

Non-Paper
Prepared at the responsibility of Chairperson of Committee on Commodity Problems
To Facilitate More Focused and Structured Discussion at
The Open-Ended Working Group on the CCP Reform (OEWG on CCP) and IGGs

Introduction:

The Committee on Commodity Problems (CCP) at its Sixty-eighth Session (14-16 June 2010) considered its role and working arrangements and those of its Intergovernmental Commodity Groups in the light of the Independent External Evaluation (IEE) recommendations and the ongoing discussions in the Open-ended Working Group on Measures Designed to Increase the Efficiency of Governing Bodies, including Representation.

To facilitate a detailed consideration of the roles and working arrangements of the CCP and its Intergovernmental Groups (IGGs), the Committee decided to establish an open-ended working group **with a core membership of two members per region** and under the chairmanship of the Chairperson of the CCP.

The main objective is to recommend appropriate modalities for strengthening the CCP's position and its subsidiaries bodies at the centre of international debate.

Purpose of the Non-Paper:

In the absence of the Chairperson of CCP to convene meetings and steer its work since January 2011 the work of the OEWG on CCP has been delayed.

The OEWG has very limited time in fulfilling its mandate on detailed consideration of the roles and working arrangements of the CCP and its IGGs and report the discussion outcome to the next 69th Session of CCP scheduled for **28–30 May 2012**.

In view of this time constraints, it would be imperative for OEWG on CCP to schedule as many meeting as possible and conduct its discussions/consultations in a more focused and structured manner to reach a result oriented outcome. This goes without saying that we need to define the work programme of the OEWG – CCP in such a manner.

Keeping this in mind, I wish to propose that members of the OEWG on CCP focus their discussions/consultations on the following Thematic Issues.

A. How the CCP could do more to highlight new developments and their implications and How it could be more proactive

(i) On the question of relevance of terms of reference (TOR) of the CCP at present context

- ✓ Are the core terms of reference of the CCP appropriate?
- ✓ Is the current balance between market developments and policy issues appropriate or should greater weight be given to global policy matters?

- ✓ Should the terms of reference be broadened to include review of FAO work programmes and priorities relating to the remit of the Committee and a standing item added to the CCP agenda?

(ii) On the question of changing the name of the CCP under present context

- ✓ Should the question of the appropriateness of the CCP's name in describing its activities and relevance to current issues in agricultural commodity markets and policy be revisited?

(iii) On the question of enhancing greater involvement of the Bureau and members in agenda setting, programme of work and priority setting

- ✓ **The Content of the Agenda:** Agenda setting is the key to ensuring active participation and ownership of Members. Should CCP give adequate attention to driving a global policy agenda”, as proposed by IEE?
- ✓ **The role of the chairperson:** How can a more active role for the Chairperson in developing the agenda, maintaining policy dialogue and developing the CCP's work priorities be defined and supported? The basic parameters, should
 - it need to be set in a transparent and consultative way?
 - the role of the bureau in setting the agenda *vis-à-vis* through informal consultations between Bureau and regional group coordinators

(iv) Work programme and priority setting

- ✓ Should members continue with the current practice of confining of the CCP's activities between sessions to the technical and administrative work of the Secretariat?
- ✓ Should members consider adopting provisions in CCP for having discussion on the programme of work, going beyond Committee's terms of reference?
- ✓ The biennial sessions and limited inter-sessional activities of CCP - Inter-sessional work of the CCP need to be planned. By extending the duration allowed for substantive discussion, should members be engaged in discussion in the CCP to define its future work programme and priority setting to be implemented during intersession?

(v) On the question of reporting the outcome of the CCP sessions

- ✓ Are the current procedures for drafting the Committee's report satisfactory or should other procedures be explored?

(vi) On the question of enhancing cooperation with other international organizations concerned with commodity trade

- ✓ What modalities might be explored for strengthening cooperation with other international organizations beyond their current participation as observers and technical collaborators?

- ✓ Should at least some of the organizations be brought together around the session of the CCP in jointly organized meetings in what could be described as a “commodity week” also including meetings of the CCP’s IGGs and which could be the major international forum on commodity trade issues?

(vii) On the question of enhancing linkages between the CCP and its subsidiary bodies (IGGs)

- ✓ What modalities might be suggested for strengthening linkages between the IGGs and the CCP, making them a more integral part of the CCP and promoting crosscommodity analysis and consensus building?
- ✓ Should the role and relevance of the Consultative Sub-Committee on Surplus Disposal (CSSD) be reviewed to address the concerns raised since the CCP’s 65th Session in 2005?

(viii) On the question of enhancing the extent and nature of participation by members, including greater participation from Capital based experts

- ✓ How can more effective and active participation of Members in the work of the Committee including between formal sessions be promoted?

(ix) On the question of enhancing greater involvement of other international organizations, civil society and private sector in the CCP sessions

- ✓ How might side events best play a role in generating interest in the CCP and discussing themes in more innovative ways than possible in the formal sessions and how should they relate to the formal sessions?

B. What factors hinder the scope of CCP to be more current, responsive and proactive in dealing with latest market developments

(i) Timing & duration of sessions are crucial to ensuring topicality and proactivity of the CCP. On the question of timing and duration of the CCP sessions under present context

- ✓ Are the current logistical arrangements for sessions of CCP, including their timing, duration and back-to-back arrangement with session of COAG appropriate or should less limiting arrangements be considered?
 - Inflexibility of current scheduling arrangements, if so what could be done
 - Does CCP need more time to discuss its agenda – the proposal for savings on days of meetings was accommodated by shorter agendas focused strictly on the core terms of reference of the Committee. Does current duration constrain some of the options for development of the CCP?

(ii) On the question of enhancing the continuity of the activities of CCP and its subsidiary bodies during the inter-sessional period

- ✓ Should the CCP have a steering committee as in the Committees on Fisheries and Forestry, made up of the chairperson and vice-chairpersons to work with the

Secretariat in steering the CCP's agenda and its inter-sessional work programme to improve the continuity of its activity and raise its profile?

C. CCP's relationship to its own subsidiary bodies and functioning of Subsidiary Bodies of the CCP

- (i) Has the basic purpose of all IGGs been lost today?
- (ii) Are their roles driving a global policy agenda to attract greater attention?
- (iii) Should the agendas and sessions of the IGGs be designed to focus on global policy matters rather than the work programmes of the secretariats?
- (iv) Are all IGGs actively involved in terms of their areas of specialization?
- (v) Do the Secretariats of the relevant IGGs play a central role in the identification of commodity development priorities and projects, project preparation and project supervision?
- (vi) Is it necessary to review the rules of procedure and terms of reference of the various IGGs?
- (vii) Should the membership of the IGGs be open to for private sector participation in the activities of the IGGs considering that the commodity trade is now largely a private sector affair?
- (viii) Identify innovative ways and means of forging closer links between the IGGs and the CCP?
- (ix) What needs to be done in order for IGGs to capitalize much on the CCP's contextual and cross-commodity work and for the CCP to capitalise much on the IGGs' commodity specific analyses and information.
- (x) Identify innovative ways and means of enhancing the contributions of the IGGs, including selection of timely topics and improving the quality of participation?
- (xi) How can precise balance between the activities of independent specialized organizations and in the different IGGs be achieved?
- (xii) How the activities and active involvement of the IGGs can be improved between the formal meetings?
- (xiii) How can IGGS enhance the effective participation of the private sector and would the idea of an inclusive multi-stakeholder forum involving all stakeholders in a particular commodity market would be the solution or other options available?
- (xiv) The frequency of meetings of the IGGs
- (xv) What is the future of the CSSD?