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Продовольственная и
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Organización
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Alimentación

COMMITTEE ON CONSTITUTIONAL AND LEGAL MATTERS

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IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ACTIONS OF THE IMMEDIATE PLAN OF ACTION REGARDING THE COUNCIL AND RELATED MATTERS

I. BACKGROUND

1. The Immediate Plan of Action (IPA) for FAO renewal (2009-11), approved by the Conference at its Thirty-fifth (Special) Session, contains the following general statement regarding the Council:

“The executive governance role of the Council will be further developed with attention to making clear decisions. It will meet more flexibly and for variable lengths of session as appropriate to the agenda. It will play a more dynamic role in the development of the programme and budget, drawing on the advice of the Programme and Finance Committees and it will extend its oversight and monitoring function particularly with regard to extra-budgetary resource mobilization and use and human resource development and utilization” (paragraph 22).

2. The IPA Action Matrix on the Council reads as follows:

“The Council functions will be clarified as necessary in the Basic Texts and will include:

i) the major role in deciding and advising on:

- *work-planning and performance measures for the Council itself and for other Governing Bodies excluding the Conference;*

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- *monitoring and reporting performance against these measures;*
- *strategy, priorities and budget of the Organization;*
- *the overall programme of work;*
- *major organizational changes, not requiring Conference changes of the Basic Texts;*
- *recommending the agenda of the Conference to the Conference (Action 2.14);*

ii) monitor the implementation of governance decisions (Action 2.15);

iii) exercise oversight, ensuring that:

- *the Organization operates within its financial and legal framework;*
- *there is transparent, independent and professional audit and ethics oversight;*
- *there is transparent, professional and independent evaluation of the Organization's performance in contributing to its planned outcomes and impacts;*
- *there are functioning results-based budgeting and management systems;*
- *policies and systems for human resources, information and communication technology, contracting and purchasing, etc are functional and fit the purpose;*
- *extra-budgetary resources are effectively contributing to the Organization's priority goals (Action 2.16); and*

iv) monitor the performance of management against established performance targets (Action 2.17).

The Council shall make a clear recommendation to Conference on the Programme and Budget Resolution including the budget level (Action 2.18);

The Council will meet more flexibly and for variable lengths of session as appropriate to the agenda (normally a minimum of 5 sessions per biennium) – Section C Chart 1 Programme and Budget planning and review cycle (Action 2.19):

i) There will be: a short meeting (minimum two days) after each session of the Programme and Finance Committees (Action 2.20);

ii) The meeting of the Council to prepare the Conference will be at least two months prior to the Conference, so that recommendations can be taken account of, including recommending the final agenda of the Conference to the Conference for its approval (Action 2.21);

The Council Report will consist of conclusions, decision and recommendations (verbatim to provide detail and be published in all languages) (Action 2.22);

The Council will no longer discuss global policy and regulatory issues, unless there is an urgent reason to do so (to be handled by the Technical Committees and the Conference) (Action 2.23);

Changes of practice, including ways of working and reporting lines will be introduced for the Council (see below with reference to other bodies) (Action 2.24);

Introduce Basic Texts changes for functions, reporting lines, etc.” (Action 2.25)

II. PRELIMINARY OBSERVATIONS

3. Some of the draft amendments required to implement the Action Matrix regarding the functions of the Council are related to other areas. Therefore, a number of the actions of the above Action Matrix have already been addressed in other submissions. It is important to keep this consideration in mind when reviewing this document.

4. In connection with the implementation of the Action Matrix on the Council it should also be underlined that the new pattern of sessions of the Governing Bodies, in particular the sessions of the Conference at which the Members of the Council are elected, will have implications for the term of office of the Members of the Council and will require the implementation of transitional measures. This somewhat complex matter needs to be addressed and it seems appropriate that this should be done in this document. Furthermore, as there will be a new pattern of sessions for the Council, and it is the Council which elects the Members of the Programme Committee, the Finance Committee and the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters (CCLM), transitional measures will also be required in respect of the members of these committees whose mandates will need to be adjusted. The present document deals both with issues related to the term of office of the Members of the Council and the committees of restricted membership, and with issues related to the future functions of the Council.

