Draft Reports of Plenary

CL 127/REP/3 to

CL 127/REP/12

CL 127/PV/Series

CL 127/PV/1 to Verbatim Records of Plenary

CL 127/PV/8

CL 127/OD/Series

CL 127/OD/1 to Orders of the Day

CL 127/OD/6

APPENDIX D

**VOLUNTARY GUIDELINES TO SUPPORT THE PROGRESSIVE REALIZATION
OF THE RIGHT TO ADEQUATE FOOD IN THE CONTEXT
OF NATIONAL FOOD SECURITY**

**Adopted by the 127th Session of the FAO Council
22-27 November 2004**

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Section I: Preface and Introduction

Preface

1. The eradication of hunger is clearly reflected in the target set at the World Food Summit to reduce the number of undernourished people to half their present level no later than 2015 and as agreed by the Millennium Summit to “halve the proportion of people who suffer from hunger” by the same year.
2. In the Rome Declaration on World Food Security, Heads of State and Government “reaffirm[ed] the right of everyone to have access to safe and nutritious food, consistent with the right to adequate food and the fundamental right of everyone to be free from hunger.” Objective 7.4 of the World Food Summit Plan of Action established the task: “to clarify the content of the right to adequate food and the fundamental right of everyone to be free from hunger, as stated in the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and other relevant international and regional instruments, and to give particular attention to implementation and full and progressive realization of this right as a means of achieving food security for all.”
3. The Plan of Action “invite[d] the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, in consultation with relevant treaty bodies, and in collaboration with relevant specialised agencies and programmes of the UN system and appropriate intergovernmental mechanisms, to better define the rights related to food in Article 11 of the Covenant and to propose ways to implement and realize these rights as a means of achieving the commitments and objectives of the World Food Summit, taking into account the possibility of formulating voluntary guidelines for food security for all.”
4. In response to the invitation by the World Food Summit, and following several international consultations, the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights adopted General Comment 12 which provided its experts’ views on the progressive realization of the right to adequate food.
5. In Paragraph 10 of the Declaration adopted at the 2002 World Food Summit: *five years later*, Heads of State and Government invited the Council of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations to establish at its 123rd session an Intergovernmental Working Group (IGWG), in the context of the World Food Summit follow-up, with the following mandate: “to elaborate, with the participation of stakeholders, in a period of two years, a set of voluntary guidelines to support Member Nations’ efforts to achieve the progressive realization of the right to adequate food in the context of national food security”.
6. The objective of these Voluntary Guidelines is to provide practical guidance to States in their implementation of the progressive realization of the right to adequate food in the context of national food security, in order to achieve the goals of the Plan of Action of the World Food Summit. Relevant stakeholders could also benefit from such guidance.
7. The Voluntary Guidelines take into account a wide range of important considerations and principles, including equality and non-discrimination, participation and inclusion, accountability and rule of law, and the principle that all human rights are universal, indivisible, inter-related and interdependent. Food should not be used as a tool for political and economic pressure.
8. In developing these Voluntary Guidelines, the IGWG has benefited from the active participation of international organizations, non-governmental organizations and representatives of civil society. The implementation of these Guidelines, which is primarily the responsibility of States, should benefit from the contribution of all members of civil society at large, including NGOs and the private sector.
9. These Voluntary Guidelines are a human rights-based practical tool addressed to all States. They do not establish legally binding obligations for states or international organizations, nor is any provision in them to be interpreted as amending, modifying or otherwise impairing rights and obligations under national and international law. States are encouraged to apply these Voluntary Guidelines in developing their strategies, policies programmes and activities, and should do so without discrimination of any kind, such as to race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status.

Introduction

BASIC INSTRUMENTS

10. These Voluntary Guidelines have taken into account relevant international instruments¹, in particular those instruments in which the progressive realization of the right of everyone to an adequate standard of living, including adequate food, is enshrined.

Universal Declaration of Human Rights, Article 25:

1. Everyone has the right to a standard of living adequate for the health and well-being of himself and of his family, including food, clothing, housing and medical care and necessary social services, and the right to security in the event of unemployment, sickness, disability, widowhood, old age or other lack of livelihood in circumstances beyond his control.

International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, Article 11:

1. The States Parties to the present Covenant recognize the right of everyone to an adequate standard of living for himself and his family, including adequate food, clothing and housing, and to the continuous improvement of living conditions. The States Parties will take appropriate steps to ensure the realization of this right, recognizing to this effect the essential importance of international cooperation based on free consent.

2. The States Parties to the present Covenant, recognizing the fundamental right of everyone to be free from hunger, shall take, individually and through international cooperation, the measures, including specific programmes, which are needed:

- (a) to improve methods of production, conservation and distribution of food by making full use of technical and scientific knowledge, by disseminating knowledge of the principles of nutrition and by developing or reforming agrarian systems in such a way as to achieve the most efficient development and utilization of natural resources;
- (b) taking into account the problems of both food-importing and food-exporting countries, to ensure an equitable distribution of world food supplies in relation to need.

International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, Article 2:

1. Each State Party to the present Covenant undertakes to take steps, individually and through international assistance and cooperation, especially economic and technical, to the maximum of its available resources, with a view to achieving progressively the full realization of the rights recognized in the present Covenant by all appropriate means, including particularly the adoption of legislative measures.

2. The States Parties to the present Covenant undertake to guarantee that the rights enunciated in the present Covenant will be exercised without discrimination of any kind as to race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status.

11. Among others, Articles 55 and 56 of the Charter of the United Nations are relevant to these Voluntary Guidelines.

¹ References in the Voluntary Guidelines to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and other international treaties do not prejudice the position of any State with respect to signature, ratification or accession to those instruments.

UN Charter, Article 55

With a view to the creation of conditions of stability and well-being which are necessary for peaceful and friendly relations among nations based on respect for the principle of equal rights and self-determination of peoples, the United Nations shall promote:

- a. higher standards of living, full employment, and conditions of economic and social progress and development;
- b. solutions of international economic, social, health, and related problems; and international cultural and educational co-operation; and
- c. universal respect for, and observance of, human rights and fundamental freedoms for all without distinction as to race, sex, language, or religion.

UN Charter, Article 56

All Members pledge themselves to take joint and separate action in co-operation with the Organization for the achievement of the purposes set forth in Article 55.

12. Other international instruments, including the Convention of the Rights of the Child and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women, the four Geneva Conventions and their two Additional Protocols also contain provisions relevant to these Voluntary Guidelines.
13. These Voluntary Guidelines have taken into account the commitments contained in the Millennium Declaration, including the development goals, as well as the outcomes and commitments of the major UN conferences and summits in the economic, social and related fields.
14. The IGWG has also taken into account several Resolutions from the United Nations General Assembly and Commission on Human Rights and the General Comments adopted by the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights.

THE RIGHT TO ADEQUATE FOOD AND THE ACHIEVEMENT OF FOOD SECURITY

15. Food security exists when all people, at all times, have physical and economic access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food to meet their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life. The four pillars of food security are availability, stability of supply, access and utilization.
16. The progressive realization of the right to adequate food requires States to fulfil their relevant human rights obligations under international law. These Voluntary Guidelines aim to guarantee the availability of food in quantity and quality sufficient to satisfy the dietary needs of individuals; physical and economic accessibility for everyone, including vulnerable groups, to adequate food, free from unsafe substances and acceptable within a given culture; or the means of its procurement.
17. States have obligations under relevant international instruments relevant to the progressive realization of the right to adequate food. Notably, States Parties to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR) have the obligation to respect, promote and protect and to take appropriate steps to achieve progressively the full realization of the right to adequate food. States Parties should respect existing access to adequate food by not taking any measures that result in preventing such access, and should protect the right of everyone to adequate food by taking steps so that enterprises and individuals do not deprive individuals of their access to adequate food. States Parties should promote policies intended to contribute to the progressive realization of people's right to adequate food by proactively engaging in activities intended to strengthen people's access to and utilization of resources and means to ensure their livelihood, including food security. States Parties should, to the extent that resources permit,

establish and maintain safety nets or other assistance to protect those who are unable to provide for themselves.

18. States that are not Parties to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR) are invited to consider ratifying the ICESCR.

