



منظمة الأغذية  
والزراعة  
للأمم المتحدة

联合国  
粮食及  
农业组织

Food  
and  
Agriculture  
Organization  
of  
the  
United  
Nations

Organisation  
des  
Nations  
Unies  
pour  
l'alimentation  
et  
l'agriculture

Продовольственная и  
сельскохозяйственная  
организация  
Объединенных  
Наций

Organización  
de las  
Naciones  
Unidas  
para la  
Agricultura  
y la  
Alimentación

## CONFERENCE

### Thirty-sixth Session

Rome, 18-23 November 2009

### POSSIBLE INCREASE IN THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE COUNCIL

1. Ever since the earliest years of FAO, the General Rules of the Organization (GRO) have made provision (i) for renewal of the membership of the Council by thirds and (ii) for staggered terms of office of three years. At present, the Council has forty-nine Members. In accordance with Rule XXII, paragraph 1 (b) of the GRO, the Conference makes provision so as to ensure that the terms of office of sixteen Members of the Council expire in each of two successive calendar years and seventeen in the third calendar year.
2. Since 1953, when the membership of the Council was set at 24 Member Nations, the Conference increased the membership of the Council and changed the allocation of seats by region<sup>1</sup>. In all past situations where the Conference increased the number of seats of the Council and changed the allocation of seats by region, the revised rules were implemented with immediate effect, i.e., the number of seats was increased immediately and the Conference, following the amendment of the provisions of the Constitution and the GRO, immediately elected additional Members to the Council. Consequently, there was a need to implement transitional measures to take into consideration the on-going staggered process of renewal of the membership of the Council. As the renewal of membership of the Council is carried out on a rolling basis, in order to give immediate increase of the membership of the Council it was necessary to elect Members for the remainder of the terms of office which were still running their course.
3. In practical terms, this means that whenever the Conference increased the membership of the Council, it had to elect new Members for a period of one year and for a period of two years, i.e. for the remainder of the terms of office which were running their normal course.
4. The proposal to increase the membership of the Council was made in a letter from the representative of the Dominican Republic of 20 July 2009 under Article XX, paragraph 3 of the Constitution whereby any Member Nation may propose amendments to Constitution in a

<sup>1</sup> Successively, this was done in 1959, 1961, 1965, 1976, 1973 and 1977.

communication to the Director-General<sup>2</sup>. As required by this provision, the Director-General informed immediately all Members of the proposal and the matter is on the agenda of the Conference session. The proposal was for an increase from forty-nine to sixty-one Members and the additional Members would be distributed as follows: one additional seat would be allocated to the Region of Southwest Pacific, two additional seats would be allocated each to the Regions of Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean, and the Near East, and three additional seats to the Region of Europe.

5. A possible approach to the immediate implementation of an increase in membership is presented in the attached table. **This table reflects a possible choice of Members which would serve for shorter periods of time proposed by the secretariat only for the purpose of illustration of the scheme<sup>3</sup>.** The choice of such Members is obviously a matter for the regional groups and for the Members themselves.

#### **INCREASE IN COUNCIL SEATS – 12 ADDITIONAL SEATS**

##### **Term: November 2007 – 31 December 2010**

(elected in November 2007)

(Number of Members elected: 17; number of Members to be elected in future in this group: 21)

4 additional Members for the rest of the period

Africa	+ 1
Asia	+ 1
Europe	+ 1
Grulac	+ 1
Near East	
South West Pacific	

##### **Term: 1 January 2009 – November 2011**

(elected in November 2007)

(Number of Members elected: 16; number of Members to be elected in future in this group: 20)

4 additional Members for the rest of the period

Africa	+ 1
Asia	+ 1
Europe	
Grulac	
Near East	+ 1
South West Pacific	+ 1

<sup>2</sup> The proposed amendment to Article V, paragraph 1 of the Constitution was circulated to Members on 21 July 2009, i.e. at least 120 days before the opening of the session at which the amendment is to be considered, in accordance with Article XX, paragraph 4 of the Constitution.

<sup>3</sup> In any case it should be noted that in order to introduce the new pattern of sessions of the Conference of FAO, there will be a transitional measure of one time reduction of the term of office of all Members of the Council from three years to two years and a half.

**Term: November 2009 – 30 June 2012**

(to be elected in November 2009)

(Number of Members elected: 16; number of Members to be elected in future in this group: 20)

4 additional Members for this period

Africa

Asia

Europe + 2

Grulac + 1

Near East + 1

South West Pacific

**Term: 1 January 2011 – June 2013**

(to be elected in November 2009)

(Number of Members to be elected under old rules: 17; number of Members to be elected in future: 21)

4 additional Members for this period

Africa + 1

Asia + 1

Europe + 1

Grulac + 1

Near East South West Pacific