III. IMPLICATIONS OF THE NEW PATTERN OF SESSIONS OF THE CONFERENCE AND COUNCIL ON THE TERM OF OFFICE OF MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL AND THE COMMITTEES OF RESTRICTED MEMBERSHIP

A. Implications of the new pattern of sessions for the term of office of Members of the Council

5. The regular session of the Conference will be held in June, instead of October or November (see proposed amendment to Rule 1, paragraph 1, of the GRO in document CCLM 86/3 already examined by the CCLM at its Eighty-sixth Session). It is the Conference which elects the Members of the Council for periods of three years and it is expected that it will continue to do so, irrespective of when its sessions will be held. However, the new date of the session of the Conference will require the implementation of some transitional measures.

6. The relevant provisions of Rule XXII read as follows:

“Rule XXII Election of the Council

1. (a) *Except as provided in paragraph 9 of this Rule, the Council shall be elected for a term of three years.*

(b) *The Conference shall make such provisions as will ensure that the terms of office of sixteen Members of the Council shall expire in each of two successive calendar years and seventeen in the third calendar year.*

(c) The terms of office of all members of any one group shall expire simultaneously either on the termination of the regular session of the Conference in a year in which such a session is held, or on 31 December in other years.

2. *The Conference shall, at each regular session, and after considering any recommendations of the General Committee, fill all vacancies due to the expiration of the terms of office of Council Members at the end of that session or at the end of the following year, in conformity with the provisions of the preceding paragraph.
(...)"*

7. Under this provision, the Conference elects in a staggered manner three groups of Members (two groups of 16 Members and one group of 17 Members). The term of office of all Members in any one group expires simultaneously either on the termination of the regular session of the Conference in a year in which a Conference is held, or on 31 December in the other years. The rationale for this distinction between the end of the Conference session and the end of the year is that in Conference years the Council meets immediately after the session of the Conference and it is considered appropriate that it should meet with the new partial membership and elect members of the Programme Committee, Finance Committee and CCLM with their renewed membership, whereas in other years there is no justification for a particular solution and the terms of office expire at the end of the calendar year.

8. Because of the change in the date of the Conference session, which will meet in June, and no longer in October or November, there will be a need to amend the above provisions. They could read as follows:

***“Rule XXII
Election of the Council***

1. *(a) Except as provided in paragraph 9 of this Rule, the Council shall be elected for a term of three years.*

(b) The Conference shall make such provisions as will ensure that the terms of office of sixteen Members of the Council shall expire in each of two successive calendar years and seventeen in the third calendar year.

(c) The terms of office of all members of any one group shall expire simultaneously either on the termination of the regular session of the Conference in a year in which such a session is held, or on ~~31 December~~ 30 June in other years.

2. *The Conference shall, at each regular session, and after considering any recommendations of the General Committee, fill all vacancies due to the expiration of the terms of office of Council Members at the end of that session or at the end of June of the following year, in conformity with the provisions of the preceding paragraph.*

(...)"

9. However, the implementation of this amendment would require some transitional measures in order to preserve the integrity of the term of office of Council Members which have already been elected (for a period of three years), and whose mandates should continue to run their course, and allow for the progressive introduction of the new system. This is consistent with the practice followed throughout the United Nations system and the principles of law restated on a number of occasions that changes to tenure of office should not have a retroactive effect (this

matter was examined at the Eighty-fourth session of the CCLM; especially in document CCLM 84/2 on the Appointment and Term of Office of the Director-General).

10. This would have consequences on the term of office of the following Council Members, as explained below.

11. Under Rule XXII, paragraph 1(b) of the GRO, the Conference at its Thirty-fourth Session in 2007 elected two groups of Members of the Council to serve for two different electoral periods. One group, consisting of 17 Council Members, was elected to serve from November of 2007 to 31 December 2010, and the other, consisting of 16 Council Members, was elected to serve from 1 January 2009 to November of 2011¹. As the terms of office of these two groups of Members need to be respected, the proposed amendment to Rule XXII of the GRO can only affect Members of the Council to be elected in future, i.e. after the amendment of Rule XXII².