19. At the national level a human rights-based approach to food security emphasizes universal, inter-dependent, indivisible and inter-related human rights, the obligations of States and the roles of relevant stakeholders. It emphasizes the achievement of food security as an outcome of the realization of existing rights and includes certain key principles: the need to enable individuals to realise the right to take part in the conduct of public affairs, right to freedom of expression and right to seek, receive and impart information, including in relation to decision making about policies on realizing the right to adequate food. Such an approach should take into account the need for emphasis on poor and vulnerable people who are often excluded from the processes which determine policies to promote food security and the need for inclusive societies free from discrimination by the State in meeting their obligations to promote and respect human rights. In this approach, people hold their governments accountable and are participants in the process of human development, rather than being passive recipients. A human rights-based approach requires not only addressing the final outcome of abolishing hunger, but also proposing ways and tools by which that goal is achieved. Application of human rights principles is integral to the process.

Section II: Enabling Environment, Assistance and Accountability

GUIDELINE 1: DEMOCRACY, GOOD GOVERNANCE, HUMAN RIGHTS AND THE RULE OF LAW

1.1 States should promote and safeguard a free, democratic and just society in order to provide a peaceful, stable and enabling economic, social, political and cultural environment in which individuals can feed themselves and their families in freedom and dignity.

1.2 States should promote democracy, the rule of law, sustainable development and good governance, and promote and protect human rights and fundamental freedoms in order to empower individuals and civil society to make demands on their governments, devise policies that address their specific needs and ensure the accountability and transparency of governments and state decision-making processes in implementing such policies. States should in particular promote freedom of opinion and expression, freedom of information, freedom of the press and freedom of assembly and association, which enhances the progressive realization of the right to adequate food in the context of national food security. Food should not be used as a tool for political and economic pressure.

1.3 States should also promote good governance as an essential factor for sustained economic growth, sustainable development, poverty and hunger eradication and for the realization of all human rights including the progressive realization of the right to adequate food.

1.4 States should ensure, in accordance with their international human rights obligations, that all individuals, including human rights defenders of the progressive realization of the right to adequate food, are accorded equal protection under the law and that due process is guaranteed in all legal proceedings.

1.5 Where appropriate and consistent with domestic law, States may assist individuals and groups of individuals to have access to legal assistance to better assert the progressive realization of the right to adequate food.

GUIDELINE 2: ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT POLICIES

2.1 In order to achieve the progressive realization of the right to adequate food in the context of national food security, States should promote broad-based economic development that is supportive of their food security policies. States should establish policy goals and benchmarks based on the food security needs of the population.

2.2 States should assess, in consultation with key stakeholders, the economic and social situation, including the degree of food insecurity and its causes, the nutrition situation and food safety.

2.3 States should promote adequate and stable supplies of safe food through a combination of domestic production, trade, storage and distribution.

2.4 States should consider adopting a holistic and comprehensive approach to hunger and poverty reduction. Such an approach entails, *inter alia*, direct and immediate measures to ensure access to adequate food as part of a social safety net; investment in productive activities and projects to improve the livelihoods of the poor and hungry in a sustainable manner; the development of appropriate institutions, functioning markets, a conducive legal and regulatory framework; and access to employment, productive resources and appropriate services.

2.5 States should pursue inclusive, non-discriminatory and sound economic, agriculture, fisheries, forestry, land use, and, as appropriate, land reform policies - all of which will permit farmers, fishers, foresters and other food producers, particularly women, to earn a fair return from their labour, capital and management, and encourage conservation and sustainable management of natural resources including in marginal areas.

2.6 Where poverty and hunger are predominantly rural, States should focus on sustainable agricultural and rural development through measures to improve access to land, water, appropriate and affordable technologies, productive and financial resources, enhance the productivity of poor rural communities, promote the participation of the poor in economic policy decisions, share the benefits of productivity gains, conserve and protect natural resources, and invest in rural infrastructure, education and research. In particular, States should adopt policies that create conditions which encourage stable employment, especially in rural areas, including off-farm jobs.

2.7 In response to the growing problem of urban hunger and poverty, States should promote investments aimed at enhancing the livelihoods of the urban poor.

GUIDELINE 3: STRATEGIES

3.1 States, as appropriate and in consultation with relevant stakeholders and pursuant to their national laws, should consider adopting a national human-rights based strategy for the progressive realization of the right to adequate food in the context of national food security as part of an overarching national development strategy, including poverty reduction strategies, where they exist.

3.2 The elaboration of these strategies should begin with a careful assessment of existing national legislation, policy and administrative measures, current programmes, systematic identification of existing constraints and availability of existing resources. States should formulate the measures necessary to remedy any weakness, and propose an agenda for change and the means for its implementation and evaluation.

3.3 These strategies could include objectives, targets, benchmarks and time frames; and actions to formulate policies; identify and mobilize resources; define institutional mechanisms; allocate responsibilities; coordinate the activities of different actors; and provide for monitoring mechanisms. As appropriate, such strategies could address all aspects of the food system, including the production, processing, distribution, marketing and consumption of safe food. It could also address access to resources and to markets as well as parallel measures in other fields. These strategies should in particular address the needs of vulnerable and disadvantaged groups, as well as special situations such as natural disasters and emergencies.

3.4 Where necessary, States should consider adopting and, as appropriate, reviewing a national poverty reduction strategy that specifically addresses access to adequate food.

3.5 States, individually or in cooperation with relevant international organizations, should consider integrating into their poverty reduction strategy a human rights perspective based on the principle of non-discrimination. In raising the standard of living of those below the poverty line, due regard should be given to the need to ensure equality in practice to those who are traditionally disadvantaged and between women and men.

3.6 In their poverty reduction strategies, States also should give priority to providing basic services for the poorest, and investing in human resources by ensuring access to primary education for all, basic health care, capacity building in good practices, clean drinking water, adequate

sanitation and justice and by supporting programmes in basic literacy, numeracy and good hygiene practices.

3.7 States are encouraged, *inter alia* and in a sustainable manner, to increase productivity and to revitalize the agricultural sector including livestock, forestry and fisheries through special policies and strategies targeted at small-scale and traditional fishers, and farmers in rural areas, and the creation of enabling conditions for private sector participation, with emphasis on human capacity development and the removal of constraints to agricultural production, marketing and distribution.

3.8 In developing these strategies, States are encouraged to consult with civil society organizations and other key stakeholders at national and regional levels, including the small-scale and traditional farmers, private sector, women, and youth associations, with the aim of promoting their active participation in all aspects of agricultural and food production strategies.

3.9 These strategies should be transparent, inclusive and comprehensive, cut across national policies, programmes and projects, take into account the special needs of girls and women, combine short term and long term objectives, and be prepared and implemented in a participatory and accountable manner.

3.10 States should support, including through regional cooperation, the implementation of national strategies for development, in particular for the reduction of poverty and hunger as well as for the progressive realization of the right to adequate food.

GUIDELINE 4: MARKET SYSTEMS

4.1 States should, in accordance with their national law and priorities, as well as their international commitments, improve the functioning of their markets, in particular their agricultural and food markets, in order to promote both economic growth and sustainable development, *inter alia*, by mobilizing domestic savings, both public and private, by developing appropriate credit policies, by generating sustainable adequate levels of national productive investment through credits in concessional terms and by increasing human capacity.

4.2 States should put legislation, policies, procedures and regulatory and other institutions in place to ensure non-discriminatory access to markets and to prevent uncompetitive practices in markets.

4.3 States should encourage the development of corporate social responsibility and the commitment of all market players and civil society towards the progressive realization of the right of individuals to adequate food in the context of national food security.

4.4 States should provide adequate protection to consumers against fraudulent market practices, misinformation and unsafe food. The measures toward this objective should not constitute unjustified barriers to international trade and should be in conformity with the WTO agreements.

4.5 States should, as appropriate, promote the development of small-scale local and regional markets and border trade to reduce poverty and increase food security, particularly in poor rural and urban areas.

4.6 States may wish to adopt measures to ensure that the widest number of individuals and communities, especially disadvantaged groups, can benefit from opportunities created by competitive agricultural trade.

4.7 States should strive to ensure that food, agricultural trade and overall trade policies are conducive to fostering food security for all through a non-discriminatory and market-oriented local, regional, national and world trade system.

4.8 States should endeavour to establish well functioning internal marketing, storage, transportation, communication and distribution systems, *inter alia*, to facilitate diversified trade and better links within and between domestic, regional and world markets, as well as to take advantage of new market opportunities.

