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4 December 2010

Dear Distinguished Members of FAO Committee on Fisheries,

In my capacity as Chairperson of the Committee on Fisheries (COFI), I wish to draw your attention on the decision that the FAO Council has taken in relation to the calendar of meetings of FAO Governing Bodies, including COFI, during the year 2011. As described in the document that is attached to the present letter, the 140th Session of the Council (29 November- 3 December 2010), has noted that the 30th Session of COFI would be held from 9 to 13 July 2012.

As you may recall, immediately after the last session of COFI in March 2009, I sent a letter to the Director-General of FAO on 11 May 2009 in which I conveyed a strong concern about moving the session of COFI to the third quarter of the first year of each biennium, as proposed in the new schedule of sessions of FAO Governing Bodies, on the basis of the recommendations of the Independent External Evaluation (IEE). However, the new schedule was approved by the FAO Conference in November 2009 (see Resolution 10/2009, also attached to the present letter).

As requested by the Independent Chairperson of the Council after consultation with the Secretariat, the Council has decided to implement this decision of the Conference.

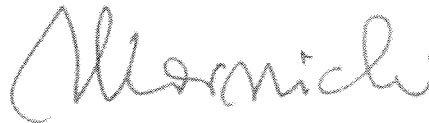
In so doing, when noting the proposed date for the 2012 meeting of COFI, the Council has taken into account the need to avoid potential conflicts with the programmed meetings of some regional fishery bodies. It has also made it possible for COFI to provide important inputs in the process of preparation of the UNGA resolutions on sustainable fisheries and on oceans and the law of the sea.

It is therefore my conviction, as Chairperson of COFI, that this solution constitutes the best possible compromise.

A necessary consequence is that the 30th session of COFI would take place less than two years after the previous one. It should be also understood that this might have consequences on the nature and scope of that session, although arrangements are being considered to convene the two sub-committees during the earlier months of 2012 in order to allow them to report to the plenary session of COFI in July. Such an irregular situation, however, might constitute maybe an opportunity to focus that session on matters related to the improvement of the efficiency and effectiveness of COFI, as the other technical committees such as COFO have already done or are contemplating to do.

For these reasons, although formally the Council is still to approve during 2011 the schedule of meetings for 2012, I would appreciate that you consider positively the date indicated above for the holding of the 30th session of COFI and make the necessary preparations to allow us to reach successfully a constructive conclusion by the end of the 29th session.

Sincerely yours,




Zbigniew Karnicki
Chairperson of the Committee on Fisheries

Copy for information:

Mr. Árni M. Mathiesen, Assistant Director-General, Fisheries and Aquaculture Department
Mr Hiromoto Watanabe, Secretary of COFI
Mr Ali Mekouar, Director, Conference, Council and Protocol Affairs Division

October 2010

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	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
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COUNCIL

Hundred and Fortieth Session

Rome, 29 November - 3 December 2010

Calendar of FAO Governing Bodies and Other Main Sessions 2010-2012

- As requested by the Council at its Sixty-sixth Session (June 1975), a schedule of Governing Bodies sessions for the following biennium is submitted for approval, and reviewed at subsequent sessions of the Council as required. The Secretariats of FAO, IFAD and WFP, in an endeavour to harmonize the sessions of the respective Governing Bodies which require the participation of Permanent Representatives in Rome, jointly prepare this calendar of main sessions.
- A Calendar of FAO Governing Bodies and other Main Sessions for 2010, 2011 and 2012 is given overleaf. The Council is requested to note the draft calendar for 2012 and the changes made to the calendar for 2010 since its last session, and to approve the Calendar for 2011. Any required adjustments to the schedule of sessions in 2011 would be made in consultation with the Independent Chairperson of the Council.

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**Provisional Calendar of FAO/IFAD/WFP Governing Bodies and other Main Sessions
2010**

	2010		
JANUARY			
FEBRUARY	131 FC WFP IFAD/GC	1-2 8-12 15-19	
MARCH			
APRIL	132 FC 103 PC IFAD/EB 31 LARC 90 CCLM	12-16 12-16 19-23 26-30 28-29	
MAY	26 ARC 27 ERC 139 CL 133 FC	3-7 10-14 17-21 31/05-1/06	
JUNE	WFP 68 CCP 22 COAG	7-11 14-16 16-19	
JULY	33 CODEX	5-9 (Geneva)	
AUGUST			
SEPTEMBER	IFAD/EB* UNGA 91 CCLM 30 APRC	15-17 14 20-22 27/09-01/10	
OCTOBER	20 COFO 36 CFS* WFD 134 FC* 135 FC 104 PC	4-8 11-14 and 16 15 (Friday) 21-22 25-29 25-29	
NOVEMBER	WFP 140 CL	8-12 29/11-03/12	
DECEMBER	30 NERC IFAD/EB	4-8 13-17	