12. At its Thirty-sixth Session, which will take place in November of 2009, the Conference will need to elect two groups of Council Members for two different electoral periods, as follows:

- a. First, the Thirty-sixth Session of the Conference should elect a group of 16 Members to replace those whose term of office will expire in November of 2009. The term of office of these Members under the proposed amended provisions of Rule XXII, paragraph 1(c) of the GRO would begin at the end of the November 2009 Session and would expire on 30 June 2012. Therefore, this electoral period would last two and a half years, instead of three years, in order to allow for the following electoral period to run from 1 July 2012 to June of 2015.
- b. Second, the Thirty-sixth session of the Conference should elect a group of 17 Members to replace those whose term of office will expire on 31 December 2010. The term of office of these Members under the proposed amended provisions of Rule XXII, paragraph 1 (c) would begin on 1 January 2011 and expire on 30 June 2013. This electoral period would therefore last two and a half years instead of three years. This exceptional situation would also allow for the following electoral period to run from 1 July of 2013 to June of 2016.

13. At the Thirty-seventh Session of the Conference which, according to revised Rule I, paragraph 1 of the GRO would take place in June of 2011, the Conference would elect two groups of Council Members for two different electoral periods.

- a. First, the Conference to be held in June 2011 would elect a group of 16 Council Members to replace those whose term of office will expire in November of 2011. The term of office of these Members would begin on November of 2011 and expire on 30 June 2014. This electoral period would therefore last two and a half years instead of three years, as per paragraph 1 of Rule XXII of the GRO. This exceptional situation would nevertheless allow for the following electoral period to run from 1 July 2014 to June 2017.
- b. Second, the Conference of June 2011 would elect a group of 16 Council Members to replace those whose term in office would expire on 30 June 2012. The term of office of

¹ See Rule XXII.1.c of the GRO (*"The terms of office of all members of any one group shall expire (...) on the termination of the regular session of the Conference in a year in which such a session is held"*) in connection with Rule I.1 of the GRO (*"the regular session of the Conference shall be held [...] in the months of October or November"*) in force in November of 2007 when the election took place.

² At its Thirty-third session in 2005, the Conference elected two groups of Council Members, one of which comprised 16 Members from 1 January 2007 until the end of the Thirty-fifth session of the Conference in 2009.

these Members under the proposed amended provisions of Rule XXII, paragraph 1 (c) would be the first one to last three whole years, as it would run from 30 June 2012 to June of 2015. From this election onwards, all terms will last three years and the situation will be a normal one under the revised procedures.

14. **A diagram in the Annex to this document describes the situation with reference to the transitional measures required to bring the new procedures into effect³.**

B. Implications of the new pattern of sessions for the term of office of Members of the Programme Committee, Finance Committee and CCLM

15. Under the new cycle of sessions of the Governing Bodies, the Council would hold a short, one-day session immediately after each session of the Conference. In other words, the session which currently takes place usually at the end of November, at which the Council elects the Members of the Programme Committee, the Finance Committee and the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters, would take place in June. The Council will hold its usual one-day session in November 2009 for the election of the Members of these Committees. Then it would hold another session for the election of the Members of the Committees in June 2011, under the revised pattern of sessions of the Governing Bodies.

16. As a consequence, the Members of the Committees to be elected in November 2009 would serve until the June 2011 Council, immediately after the session of the Conference, under the revised pattern of sessions, when it would elect the Members of the Committees. **The term of office of the Members elected in November 2009 would therefore be for a reduced duration, i.e. for about one and a half years⁴.**

17. From a legal point of view this reduced duration of the term of office of the Members of the Programme Committee, Finance Committee and CCLM would not raise any issues of a legal nature, as prospective Members would be elected under the new regime and would be informed before the election of the reduced duration of the mandate.

IV. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ACTION MATRIX REGARDING THE FUNCTIONS OF THE COUNCIL

18. In dealing with the actions set out in the Action Matrix regarding the functions of the Council, there will be a need to distinguish between actions that have already been addressed and actions that need to be considered now.

19. First, a number of actions have been addressed in earlier submissions. IPA Action 2.18 whereby “*the Council shall make a clear recommendation to Conference on the Programme and Budget Resolution including the budget level*” was covered by document CCLM 86/5 “*Reform of Programming, Budgeting and Results-Based Monitoring*” and involved an amendment to Rule XXIV, paragraph 2 on the functions of the Council. The same applies in respect of IPA Action 2.19 (more flexibility in convening sessions of the Council, including the requirement that it will hold at least 5 sessions per biennium); IPA Action 2.20 (Council sessions after the Programme and Finance Committees sessions) and IPA Action 2.21 (Council to meet at least 60 days before the regular session of the Conference). These actions, also addressed in document CCLM 86/5, have been reflected in revised Rule XXV of the GRO. Some actions related to the fact that the

³ The term of office of the Independent Chairperson of the Council who will be elected by the Conference at its forthcoming session will also serve for a reduced term of office, until June 2011.