4.9 States will take into account that markets do not automatically result in everybody achieving a sufficient income at any time to meet basic needs and should therefore seek to provide adequate social safety nets and, where appropriate, the assistance of the international community for this purpose.

4.10 States should take account of shortcomings of market mechanisms in protecting the environment and public goods.

GUIDELINE 5: INSTITUTIONS

5.1 States, where appropriate, should assess the mandate and performance of relevant public institutions and, where necessary, establish, reform or improve their organization and structure to contribute to the progressive realization of the right to adequate food in the context of national food security.

5.2 To this end, States may wish to ensure the coordinated efforts of relevant government ministries, agencies and offices. They could establish national intersectoral coordination mechanisms to ensure the concerted implementation, monitoring and evaluation of policies, plans and programmes. States are encouraged to involve relevant communities in all aspects of planning and execution of activities in these areas.

5.3 States may also wish to entrust a specific institution with overall responsibility for overseeing and coordinating the application of these guidelines, bearing in mind the Declaration and Programme of Action of the 1993 Vienna World Conference on Human Rights and taking due account of existing agriculture conventions and protocols. In order to ensure transparency and accountability, the functions and tasks of this institution would need to be clearly defined, regularly reviewed and provision made for adequate monitoring mechanisms.

5.4 States should ensure that relevant institutions provide for full and transparent participation of the private sector and of civil society, in particular representatives of the groups most affected by food insecurity.

5.5 States should take measures, where and if necessary, to develop, strengthen, implement and maintain effective anticorruption legislation and policies, including in the food sector and in the management of emergency food aid.

GUIDELINE 6: STAKEHOLDERS

6.1 Recognizing the primary responsibility of States for the progressive realisation of the right to adequate food, States are encouraged to apply a multi-stakeholder approach to national food security to identify the roles of and involve all relevant stakeholders, encompassing civil society and private sector, drawing together their know-how with a view to facilitate the efficient use of resources.

GUIDELINE 7: LEGAL FRAMEWORK

7.1 States are invited to consider, in accordance with their domestic legal and policy frameworks, whether to include provisions in their domestic law, possibly including constitutional or legislative review that facilitates the progressive realization of the right to adequate food in the context of national food security.

7.2 States are invited to consider, in accordance with their domestic legal and policy frameworks, whether to include provisions in their domestic law, which may include their constitutions, bills of rights or legislation, to directly implement the progressive realization of the right to adequate food. Administrative, quasi-judicial and judicial mechanisms to provide adequate, effective and prompt remedies accessible, in particular, to members of vulnerable groups may be envisaged.

7.3 States that have established a right to adequate food under their legal system should inform the general public of all available rights and remedies to which they are entitled.

7.4 States should consider strengthening their domestic law and policies to accord access by women heads of households to poverty reduction and nutrition security programs and projects.

GUIDELINE 8: ACCESS TO RESOURCES AND ASSETS

8.1 States should facilitate sustainable, non-discriminatory and secure access and utilization of resources consistent with their national law and with international law and protect the assets that are important for people's livelihoods. States should respect and protect the rights of individuals with respect to resources such as land, water, forests, fisheries, and livestock without any discrimination. Where necessary and appropriate, States should carry out land reforms and other policy reforms consistent with their human rights obligations and in accordance with the rule of law in order to secure efficient and equitable access to land and to strengthen pro-poor growth. Special attention may be given to groups such as pastoralists and indigenous people and their relation to natural resources.

8.2 States should take steps so that members of vulnerable groups can have access to opportunities and economic resources in order to participate fully and equally in the economy.

8.3 States should pay particular attention to the specific access problems of women and of vulnerable, marginalized and traditionally disadvantaged groups, including all persons affected by HIV/AIDS. States should take measures to protect all people affected by HIV/AIDS from losing their access to resources and assets.

8.4 States should promote agricultural research and development, in particular to promote basic food production with its positive effects on basic incomes and its benefits to small and women farmers, as well as poor consumers.

8.5 States should, within the framework of relevant international agreements, including those on intellectual property, promote access by medium and small-scale farmers to research results enhancing food security.

8.6 States should promote women's full and equal participation in the economy and, for this purpose, introduce, where it does not exist, and implement gender-sensitive legislation providing women with the right to inherit and possess land and other property. States should also provide women with secure and equal access to, control over, and benefits from productive resources, including credit, land, water, and appropriate technologies.

8.7 States should design and implement programs that include different mechanisms of access and appropriate use of agricultural land, directed to the poorest populations.

Guideline 8a: Labour

8.8 States should take measures to encourage sustainable development in order to provide opportunities for work that provides remuneration allowing for an adequate standard of living for rural and urban wage earners and their families, and to promote and protect self-employment. For States that have ratified the relevant instruments, working conditions should be consistent with the obligations they have assumed under the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, relevant ILO Conventions and other treaties including human rights conventions.

8.9 In order to improve access to the labour market, states should enhance human capital through education programs, adult literacy and additional training programs, as required, regardless of race, colour, gender, language, religion, political opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status.

Guideline 8b: Land

8.10 States should take measures to promote and protect the security of land tenure, especially with respect to women, poor and disadvantaged segments of society, through legislation that protects the full and equal right to own land and other property, including the right to inherit. As appropriate, States should consider establishing legal and other policy mechanisms, consistent with their international human rights obligations and in accordance with the rule of law, that advance land reform to enhance access for the poor and women. Such mechanisms should also promote conservation and sustainable use of land. Special consideration should be given to the situation of indigenous communities.

Guideline 8c: Water

8.11 Bearing in mind that access to water in sufficient quantity and quality for all is fundamental for life and health, States should strive to improve access to, and promote sustainable use of, water resources and their allocation among users giving due regard to efficiency and the satisfaction of basic human needs in an equitable manner and that balances the requirement of preserving or restoring the functioning of ecosystems with domestic, industrial and agricultural needs, including safeguarding drinking water quality.

Guideline 8d: Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture

8.12 States, taking into account the importance of biodiversity, and consistent with their obligations under relevant international agreements, should consider specific national policies, legal instruments and supporting mechanisms to prevent the erosion and to ensure the conservation and sustainable use of genetic resources for food and agriculture, including, as appropriate, for the protection of relevant traditional knowledge and equitable participation in sharing benefits arising from the use of these resources, and by encouraging, as appropriate, the participation of local and indigenous communities and farmers in making national decisions on matters related to the conservation and sustainable use of genetic resources for food and agriculture.

Guideline 8e: Sustainability

8.13 States should consider specific national policies, legal instruments and supporting mechanisms to protect ecological sustainability and the carrying capacity of ecosystems to ensure the possibility for increased, sustainable food production for present and future generations, prevent water pollution, protect the fertility of the soil, and promote sustainable management of fisheries and forestry.

Guideline 8f: Services

8.14 States should create an enabling environment and strategies to facilitate and support the development of private and public sector initiatives to promote appropriate tools, technologies and mechanization in the provision of relevant services, including research, extension, marketing, rural finance and micro credit, to enable more efficient food production by all farmers, in particular poor farmers, and to address local constraints such as shortage of land, water and farm power.

GUIDELINE 9: FOOD SAFETY AND CONSUMER PROTECTION

9.1 States should take measures to ensure that all food, whether locally produced or imported, freely available or sold on markets, is safe and consistent with national food safety standards.

9.2 States should establish comprehensive and rational food-control systems that reduce risk of food borne disease using risk analysis and supervisory mechanisms to ensure food safety in the entire food chain including animal feed.

9.3 States are encouraged to take action to streamline institutional procedures for food control and food safety at national level and eliminate gaps and overlaps in inspection systems and in the legislative and regulatory framework for food. States are encouraged to adopt scientifically based food safety standards, including standards for additives, contaminants, residues of veterinary drugs and pesticides, and microbiological hazards, and establish standards for packaging, labelling and advertising of food. These standards should take into consideration internationally accepted food standards (Codex Alimentarius) in accordance with the WTO Sanitary and Phytosanitary Agreement (SPS). States should take action, to prevent contamination from industrial and other pollutants in the production, processing, storage, transport, distribution, handling and sale of food

9.4 States may wish to establish a national coordinating committee for food to bring together both governmental and non-governmental actors involved in the food system and to act as liaison with the FAO/WHO Codex Alimentarius Commission. States should consider collaborating with private stakeholders in the food system, both by assisting them in exercising controls on their own production and handling practices, and by auditing those controls.

