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منظمة  
الغذية والزراعة  
للأمم المتحدة

# COMMITTEE ON CONSTITUTIONAL AND LEGAL MATTERS

## Ninety-ninth Session

Rome, 20-23 October 2014

### Committee on World Food Security - Proposed amendment to Rule XXXIII of the General Rules of the Organization Draft Conference Resolution

#### I. Background

1. This item has been placed in the Provisional Agenda of the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters ("CCLM" or "the Committee") under Rule XXXIV, paragraph 7 (a), of the General Rules of the Organization ("GRO"), whereby the Committee shall consider specific items referred to it which may arise out of "*the application and interpretation of the Constitution, [the General Rules of the Organization] and the Financial Regulations or amendments thereto*".

2. The Committee on World Food Security ("CFS"), at its Fortieth Session (Rome, 7-11 October 2013), considered the document CFS 2013/40/10 Rev. 1 entitled "*Proposed Amendments to the CFS Rules of Procedure and to Rule XXXIII of the General Rules of the Organization and Outcomes of the Work of the CFS Rules of Procedure Working Group*".<sup>1</sup> At that session, the CFS endorsed a proposed amendment to Rule XXXIII of the GRO concerning CFS extraordinary sessions and requested the Council to forward the proposed amendment to the Conference for approval<sup>2</sup>.

#### II. Proposed Amendment

3. The proposed amendment to Rule XXXIII, paragraph 7, of the General Rules of the Organization (GROs) concerns the convening of extraordinary (or special) sessions of the CFS. Rule XXXIII, paragraph 7, currently provides that the Committee may meet in extraordinary (or special) session "if at any regular session the Committee so decides" or "if the Bureau so requests". The proposal presents a third basis upon which an extraordinary (or special) session may be convened, that is, "*if at least a simple majority of the Member Nations so request*". The CFS has reviewed and endorsed the proposal at its fortieth session.

<sup>1</sup> The amendment to Rule XXXIII of the GROs was proposed at the CFS Bureau meeting of 8 August 2013. The Bureau members reviewed and endorsed the proposed amendments to Rule XXXIII, paragraph 7 of the GROs and transmitted it to the Fortieth Session of the CFS for endorsement.

<sup>2</sup> CFS 2013/40 REPORT, paragraph 63(a).



4. The proposed amendment to paragraph 7 of Rule XXXIII of the GROs is reflected in the draft Conference resolution set out in the **Appendix I** to this document.

5. The procedural conditions for the amendment of the GROs are set out in Rule XLIX which provides, in paragraph 3, that the "Council may propose amendments and additions to these Rules and any such proposals may be considered at the next session of the Conference". Paragraph 2 provides that *"Amendments of, or additions to, these Rules may be adopted by a two-thirds majority of the votes cast at any plenary meeting of the Conference, provided that the intention to propose the amendment or addition has been communicated to the delegates not less than 24 hours before the meeting at which the proposal is to be considered, and provided further that the Conference has received and considered a report on the proposal by an appropriate committee"*.

### **III. Suggested action by the Committee**

6. The CCLM is invited to review the proposed amendment to Rule XXXIII of the GROs and to make such recommendations as it considers appropriate.

7. The Committee is, in particular, invited to endorse the draft Conference Resolution set out in **Appendix I** to this document and to forward it to the Council for subsequent transmission to the Conference.

**Appendix I****RESOLUTION /2015****Amendments to Rule XXXIII of the General Rules of the Organization****THE CONFERENCE**

**Recalling** that the Committee on World Food Security (CFS) at its Fortieth Session, held in Rome from 7 to 11 October 2013, reviewed and endorsed a proposed amendment to Rule XXXIII of the General Rules of the Organization;

**Having taken note** of the views of the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters (CCLM), at its Ninety-ninth Session (Rome, 20-23 October 2014) on the proposed amendment to Rule XXXIII of the General Rules of the Organization;

**Considering** that the Council, at its Hundred and Fiftieth Session (Rome, 1-5 December 2014), endorsed the proposed amendment and agreed to transmit it to the Conference for approval;

**Decides** to amend Rule XXXIII of the General Rules of the Organization as follows<sup>3</sup>:

**“Rule XXXIII****Committee on World Food Security****A. Composition and participation**

(...)

7. The Committee may meet in extraordinary (or special) session:

(a) if at any regular session the Committee so decides;

(b) if the Bureau so requests; *or*

(c) *if at least a simple majority of the Member Nations so request.*”

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<sup>3</sup> Insertions are indicated using underlined italics.