Easter: 4 April 2010
 Ramadan: 11 August - 9 Sept. 2010
 Eid Al-Fitr: 9 September 2010
 Eid Al-Adha: 16 November 2010

APRC	Regional Conference for Asia and the Pacific	FC	Finance Committee
ARC	Regional Conference for Africa	IFAD/EB	IFAD Executive Board
C	Conference	IFAD/GC	IFAD Governing Council
CCLM	Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters	IFAD/IX	Replenishment Consultations
CCP	Committee on Commodity Problems	LARC	Regional Conference for Latin America and the Caribbean
CFS	Committee on World Food Security	MM	Ministerial Meeting
CL	Council	NERC	Regional Conference for the Near East
COAG	Committee on Agriculture	PC	Programme Committee
CODEX	Codex Alimentarius Commission	UNGA	United Nations General Assembly (Opening)
COFI	Committee on Fisheries (MM=Ministerial Meeting)	WFD	World Food Day
COFO	Committee on Forestry (MM=Ministerial Meeting)	WFP	World Food Programme Executive Board
ERC	Regional Conference for Europe		

* Change compared to last calendar submitted to Council

**Provisional Calendar of FAO/IFAD/WFP Governing Bodies and other Main Sessions
2011-2012**

	2011		2012	
JANUARY	29 COFI	31/01-04/02	27 ARC	30/01-3/02
FEBRUARY	105 PC* WFP IFAD/GC* IFAD/IX*	8-9 14-18 19-20 21	WFP IFAD/GC 31 NERC	13-17 20-24 26/02-01/03
MARCH	92 CCLM 136 FC 106 PC	7-9 21-25 21-25	31 APRC 94 CCLM 32 LARC	12-16 19-21 26-30
APRIL	141 CL	11-15	IFAD/EB 28 ERC	9-13 16-20
MAY	IFAD/EB*	2-6	138 FC 108 PC 69 CCP 23 COAG	7-11 7-11 21-23 23-26
JUNE	WFP 37 C	6-10 25/06-02/07	WFP 144 CL	4-8 11-15
JULY	142 CL 34 CODEX*	4-5 4-9 (Geneva)	35 CODEX 30 COFI	2-7 (Rome) 9-13
AUGUST				
SEPTEMBER	UNGA IFAD/EB* 93 CCLM	13 12-16 21-23	95 CCLM IFAD/EB UNGA	10-12 10-14 18
OCTOBER	137 FC 107 PC WFD 37 CFS	10-14 10-14 17 (Monday) 18-22	21 COFO WFD 38 CFS 139 FC 109 PC	1-5 16 (Tuesday) 15-20 22-26 22-26
NOVEMBER	WFP 143 CL	7-11 21-25	WFP 145 CL	5-9 26-30
DECEMBER	IFAD/EB*	12-16	IFAD/EB	10-14

Easter: 24 April 2011
 Ramadan: 1-30 August 2011
 Eid Al-Fitr: 30 August 2011
 Eid Al-Adha: 6 November 2011

Easter: 8 April 2012
 Ramadan: 20 July – 18 Aug. 2012
 Eid Al-Fitr: 19 August 2012
 Eid Al-Adha: 26 October 2012

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
 CODEX Codex Alimentarius Commission
 COFI Committee on Fisheries
 COFO Committee on Forestry

ERC Regional Conference for Europe
 FC Finance Committee
 IFAD/EB IFAD Executive Board
 IFAD/GC IFAD Governing Council
 LARC Regional Conference for Latin America and the Caribbean
 NERC Regional Conference for the Near East
 PC Programme Committee
 UNGA United Nations General Assembly (Opening)
 WFD World Food Day
 WFP World Food Programme Executive Board

* Change compared to last calendar submitted to Council

RESOLUTION 10/2009
Implementation of the Immediate Plan of Action on Reform of
the Programming, Budgeting and Results-based Monitoring System
(IPA Actions 3.1 to 3.11)

THE CONFERENCE,

Considering that Conference Resolution 1/2008 “Adoption of the Immediate Plan of Action (IPA) for FAO Renewal (2009-11)” called for a reform of programming, budgeting and results-based monitoring;

Noting that this decision involves amendments to the Basic Texts, in particular to the General Rules of the Organization and the Financial Regulations, to make provision for the Strategic Framework as well as the Medium Term Plan and establish a basis for revised arrangements for the preparation of the Programme of Work and Budget;

Noting further that it is highly desirable to define in a resolution of the Conference the main features of the new Programming, Budgeting and Results-Based Monitoring System while allowing for the necessary managerial flexibility;