9.5 Where necessary, States should assist farmers and other primary producers to follow good agricultural practices, food processors to follow good manufacturing practices, and food handlers to follow good hygiene practices. States are encouraged to consider establishing food safety systems and supervisory mechanisms to ensure the provision of safe food to consumers.

9.6 States should ensure that education on safe practices is available for food business operators in order that their activities neither lead to harmful residues in food nor cause harm to the environment. States should also take measures to educate consumers about the safe storage, handling and utilization of food within the household. States should collect and disseminate information to the public regarding food-borne diseases and food safety matters, and should cooperate with regional and international organizations addressing food safety issues.

9.7 States should adopt measures to protect consumers from deception and misrepresentation in the packaging, labelling, advertising and sale of food and facilitate consumers' choice by

ensuring appropriate information on marketed food, and provide recourse for any harm caused by unsafe or adulterated food, including food offered by street sellers. Such measures should not be used as unjustified barriers to trade and be in conformity with the WTO agreements (in particular SPS and TBT).

9.8 Developed countries are encouraged to provide technical assistance to developing countries through advice, credits, donations and grants for capacity building and training in food safety. When possible and appropriate, developing countries with more advanced capabilities in food safety-related areas are encouraged to lend assistance to less advanced developing countries.

9.9 States are encouraged to cooperate with all stakeholders, including regional and international consumer organizations, addressing food safety issues, and consider their participation in national and international fora where policies with impact on food production, processing, distribution, storage and marketing are discussed.

GUIDELINE 10: NUTRITION

10.1 If necessary, States should take measures to maintain, adapt or strengthen dietary diversity and healthy eating habits and food preparation, as well as feeding patterns, including breastfeeding, while ensuring that changes in availability and access to food supply do not negatively affect dietary composition and intake.

10.2 States are encouraged to take steps, in particular through education, information and labelling regulations, to prevent over-consumption and unbalanced diets which may lead to malnutrition, obesity and degenerative diseases.

10.3 States are encouraged to involve all relevant stakeholders, in particular communities and local government, in the design, implementation, management, monitoring and evaluation of programmes to increase the production and consumption of healthy and nutritious foods, especially those that are rich in micronutrients. States may wish to promote gardens at both home and school as a key element in combating micronutrient deficiencies and promoting healthy eating. States may also consider adopting regulations for fortifying foods to prevent and cure micronutrient deficiencies particularly iodine, iron and Vitamin A.

10.4 States should address the specific food and nutritional needs of people living with HIV/AIDS, or suffering from other epidemics.

10.5 States should take appropriate measures to promote and encourage breastfeeding, in line with their cultures, the International Code of Marketing of Breast-milk Substitutes and subsequent resolutions of the World Health Assembly, in accordance with the WHO/UNICEF recommendations.

10.6 States may wish to disseminate information on the feeding of infants and young children that is consistent and in line with current scientific knowledge and internationally accepted practices and to take steps to counteract misinformation on infant feeding. States should consider with utmost care issues regarding breastfeeding and human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) infection on the basis of the most up-to-date, authoritative scientific advice and referring to the latest WHO/UNICEF guidelines.

10.7 States are invited to take parallel action in the areas of health, education and sanitary infrastructure and promote intersectoral collaboration, so that necessary services and goods become available to people to enable them to make full use of the dietary value in the food they eat and thus achieve nutritional well-being.

- 10.8 States should adopt measures to eradicate any kind of discriminatory practices, especially in respect of gender, in order to achieve adequate levels of nutrition within the household.
- 10.9 States should recognize that food is a vital part of an individual's culture and are encouraged to take into account individuals' practices, customs and traditions on matters related to food.
- 10.10 States are reminded of the cultural values of dietary and eating habits in different cultures and should establish methods for promoting food safety, positive nutritional intake including fair distribution of food within communities and households with special emphasis on the needs and rights of both girls and boys and pregnant women and lactating mothers, in all cultures.

GUIDELINE 11: EDUCATION AND AWARENESS RAISING

- 11.1 States should support investment in human resource development such as health, education, literacy and other skills training, which are essential to sustainable development, including agriculture, fisheries, forestry and rural development.
- 11.2 States should strengthen and broaden primary education opportunities, especially for girls, women and other under-served populations.
- 11.3 States should encourage agricultural and environmental education at the primary and secondary levels in order to create a better awareness in new generations about the importance of conserving and making a sustainable use of natural resources.
- 11.4 States should support higher education through strengthening developing country university and technical faculties of agriculture related disciplines and business to carry out both education and research functions, and engaging universities throughout the world in training developing country agriculturalists, scientists and businessmen at the graduate and post-graduate levels.
- 11.5 States should provide information to individuals to strengthen their ability to participate in food related policy decisions that may affect them, and to challenge decisions that threaten their rights.
- 11.6 States should implement measures to make people improve their housing conditions and the means for food preparation, because they are related to food safety. Such measures should be made in the educative and infrastructure fields, specially in rural households.
- 11.7 States should promote and/or integrate into school curricula human rights education, including civil, political, economic, social, cultural rights, which includes the progressive realization of the right to adequate food.
- 11.8 States are encouraged to promote awareness of the importance of human rights, including the progressive realization of the right to adequate food.
- 11.9 States should provide proper training to officials responsible for the implementation of the progressive realization of the right to adequate food.
- 11.10 States should raise public awareness of these guidelines and continuously provide and improve access to them and to relevant human rights laws and regulations, particularly in rural and remote areas.

11.11 States may wish to empower civil society to participate in the implementation of these guidelines, for instance, through capacity building.

GUIDELINE 12: NATIONAL FINANCIAL RESOURCES

12.1 Regional and local authorities are encouraged to allocate resources for anti-hunger and food security purposes in their respective budgets.

12.2 States should ensure transparency and accountability in the use of public resources, particularly in the area of food security.

12.3 States are encouraged to promote basic social programmes and expenditures, in particular those affecting the poor and the vulnerable segments of society, and protect them from budget reductions, while increasing the quality and effectiveness of social expenditures. States should strive to ensure that budget cuts do not negatively affect access to adequate food among the poorest sections of society.

12.4 States are encouraged to establish an enabling legal and economic environment to promote and mobilize domestic savings and attract external resources for productive investment, and seek innovative sources of funding, both public and private at national and international levels, for social programmes.

12.5 States are invited to take appropriate steps and suggest strategies to contribute to raise awareness of the families of migrants in order to promote efficient use of the remittances of migrants for investments that could improve their livelihoods, including the food security of their families.

GUIDELINE 13: SUPPORT FOR VULNERABLE GROUPS

13.1 Consistent with the World Food Summit commitment, States should establish Food Insecurity and Vulnerability Information and Mapping Systems (FIVIMS), in order to identify groups and households particularly vulnerable to food insecurity along with the reasons for their food insecurity. States should develop and identify corrective measures to be implemented both immediately and progressively to provide access to adequate food.

13.2 States are invited to systematically undertake disaggregated analysis on the food insecurity, vulnerability and nutritional status of different groups in society, with particular attention to assessing any form of discrimination that may manifest itself in greater food insecurity and vulnerability to food insecurity, or in a higher prevalence of malnutrition among specific population groups, or both, with a view to removing and preventing such causes of food insecurity or malnutrition.

13.3 States should establish transparent, non-discriminatory eligibility criteria in order to ensure effective targeting of assistance, so that no one who is in need is excluded, or that those not in need of assistance are included. Effective accountability and administrative systems are essential to prevent leakages and corruption. Factors to take into account include household and individual assets and income, nutrition and health status, as well as existing coping mechanisms.

13.4 States may wish to give priority to channelling food assistance via women as a means of enhancing their decision-making role and ensuring that the food is used to meet the household's food requirements.

GUIDELINE 14: SAFETY NETS

14.1 States should consider, to the extent that resources permit, establishing and maintaining social safety and food safety nets to protect those who are unable to provide for themselves. As far as possible, and with due regard to effectiveness and coverage, states should consider building on existing capacities within communities at risk to provide the necessary resources for social safety and food safety nets to fulfil the progressive realization of the right to adequate food states may wish to consider the benefits of procuring locally.