⁴ At the forthcoming session of the Conference, it will be necessary to amend Rule XXIV of the GRO prior to the election of Council Members.

Council will no longer deal with general policy and regulatory matters and the situation of food and agriculture have already been addressed in document CCLM 86/5. Therefore, at this point, no further action is required in respect of these actions.

20. Second, other actions need to be addressed now and it is proposed to consider interventions at three levels. First, a few amendments would be made to the GRO; second the Conference could adopt a resolution clarifying the functions of the Council; and, third, the standing information “*Note on Working Methods of the Council*”, made available at sessions of the Council, could be revised and approved by the Council itself.

A. Amendment of Rule XXIV, paragraph 1 of the GRO on the functions of the Council

21. It is proposed to introduce amendments to Rule XXIV, paragraph 1 of the GRO to reflect the fact that the Council will no longer discuss global policy and regulatory issues, unless there is an urgent need to do so. For this reason, document CCLM 86/5 proposed the deletion of Rule XXV, paragraph 4⁵ and this was reflected in revised Rule XXV already endorsed by the CCLM on the occasion of the revision of this Rule regarding the sessions of the Council. In addition, it would be necessary to amend Rule XXIV, paragraph 1 (a) and (b) of the GRO which refer to activities that the Council would no longer exercise.

22. For the sake of clarity, Rule XXIV regarding the functions of the Council in respect of the “*world food and agriculture situation and related matters*” is reproduced below.

**“Rule XXIV
Functions of the Council**

The Council, subject to the provisions of paragraph 3 of Article V of the Constitution, shall, between sessions of the Conference, act on behalf of the Conference as its executive organ and make decisions on matters that need not be submitted to the Conference. In particular, the Council shall exercise the functions described below:

1. World food and agriculture situation and related matters

The Council shall:

(a) keep under review the state of food and agriculture in the world, and consider the programmes of Member Nations and Associate Members;

(b) tender advice on such matters to governments of Member Nations and Associate Members, intergovernmental commodity councils or other commodity authorities and through the Director-General to other specialized international agencies;

(c) draw up a provisional agenda for the review by the Conference of the state of food and agriculture, drawing attention to specific policy issues which would require Conference consideration or could be the subject of a formal recommendation by the Conference under paragraph 3 of Article IV of the Constitution, and aid the Director-General to prepare the report and agenda for the review by the Conference of the programmes of Member Nations and Associate Members;

⁵ CCLM 86/5, paragraph 9 (c). Rule XXV, paragraph 5 reads as follows: “At its session held in the first year of the biennium, approximately midway between the regular sessions of the Conference, the Council shall in particular conduct on behalf of the Conference a world review of the state of food and agriculture, and exercise the function provided 5 (b) of Rule XXIV of these Rules”.

- (d) (i) *examine current developments in proposed and existing intergovernmental agricultural commodity arrangements, particularly those developments affecting adequacy of food supply, utilization of food reserves and famine relief, changes in production or pricing policies and special food programmes for undernourished groups;*
- (ii) *promote consistency and integration of agricultural commodity policies, national and international, with regard to (a) overall objectives of the Organization; (b) the interrelationships of production, distribution and consumption; and (c) interrelationships of agricultural commodities;*
- (iii) *initiate and authorize groups to study and investigate agricultural commodity situations which are becoming critical, and propose appropriate action, if necessary, under paragraph 2 (f) of Article I of the Constitution;*
- (iv) *advise on emergency measures such as those relating to the export and import of food and materials or equipment needed for agricultural production, in order to facilitate implementation of national programmes and, if necessary, request the Director-General to submit such advice for action to the Member Nations and Associate Members concerned;*
- (v) *perform the foregoing functions under (i), (ii) and (iii) in conformity with the Economic and Social Council's Resolution of 28 March 1947² relating to international commodity arrangements, and generally act in close cooperation with the appropriate specialized agencies and intergovernmental bodies”.*