Noting also that the new Programming, Budgeting and Results-Based Monitoring System involves important changes in the cycle of sessions of the Governing Bodies of the Organization, in particular of the Conference in accordance with amendments made to Rule I, paragraph 1 of the General Rules of the Organization, and of the Council in accordance with amended Rule XXV of the General Rules of the Organization;

Emphasizing that, under the above revised Rules, and the framework established by the General Rules of the Organization and the Rules of Procedure of the Programme and the Finance Committees, the Technical Committees and the Regional Conferences will need to change the cycle of their sessions in order to play their due roles in the new Programming, Budgeting and Results-Based Monitoring System;

I. **Decides** to introduce revised programme and budget documentation consisting of the following components which, as appropriate, could be incorporated in a single document:

- (a) a Strategic Framework prepared for a period of ten to fifteen years, reviewed every four years and including, inter alia, an analysis of the challenges facing food, agriculture and rural development and populations dependent thereon, including consumers; a strategic vision, the goals of Members in areas of FAO’s mandate, as well as Strategic Objectives to be achieved by Members and the international community with support from FAO, including targets and indicators of achievement;
- (b) a Medium Term Plan covering a period of four years and reviewed each biennium, including:
 - (i) Strategic Objectives for achievement by Members and the international community with support from FAO, in accordance with the Strategic Framework;
 - (ii) Frameworks for organizational results including specific outcomes which shall contribute to the achievement of the Strategic Objectives by FAO Members and the international community. Insofar as possible organizational results will have specific achievement targets, performance indicators, relevant assumptions, show the contribution of FAO and indicate the budgetary provisions from assessed contributions and estimated extra-budgetary resources, which may condition the attainment of targets. Gender will be fully integrated into the Strategic-Framework and Medium Term Plan and will no longer have a separate Gender and Development Plan of Action;

- (iii) an identification of impact focus areas, as priority groups of results aimed at mobilizing extra-budgetary resources, improving oversight of extra-budgetary resources in key impact areas and increasing coherence between activities financed by the Regular Programme and extra-budgetary resources;
 - (iv) functional objectives aimed at ensuring that organizational processes and administration work towards improvements in a results-based framework.
- (c) a Programme of Work and Budget covering biennial periods, clearly identifying the share of resources devoted to administrative work, anchored in a results-based framework and including the following elements:
- (i) organizational results framework (outcomes) established in accordance with the Medium Term Plan, including organizational responsibility for each result;
 - (ii) quantification of costs for all organizational results and related commitments;
 - (iii) calculation of cost increases and planned efficiency gains;
 - (iv) provision for long-term liabilities and reserve funds;
 - (v) a draft Conference resolution of approval of the programme of work and the appropriations.

2. **Decides** to introduce a revised system of monitoring of performance based on achievement of planned results, including a revised biennial Programme Implementation Report. Each report will cover the previous biennium and provide information on delivery, targets and indicators of results, as well as efficiency indicators for functional objectives.

3. **Decides** to introduce a revised schedule of sessions of the Governing Bodies of the Organization for the implementation of the new Programming, Budgeting and Results-Based Monitoring system. The revised schedule of sessions will take into account the fact that the Conference shall hold its regular session in June of the year prior to the beginning of the biennium and will allow the Governing Bodies to participate in the process of preparation and adjustment of the Strategic Framework, the Medium Term Plan and the Programme of Work and Budget, and to monitor performance against relevant performance indicators. The new schedule of sessions of the Governing Bodies will be generally in accordance with the attached table, subject however to necessary adjustments to meet unforeseen circumstances or particular requirements.”

(Adopted on 22 November 2009)

**Schedule for Governing Body Input and Oversight Under
The Reformed Programming, Budgeting and Results Based Monitoring Systems**

Process	YEAR 1				YEAR 2			
	First Quarter	Second Quarter	Third Quarter	Fourth Quarter	First Quarter	Second Quarter	Third Quarter	Fourth Quarter
PLANNING	Review Implementation Performance Strategic Framework (Alternate biennia)	RC	PC/FC CL	TC	PC/FC CL	EB PC/FC CL	CONF	PC/FC CL
	MTP-PWB (Next biennium)	Input on Priorities				Review/Approval		
IMPLEMENTATION MONITORING	Implementation Review and Adjustment (Current Biennium)	Input on Priorities				Review/Approval	Adjustment	
	Results (Previous Biennium)							
EVALUATION	Impact							

Legend: RC: Regional Conference	TC: Technical Committees of Council	PC: Programme Committee	FC: Finance Committee	CL: Council	CONF: Conference
	MTP Medium-Term Plan	PWB Programme of Work and Budget	EB: Extra-Budgetary		