14.2 States and international organizations should consider the benefits of local procurement for food assistance that could integrate the nutritional needs of those affected by food insecurity and the commercial interests of local producers.

14.3 Although the design of social and food safety nets will depend on the nature of food insecurity, objectives, budget, existing administrative capacity and local circumstances such as levels of food supply and local food markets, States should nonetheless ensure that they adequately target those in need and respect the principle of non-discrimination in the establishment of eligibility criteria.

14.4 States should take steps, to the extent that resources permit, so that any measure of an economic or financial nature, likely to have a negative impact on existing levels of food consumption of vulnerable groups, be accompanied by provision for effective food safety nets. Safety nets should be linked to other complementary interventions that promote food security in the longer term.

14.5 In situations where it has been determined that food plays an appropriate role in safety nets, food assistance should bridge the gap between the nutritional needs of the affected population and their ability to meet those needs themselves. Food assistance should be provided with the fullest possible participation of those affected, and such food should be nutritionally adequate and safe, bearing in mind local circumstances, dietary traditions and cultures.

14.6 States should consider accompanying food assistance in safety net schemes with complementary activities to maximize benefits towards ensuring people's access to and utilization of adequate food. Essential complementary activities include access to clean water and sanitation, health care interventions and nutrition education activities.

14.7 States, in the design of safety nets, should consider the important role of international organizations such as FAO, IFAD, and WFP, and other relevant international, regional and civil society organizations who can assist them in fighting rural poverty and promoting food security and agricultural development.

GUIDELINE 15: INTERNATIONAL FOOD AID

15.1 Donor states should ensure that their food aid policies support national efforts by recipient States to achieve food security and base their food aid provisions on sound needs assessment targeting especially food insecure and vulnerable groups. In this context, donor states should provide assistance in a manner that takes into account food safety, the importance of not disrupting local food production and the nutritional and dietary needs and culture of recipient populations. Food aid should be provided with a clear exit strategy and avoid the creation of dependency. Donors should promote increased use of local and regional commercial markets to meet food needs in famine-prone countries and reduce dependence on food aid.

15.2 International food-aid transactions, including bilateral food aid which is monetized, should be carried out in a manner consistent with the FAO Principles of Surplus Disposal and Consultative Obligations, the Food Aid Convention and the WTO Agreement on Agriculture, and

should meet the internationally agreed food safety standards, bearing in mind local circumstances, dietary traditions and cultures.

15.3 States and relevant non-state actors should ensure, in accordance with international law, safe and unimpeded access to the populations in need, as well as for international needs assessments and humanitarian agencies involved in the distribution of international food assistance.

15.4 The provision of international food aid in emergency situations should take particular account of longer term rehabilitation and development objectives in the recipient countries and should respect universally recognized humanitarian principles.

15.5 The assessment of needs and the planning, monitoring and evaluation of the provision of food aid should, as far as possible, be made in a participatory manner, and whenever possible, in close collaboration with recipient governments at the national and local level.

GUIDELINE 16: NATURAL AND HUMAN-MADE DISASTERS

16.1 Food should never be used as a means of political and economic pressure.

16.2 States reaffirm the obligations they have assumed under international humanitarian law and, in particular, as parties to the 1949 Geneva Conventions and/or the 1977 Additional Protocols thereto with respect to the humanitarian needs of the civilian population, including their access to food in situations of armed conflict and occupation, *inter alia*,

- Additional Protocol I provides, *inter alia*, that “[t]he starvation of civilians as a method of warfare is prohibited” and that “[i]t is prohibited to attack, destroy, remove or render useless objects indispensable to the survival of the civilian population, such as foodstuffs, agricultural areas for the production of foodstuffs, crops, livestock, drinking water installations and supplies and irrigation works, for the specific purpose of denying them, for their sustenance value to the civilian population or to the adverse party, whatever the motive, whether in order to starve out civilians, to cause them to move away, or for any other motive.”, and that “these objects shall not be made the object of reprisals”.

16.3 In situations of occupation, international humanitarian law provides, *inter alia*: that to the fullest extent of the means available to it, the Occupying Power has the duty of ensuring the food and medical supplies of the population; that it should, in particular, bring in the necessary foodstuffs, medical stores and other articles if the resources of the Occupied Territory are inadequate; and that if the whole or part of the population of an Occupied Territory is inadequately supplied, the Occupying Power shall agree to relief schemes on behalf of the said population, and shall facilitate them by all the means at its disposal.²

16.4 States reaffirm the obligations they have assumed regarding the protection, safety and security of humanitarian personnel.

16.5 States should make every effort to ensure that refugees and internally displaced persons have access at all times to adequate food. In this respect, States and other relevant stakeholders should be encouraged to make use of the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement when dealing with situations of internal displacement.

² 1949 Geneva Convention IV Relative to the Protection of Civilians Persons in Time of War, Articles 55, 59.

16.6 In the case of natural or human-made disasters, States should provide food assistance to those in need, may request international assistance if their own resources do not suffice, and should facilitate safe and unimpeded access for international assistance in accordance with international law and universally recognized humanitarian principles, bearing in mind local circumstances, dietary traditions and cultures.

16.7 States should put in place adequate and functioning mechanisms of early warning to prevent or mitigate the effects of natural or human-made disasters. Early warning systems should be based on international standards and cooperation, on reliable, disaggregated data and should be constantly monitored. States should take appropriate emergency preparedness measures, such as keeping food stocks for the acquisition of food and take steps to put in place adequate systems for distribution.

16.8 States are invited to consider establishing mechanisms to assess nutritional impact and to gain understanding of the coping strategies of affected households in the event of natural or human made disasters. This should inform the targeting, design, implementation and evaluation of relief, rehabilitation and resilience building programmes.

GUIDELINE 17: MONITORING, INDICATORS AND BENCHMARKS

17.1 States may wish to establish mechanisms to monitor and evaluate the implementation of these Guidelines towards the progressive realization of the right to adequate food in the context of national food security, in accordance with their capacity and by building on existing information systems and addressing information gaps.

17.2 States may wish to consider conducting “Right to Food Impact Assessments” in order to identify the impact of domestic policies, programmes and projects on the progressive realisation of the right to adequate food of the population at large and vulnerable groups in particular, and as a basis for the adoption of the necessary corrective measures.

17.3 States may also wish to develop a set of process, impact and outcome indicators, relying on indicators already in use and monitoring systems such as FIVIMS, so as to assess the implementation of the progressive realization of the right to adequate food. They may wish to establish appropriate benchmarks to be achieved in the short, medium and long term, which relate directly to meeting poverty and hunger reduction targets as a minimum, as well as other national and international goals including those adopted at the World Food Summit and the Millennium Summit.

17.4 In this evaluation process, process indicators could be so identified or designed that they explicitly relate and reflect the use of specific policy instruments and interventions with outcomes consistent with the progressive realization of the right to adequate food in the context of national food security. Such indicators could enable States to implement legal, policy and administrative measures, detect discriminatory practices and outcomes, and ascertain the extent of political and social participation in the process of realizing that right.

17.5 States should, in particular, monitor the food-security situation of vulnerable groups, in particular women, children and the elderly, and their nutritional status, including the prevalence of micro-nutrient deficiencies.

17.6 In this evaluation process, States should ensure a participatory approach to information gathering, management, analysis, interpretation and dissemination.

GUIDELINE 18: NATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS INSTITUTIONS

18.1 States that have as a matter of national law or policy adopted a rights-based approach and which have national human rights institutions or ombudspersons, may wish to include the progressive realization of the right to adequate food in the context of national food security in their mandates. States which do not have national human rights institutions or ombudspersons are encouraged to establish them. Human rights institutions should be independent and autonomous from the government, in accordance with the Paris Principles. States should encourage civil society organizations and individuals to contribute to monitoring activities undertaken by national human rights institutions with respect to the progressive realization of the right to adequate food.

18.2 States are invited to encourage efforts by national institutions to establish partnerships and increase cooperation with civil society.

