



COUNCIL

Hundred and Thirty-ninth Session

Rome, 17 - 21 May 2010

Open-ended Working Group on Measures Designed to Increase the Efficiency of Governing Bodies, Including Representation

Background

1. At its last session in November 2009, the Conference noted that the Dominican Republic, acting on behalf of the Group of 77, had proposed an increase in the number of Council seats from 49 to 61. The Dominican Republic, acting on behalf of the Group of 77, had proposed two draft Resolutions amending the Constitution and the General Rules of the Organization for the implementation of the proposal.
2. The Conference agreed to defer consideration of the draft Resolutions. Meanwhile, it decided to establish an Open-Ended Working Group (OEWG) which, in the course of the 2010-11 biennium, would review and make recommendations regarding measures designed to increase the efficiency of the Governing Bodies, including representation.
3. The OEWG would draw, as appropriate, on the advice of the relevant Governing Bodies and report to the Conference through the Council. In this context, the Chair of the Near East Regional Group stated that the region was not adequately represented in the Council, and that there was a need to review such representation¹.

Establishment of the Open-ended Working Group

4. The OEWG was established at a meeting of FAO Members, called by the Independent Chairperson of Council, on 9 April 2010. The meeting adopted the *Arrangements for the Open-ended Working Group on Measures Designed to Increase the Efficiency of Governing Bodies, Including Representation*, as given in the Annex.
5. While noting that the OEWG should report to the Conference through the Council, the meeting stressed the need to ensure consistency of the work of the OEWG with that of the Conference Committee for the Follow-up to the Independent External Evaluation of FAO (CoC-IEE). In this spirit, it was agreed that the Bureau of the OEWG should have the same membership

¹ *Report of the Conference of FAO, Thirty-sixth Session, Rome, 18-23 November 2009, paras 155 and 156.*

as the CoC-IEE Bureau. However, Regional Groups could replace their representatives on the Bureau with other countries from their region as needed.

6. At that same meeting it was recalled that, pursuant to paragraphs 155 and 156 of the Report of the 36th session of the Conference, the OEWG should deal with:

- measures to increase the efficiency of the Governing Bodies, to be identified on the basis of proposals submitted by Members to the OEWG Bureau; and
- representation in the Council.

7. It was further agreed that, in carrying out its functions, the OEWG should not:

- re-open discussion on issues that had already been examined by the CoC-IEE and on which the Conference had taken a decision;
- deal with matters addressed by other Governing Bodies in 2010-11 as part of their respective mandates.

8. Finally, the following initial schedule of meetings of the OEWG was agreed:

- 13 July 2010
- 23 September 2010
- 22 February 2011.

9. A progress report on the work of the OEWG should be submitted to the 140th session of the Council (29 November – 3 December 2010).

ANNEX

Arrangements for the Open-ended Working Group on Measures Designed to Increase the Efficiency of Governing Bodies, Including Representation

Membership

1. Membership of the OEWG shall be open to all Members of FAO.
2. The membership of the Bureau of the OEWG shall be as follows:
 - Chairperson: Mr Luc Guyau, Independent Chairperson of Council
 - Vice-Chairpersons:
 - Ambassador Agnes van Ardenne-van der Hoeven (Netherlands)
 - Ambassador Wilfred Joseph Ngirwa (Tanzania)
 - Members:
 - from Africa: Eritrea
 - from Asia: China
 - from Europe: Spain
 - from Latin America and the Caribbean: Brazil
 - from Near East: Afghanistan
 - from North America: Canada
 - from South-West Pacific: Australia.

Functions

3. The OEWG shall review and make recommendations regarding measures designed to increase the efficiency of the Governing Bodies, including representation.
4. In this context, the OEWG shall examine, *inter alia*, the membership of the Council and may recommend changes in the number of Council seats.

Methods of Work

5. In the course of the 2010-11 biennium, the OEWG shall meet as and when required.
6. The meetings of the OEWG shall be called by the Chairperson, in consultation with the Secretariat.

Reporting

7. Progress reports on the work of the OEWG shall be presented to regular sessions of the Council in 2010 and 2011, and a final report shall be submitted to the Conference in 2011.

Funding

8. A budget allocation shall be provided for the work of the OEWG, to cover *inter alia* costs for documentation, interpretation and translation.