GUIDELINE 19: INTERNATIONAL DIMENSION

19.1 States should fulfil those measures, actions and commitments on the international dimension, as described in Section III below, in support of the implementation of the Voluntary Guidelines, which assist states in their national efforts in the progressive realization of the right to adequate food in the context of national food security as set forth by the World Food Summit and the World Food Summit: *five years later* within the context of the Millennium Declaration

Section III: International Measures, Actions and Commitments

INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION AND UNILATERAL MEASURES

1. In the context of recent major international conferences the international community has stated its deep concern over the persistence of hunger, its readiness to support national governments in their efforts to combat hunger and malnutrition and its commitment to cooperate actively within the global partnership for development which includes the international alliance against hunger.
2. States have the primary responsibility for their own economic and social development, including the progressive realization of the right to adequate food in the context of national food security. Stressing that national development efforts should be supported by an enabling international environment, the International community and the UN system, including FAO, as well as other relevant agencies and bodies according to their mandates, are urged to take actions in supporting national development efforts for the progressive realisation of the right to adequate food in the context of national food security. This essential role of international cooperation is recognised, *inter alia*, in article 56 of the Charter of the United Nations as well as in the outcomes of major international conferences such as the plan of action of the WSSD. Food should not be used as a tool of economic and political pressure.
3. States are strongly urged to take steps with a view to the avoidance of, and refrain from, any unilateral measure not in accordance with international law and the charter of the United Nations that impedes the full achievement of economic and social development by the population of the affected countries and that hinders their progressive realization of the right to adequate food.

ROLE OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY

4. Consistent with commitments made at various international conferences, in particular the Monterrey Consensus, developed countries should assist developing countries in attaining international development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration. States and relevant international organisations according to their respective mandates should actively support the progressive realisation of the right to adequate food at the national level. External support, including south-south cooperation, should be coordinated with national policies and priorities.

TECHNICAL COOPERATION

5. Developed and developing countries should act in partnership to support their efforts to achieve the progressive realization of the right to adequate food in the context of national food security through technical cooperation, including institutional capacity building, and transfer of technology on mutually agreed terms, as committed in the major international conferences, in all areas covered in these guidelines, with special focus on impediments to food security such as HIV/AIDS.

INTERNATIONAL TRADE

6. International trade can play a major role in the promotion of economic development, and the alleviation of poverty and improving food security at the national level.
7. States should promote international trade as one of the effective instruments for development, as expanded international trade could open opportunities to reduce hunger and poverty in many of the developing countries.
8. It is recalled that the long-term objective referred to in the WTO Agreement on Agriculture is to establish a fair and market-oriented trading system through a programme of

fundamental reform encompassing strengthened rules and specific commitments on support and protection in order to correct and prevent restrictions and distortions in world agricultural markets.

9. States are urged to implement commitments expressed at various relevant international conferences and the recommendations of the Sao Paulo Consensus (UNCTAD XI) including, for example, those reproduced below:

75. Agriculture is a central element in the current negotiations. Efforts should be intensified to achieve the internationally agreed aims embodied in the three pillars of the Doha mandate, namely substantial improvements in market access; reductions of, with a view to phasing out, all forms of export subsidies; and substantial reductions in trade-distorting domestic support. The negotiations on agriculture taking place in the WTO should deliver an outcome that is consistent with the ambition set out in the Doha mandate. Special and differential treatment for developing countries shall be an integral part of all elements of the negotiations and shall take fully into account development needs in a manner consistent with the Doha mandate, including food security and rural development. Non-trade concerns of countries will be taken into account, as provided for in the Agreement on Agriculture, in accordance with paragraph 13 of the Doha Ministerial Declaration.

...

77. Efforts at extending market access liberalization for non-agricultural products under the Doha Work Programme should be intensified with the aim of reducing or, as appropriate, eliminating tariffs, including tariff peaks, high tariffs and tariff escalation, as well as non-tariff barriers, in particular on products of export interest to developing countries. Negotiations should take fully into account the special needs and interests of developing countries and LDCs, including through less than full reciprocity in reduction commitments.

10. Such measures can contribute to strengthening an enabling environment for the progressive realization of the right to adequate food in the context of national food security.

EXTERNAL DEBT

11. States and relevant international organisations should, as appropriate, pursue external debt relief measures vigorously and expeditiously in order to release resources for combating hunger, alleviating rural and urban poverty and promoting sustainable development. Creditors and debtors must share the responsibility for preventing and resolving unsustainable debt situations. Speedy, effective and full implementation of the enhanced HIPC initiative, which should be fully financed by additional resources is critical. Furthermore, all official and commercial creditors are urged to participate in the HIPC initiative. Heavily indebted poor countries should take or continue to take policy measures required to ensure the full implementation of the HIPC initiative.

OFFICIAL DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE

12. Consistent with the Monterrey Consensus, developed countries should assist developing countries in attaining international development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration, by providing adequate technical and financial assistance and by making concrete efforts towards the targets for ODA of 0.7 per cent of GNP to developing countries and 0.15 per cent to 0.2 per cent of GNP to least developed countries. This should be linked to efforts to improve the quality and effectiveness of aid, including through better coordination, closer integration with national development strategies, greater predictability and stability, and genuine national ownership. Donors should be encouraged to take steps to ensure that resources provided for debt relief do not detract from ODA resources intended to be available for developing countries. Developing countries are encouraged to build on progress achieved in ensuring that

ODA is used effectively to help achieve development goals and targets. In addition, voluntary financial mechanisms supportive of efforts to achieve sustained growth, development and poverty eradication should be explored.

INTERNATIONAL FOOD AID

13. States which provide international assistance in the form of food aid should regularly examine their relevant policies and, if necessary, review them to support national efforts by recipient states to progressively realise the right to adequate food in the context of national food security. In the broader context of food security policy, states should base their food aid policies on sound needs assessment that involve both recipient and donors and that target specially needy and vulnerable groups. In this context, states should provide such assistance in a manner that takes into account the importance of food safety, local and regional food production capacity and benefits, and the nutritional needs, as well as culture of recipient populations.

PARTNERSHIPS WITH NGOS/CSOS/PRIVATE SECTOR

14. States, international organizations, civil society, private sector, and all relevant non-governmental organizations and other stakeholders should promote the strengthening of partnerships and coordinated action, including programs and capacity development efforts, with a view to strengthening the progressive realization of the right to adequate food in the context of national food security.

PROMOTION AND PROTECTION OF THE RIGHT TO ADEQUATE FOOD

15. The organs and specialised agencies related to human rights should continue to enhance the coordination of their activities based on the consistent and objective application of international human right instruments including the promotion of the progressive realization of the right to adequate food. The promotion and protection of all human rights and fundamental freedoms must be considered a priority objective of the United Nations in accordance with its purposes and principles, in particular the purpose of international cooperation. In the framework of these purposes and principles, the promotion and protection of all human rights including the progressive realization of the right to adequate food, is a legitimate concern of all member states, the international community and civil society.

INTERNATIONAL REPORTING

16. States may report on a voluntary basis on relevant activities and progress achieved in implementing the Voluntary Guidelines on the progressive realization of the right to adequate food in the context of national food security, to CFS within its reporting procedures.

APPENDIX E

**STATUTES OF THE SOUTH WEST INDIAN OCEAN
FISHERIES COMMISSION (SWIOFC)****1. Area of Competence**

The area of competence of the Commission shall be all the waters of the South West Indian Ocean within the national jurisdiction of coastal States within the area of competence, being all waters of the Indian Ocean bounded by a line drawn as follows: from a point on the high water mark on the East African coast at latitude 10° 00 N, thence due east along this parallel to the longitude 65°00 E, thence due south along this meridian to the equator, thence due east along this parallel to the longitude 80° 00 E, thence due south along this meridian to a parallel 45° 00 S, thence due west along this parallel to the longitude 30° 00 E, thence due north along this meridian to the coast of the African Continent, as shown in the map in the Annex to these Statutes.

2. Species

The Commission shall cover all living marine resources, without prejudice to the management responsibilities and authority of other competent fisheries and other living marine resources management organizations or arrangements in the area.

3. Membership

The Commission shall be composed of such Members and Associate Members of the Organization that are coastal States, whose territories are situated wholly or partly within the area of the Commission, and that notify in writing to the Director-General their interest in becoming a member of the Commission.

4. Objectives and functions of the Commission

Without prejudice to the sovereign rights of coastal States, the Commission shall promote the sustainable utilization of the living marine resources of the area of the Commission, by the proper management and development of the living marine resources, and address common problems of fisheries management and development faced by the Members of the Commission. To this end, the Commission shall have the following functions and responsibilities:

- (a) to contribute to improved governance through institutional arrangements that encourage cooperation amongst members;
- (b) to help fishery managers in the development and implementation of fishery management systems that take due account of environmental, social and economic concerns;
- (c) to keep under review the state of the fishery resources in the area and the industries based on them;
- (d) to promote, encourage and coordinate research related to the living marine resources in the area and draw up programmes required for this purpose, and to organize such research as may be necessary;
- (e) to promote the collection, exchange, dissemination and analysis or study of statistical, biological, environmental and socio-economic data and other marine fishery information;
- (f) to provide a sound scientific basis to assist Members in taking fisheries management decisions;
- (g) to provide advice on management measures to member governments and competent fisheries organizations;

- (h) to provide advice and promote co-operation on monitoring, control and surveillance, including joint activities, especially as regards issues of a regional or sub-regional nature;
- (i) to encourage, recommend and coordinate training in the areas of interest of the Commission;
- (j) to promote and encourage the utilization of the most appropriate fishing craft, gear, fishing techniques and post harvesting technologies;
- (k) to promote liaison with all competent institutions within the area served by the Commission and adjacent waters, including in particular any agreement or arrangement for the management and conservation of the high seas non-tuna fisheries resources of the Southern Indian Ocean, the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission, the South East Atlantic Fisheries Organization and the Commission for the Conservation of the Antarctic Marine Living Resources;
- (l) to seek funds and other resources to ensure the long-term operations of the Commission;
- (m) to draw up its plan of work;
- (n) to carry out such other activities as may be necessary for the Commission to achieve its objectives, as defined above.

5. General Principles

The Commission shall have due regard for and promote the application of the provisions of the FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries, including the precautionary approach and the ecosystem approach to fisheries management.

6. Institutions

1. Meetings of the Commission shall be held at least once every two years, taking into account the provisions of paragraph 10 below.
2. The Commission shall establish a Scientific Committee to consider the state of fisheries in the area of competence and to advise on the scientific basis for possible regulatory measures to be considered for adoption by the members of the Commission. The Commission shall define the functions of the Scientific Committee.
3. The Commission may establish, on an *ad hoc* basis, such other committees or working parties as it may consider necessary on problems of major importance or of a specialized nature.
4. The establishment of any subsidiary body shall be subject to the determination by the Director-General that the necessary funds are available in the relevant chapter of the budget of the Organization. Before taking any decision involving expenditure in connection with the establishment of subsidiary bodies the Commission must have before it a report from the Director-General on the administrative and financial implications thereof.

7. Reporting

The Commission shall submit to the Director-General reports on its activities and recommendations at such appropriate intervals as to enable the Director-General to take them into consideration when preparing the draft Programme of Work and Budget of the Organization and other submissions to the Conference, Council or Committees of the Council. The Director-General shall bring to the attention of the Conference through the Council recommendations adopted by the Commission which have policy implications or which affect the programme or finances of the Organization. Copies of each report of the Commission shall be circulated to Members of the Commission and to other Member Nations and Associate Members of the Organization and international organizations for their information, as soon as they become available.

8. Observers

1. Any Member Nation or Associate Member of the Organization that is not a member of the Commission may, upon its request, be represented in an observer capacity at meetings of the Commission.
2. States which, while not Members of the Organization, are members of the United Nations, any of its Specialized Agencies or the International Atomic Energy Agency may, upon their request, and with the approval of the Commission be represented in an observer capacity in accordance with the provisions adopted by the Conference of the Organization relating to the granting of observer status to Nations.
3. The Commission shall provide for the participation of intergovernmental and, on request, international non-governmental organizations having special competence in the field of activity of the Commission in its meetings as observers in accordance with its Rules of Procedure.
4. Participation of international organizations in the work of the Commission and relations between the Commission and such organizations shall be governed by the relevant provisions of the Constitution and General Rules of the Organization as well as the rules on relations with international organizations adopted by the Conference and Council of the Organization.

9. Rules of Procedure

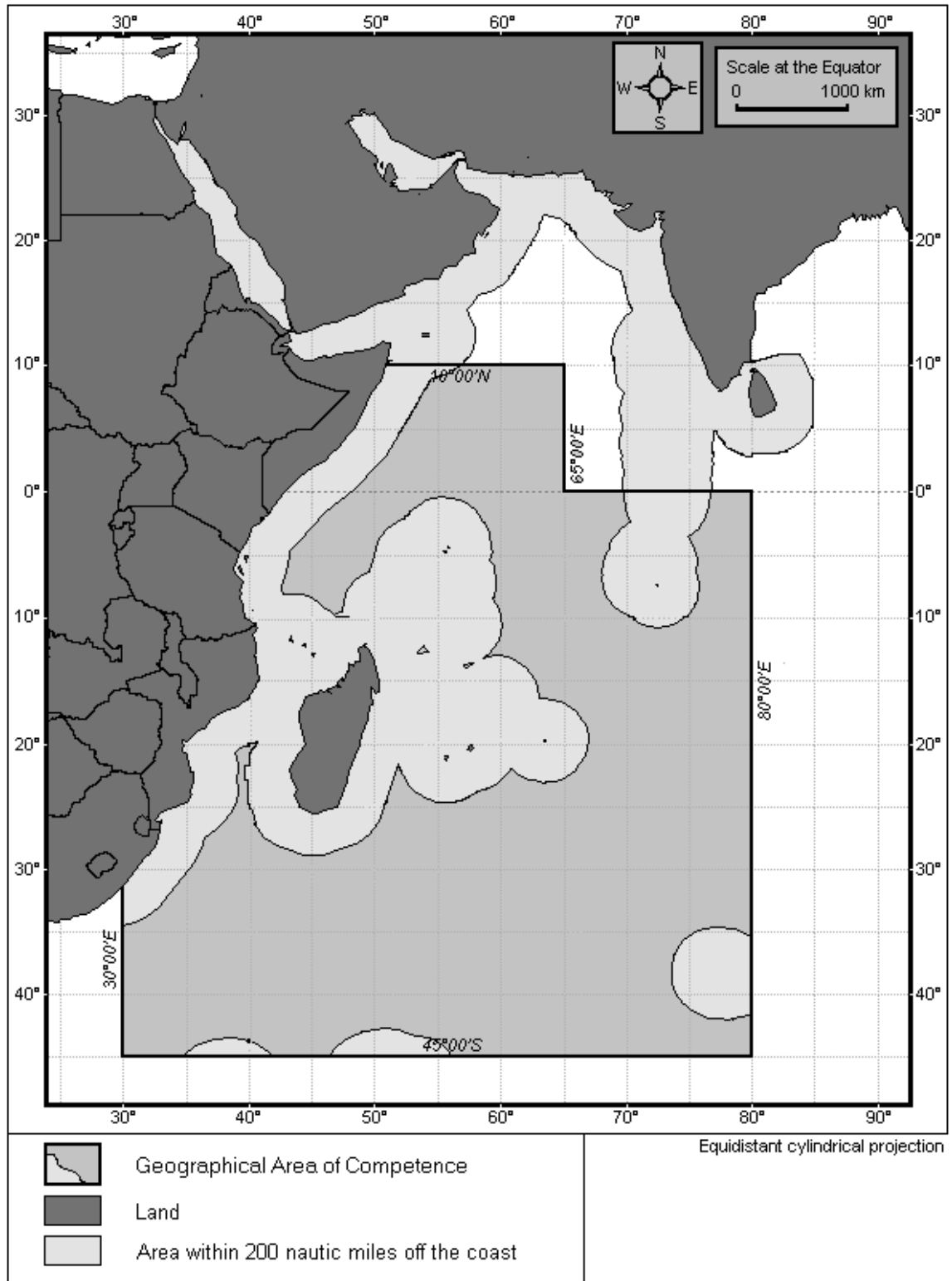
The Commission may adopt and amend its own rules of procedure which shall be in conformity with the Constitution and General Rules of the Organization and with the Statement of Principles Governing Commissions and Committees adopted by the Conference. The rules of procedure and amendments thereto shall come into force upon approval by the Director-General.

10. Co-operation with any agreement or arrangement for the management and conservation of the high seas fisheries resources of the Southern Indian Ocean

The Commission, acting through the Director-General, shall establish close working relations with any agreement or arrangement for the management and conservation of the high seas fisheries resources of the Southern Indian Ocean. Such working relations shall, in particular:

- (a) provide, as far as possible, for the holding of back-to-back meetings with any such agreement or arrangement;
- (b) ensure, as far as possible, the informed and effective participation of members of the Commission that are Contracting Parties to any such agreement or arrangement in meetings of such agreement or arrangement;
- (c) ensure that the Commission is adequately informed on the activities of any such agreement or arrangement.

Annex I. The Geographical Area of Competence and possible EEZ external limit (200 nautic miles).



APPENDIX F

**PROVISIONAL CALENDAR OF FAO GOVERNING BODIES AND OTHER MAIN
SESSIONS FOR 2005 AND PROVISIONAL CALENDAR FOR 2006**

	2005		2006	
JANUARY			24 ARC	30/1-3/2
FEBRUARY				
MARCH	26 COFI COFI MM COFO MM 17 COFO	7 - 11 12 14 15-19	28 NERC 80 CCLM	12 - 16 27 - 28
APRIL	78 CCLM 65 CCP 19 COAG	4 - 5 11-13 13-16	29 LARC	24 - 28
MAY	93 PC 109 FC 31 CFS	9 - 13 9- 13 23-26	95 PC 111 FC 28 APRC	8 - 12 8 - 12 15- 19
JUNE	128 CL	20 - 25	25 ERC	7 - 9
JULY				
AUGUST				
SEPTEMBER	110 FC 94 PC 79 CCLM	19 - 23 19 - 23 28 - 29	32 CFS 96 PC 112 FC	18 - 22 25- 29 25 -29
OCTOBER	WFD	17 (Mon)	81 CCLM WFD	2 - 3 16 (Mon)
NOVEMBER	129 CL 33 C 130 CL	16-18 19 -26 28	131 CL	20 - 25
DECEMBER				

Eid Al-Adha: 21 Jan 05
Easter: 27 Mar 05
Ramadan: 4 Oct - 2 Nov 05
Eid Al-Fitr: 3 Nov 05

Eid Al-Adha: 11 Jan 06
Easter: 16 Apr 06
Ramadan: 24 Sept – 23 Oct 06
Eid Al-Fitr: 24 Oct 06

APRC Regional Conference for Asia and the Pacific
ARC Regional Conference for Africa
C Conference
CCLM Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters
CCP Committee on Commodity Problems
CFS Committee on World Food Security
CL Council
COAG Committee on Agriculture
COFI Committee on Fisheries
COFO Committee on Forestry

ERC Regional Conference for Europe
FC Finance Committee
LARC Regional Conference for Latin America and the Caribbean
MM Ministerial Meeting
NERC Regional Conference for the Near East
PC Programme Committee
WFD World Food Day

PROGRAMME COMMITTEE
(November 2003 – November 2005)

Chairperson

Members

Netherlands (Ewald Wermuth)	Afghanistan (A.R. Ayazi)	Jamaica (F.B. Zenny)
	Australia (B.J. Hughes)	Lebanon (Ms W. Dikah)
	Canada (B.G. Hankey) ¹	Malaysia (R. Bin Khalid)
	Dominican Republic (M. A. Caamaño)	Nigeria (G.G. Lombin)
	India (G. Nair)	South Africa (Ms M. Mohapi)

¹ Replaced by J. Melanson as of the Ninety-second Session.

FINANCE COMMITTEE
(November 2003 – November 2005)

Chairperson

Members

Peru (R. Seminario Portocarrero)	Côte d'Ivoire (A. Bakayoko)	Pakistan (M. Saleem Khan) ²
	Italy (A. Zodda)	Paraguay (Ms A.M. Baiardi Quesnel)
	Japan (Ms R. Inoue) ¹	United Kingdom (A. Beattie)
	Kuwait (Ms L.A. Al-Saqqaf)	United States of America (J.M. Cleverley)
	New Zealand (S.J. Draper)	Zimbabwe (Ms V. Takaendesa)

¹ Replaced by F. Kabuta for the Hundred and Sixth Session.

² Replaced by M. H. Syed for the Hundred and Eighth Session.

COMMITTEE ON CONSTITUTIONAL AND LEGAL MATTERS
(November 2003 – November 2005)

Canada	Iraq
Czech Republic	Niger
France	Philippines
Guatemala	

WFP EXECUTIVE BOARD 2004

Term of office expiring

Elected by FAO Council

Elected by ECOSOC

31 December 2005	Switzerland (D) ¹ Indonesia (B) Finland (D) ² Libyan Arab Jamahiriya (A) Peru (C) Slovakia (E)	Iran, Islamic Republic of (B) Japan (D) Malawi (A) Mexico (C) Poland (E) Sweden (D)
31 December 2006	Angola (A) Bangladesh (B) Nicaragua (C) ³ Netherlands (D) Syrian Arab Republic (B) United States of America (D)	Greece (D) India (B) Norway (D) Pakistan (B) Russian Federation (E) Senegal (A)
31 December 2007	Canada (D) Congo (A) Germany (D) Haiti (C) Niger (A) Thailand (B)	Australia (D) China (B) Cuba (C) Ethiopia (A) Norway (D) Tunisia (A)

¹ Replaced Belgium.

² Replaced Ireland.

³ Replaced El Salvador.

FAO MEMBERS (188)

(at 27 November 2004)

Afghanistan	Georgia	Palau
Albania	Germany	Panama
Algeria	Ghana	Papua New Guinea
Angola	Greece	Paraguay
Antigua and Barbuda	Grenada	Peru
Argentina	Guatemala	Philippines
Armenia	Guinea	Poland
Australia	Guinea-Bissau	Portugal
Austria	Guyana	Qatar
Azerbaijan	Haiti	Republic of Korea
Bahamas	Honduras	Republic of Moldova
Bahrain	Hungary	Romania
Bangladesh	Iceland	Rwanda
Barbados	India	Saint Kitts and Nevis
Belgium	Indonesia	Saint Lucia
Belize	Iran, Islamic Republic of	Saint Vincent and the Grenadines
Benin	Iraq	Samoa
Bhutan	Ireland	San Marino
Bolivia	Israel	Sao Tome and Principe
Bosnia and Herzegovina	Italy	Saudi Arabia
Botswana	Jamaica	Senegal
Brazil	Japan	Serbia and Montenegro
Bulgaria	Jordan	Seychelles
Burkina Faso	Kazakhstan	Sierra Leone
Burundi	Kenya	Slovakia
Cambodia	Kiribati	Slovenia
Cameroon	Kuwait	Solomon Islands
Canada	Kyrgyzstan	Somalia
Cape Verde	Lao People's Democratic Republic	South Africa
Central African Republic	Latvia	Spain
Chad	Lebanon	Sri Lanka
Chile	Lesotho	Sudan
China	Liberia	Suriname
Colombia	Libyan Arab Jamahiriya	Swaziland
Comoros	Lithuania	Sweden
Congo	Luxembourg	Switzerland
Cook Islands	Madagascar	Syrian Arab Republic
Costa Rica	Malawi	Tajikistan
Côte d'Ivoire	Malaysia	Thailand
Croatia	Maldives	The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia
Cuba	Mali	Timor-Leste
Cyprus	Malta	Togo
Czech Republic	Marshall Islands	Tonga
Democratic People's Republic of Korea	Mauritania	Trinidad and Tobago
Democratic Republic of the Congo	Mauritius	Tunisia
Denmark	Mexico	Turkey
Djibouti	Micronesia, Federated States of	Turkmenistan
Dominica	Monaco	Tuvalu
Dominican Republic	Mongolia	Uganda
Ecuador	Morocco	Ukraine
Egypt	Mozambique	United Arab Emirates
El Salvador	Myanmar	United Kingdom
Equatorial Guinea	Namibia	United Republic of Tanzania
Eritrea	Nauru	United States of America
Estonia	Nepal	Uruguay
Ethiopia	Netherlands	Uzbekistan
European Community (Member Organization)	New Zealand	Vanuatu
Fiji	Nicaragua	Venezuela, Bolivarian Republic of
Finland	Niger	Viet Nam
France	Nigeria	Yemen
Gabon	Niue	Zambia
Gambia	Norway	Zimbabwe
	Oman	
	Pakistan	

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