23. The amendment of these provisions needs to be seen in light of the following observations.

- (a) The first is that in accordance with the IPA the Council should no longer deal with matters regarding the state of food and agriculture, and should act primarily as the executive organ of the Organization which would prepare the sessions of the Conference. This is a general feature of the new operating model of the Council which was stressed throughout the reform process. This would involve deletion of paragraphs 1(a) and (b) of Rule XXIV of the GRO.
- (b) The second concerns the fact that Rule XXIV, paragraph 1 (d), and its references to trade and commodities, reflect a situation that prevailed in the early years of the Organization. At that time, there were extensive debates within the Governing Bodies regarding an important coordination role for FAO to exercise in respect of marketing, trade in commodities and the operation of international commodity agreements. These functions were set forth in Rule Rule XXIV, paragraph 1 (d) as approved by the Conference in 1957. Over the years, most of these functions have either never been exercised or ceased to be exercised by the Council. The Conference Committee for the Follow-up to the Independent External Evaluation of FAO (CoC-IEE) did not examine specifically whether these functions should be maintained. However, it could be reasonably assumed that the spirit of the Action Matrix regarding these functions is that they should no longer be provided for in Rule XXIV⁶ of the GRO and it would be appropriate to delete most of the paragraph.

⁶ An alternative might consist in seeking guidance from the CoC-IEE, although this option might not appear necessary under the circumstances.

- (c) Finally, while the Council will no longer deal with policy and regulatory matters and will essentially operate as an executive body, it would be appropriate to insert in the Rule a provision, drafted in general terms, which would not preclude the Council from addressing or advising on any issues relating to the world food and agriculture situation and related matters calling for action by the Conference, the Regional Conferences (Article IV, paragraph 6 of the Constitution), the Committees (Article V, paragraph 6 of the Constitution) or the Director-General, or which the Council might be otherwise required to examine (as the Conference meets only once every biennium). In fact the Action Matrix foresees a possibility of an urgent need to examine matters which would be normally examined by the Conference.
24. Revised Rule XXIV, paragraph 1 could thus read as follows:

***“Rule XXIV
Functions of the Council***

The Council, subject to the provisions of paragraph 3 of Article V of the Constitution, shall, between sessions of the Conference, act on behalf of the Conference as its executive organ and make decisions on matters that need not be submitted to the Conference. In particular, the Council shall exercise the functions described below:

1. *World food and agriculture situation and related matters*

The Council shall:

(a) *draw up a provisional agenda for the review by the Conference of the state of food and agriculture, drawing attention to specific policy issues which would require Conference consideration or could be the subject of a formal recommendation by the Conference under paragraph 3 of Article IV of the Constitution⁷, and aid the Director-General to prepare the report and agenda for the review by the Conference of the programmes of Member Nations and Associate Members;*

(b) *examine and advise on any issues pertaining to or arising out of the world food and agriculture situation and related matters, including any such issues of an urgent nature, which would call for action by the Conference, the Regional Conferences, the Committees referred to in Article V, paragraph 6 of the Constitution or the Director-General;*

(c) *examine and advise on any other issues pertaining to or arising out of the world food and agriculture situation and related matters which may have been referred to the Council in accordance with decisions of the Conference or any applicable arrangements”⁸.*

⁷ Article IV, paragraph 3 of the Constitution makes provision for the adoption by the Conference, by a two-thirds majority of the votes cast, of recommendations to Members on matters pertaining to food and agriculture. At least for the past forty years this provision has not been implemented. Consideration could be given to deleting the reference to paragraph 3 of Article IV of the Constitution in Rule XXIV.

⁸ The rationale for this paragraph is that the Conference may request the Council to examine particular issues. In addition, under a number of arrangements the Council is required to examine a number of matters related to the world food and agriculture situation.

B. Adoption of a Conference Resolution clarifying the functions of the Council

25. Second, some of the actions of the Action Matrix could be implemented through a Conference resolution to be incorporated in Volume II of the Basic Texts. This course of action would be appropriate in the light of two considerations. The first concerns the nature of some of the actions, taking into account earlier discussions on the criteria for distribution of the proposed amendments in the Basic Texts. The second is that most of the actions set out in the Action Matrix are largely related to the monitoring role exercised by the Council in respect of the “*Reform of Programming, Budgeting and Results-Based Monitoring*”, a matter covered by a Conference resolution.

26. The Conference Resolution could read as follows:

“CONFERENCE RESOLUTION

Implementation of the actions of the Immediate Plan of Action (IPA) for FAO

Renewal (2009-11) regarding the Council of FAO

The Conference:

Considering that Conference Resolution 1/2008 “Adoption of the Immediate Plan of Action for FAO Renewal (2009-11)” calls for a reform of the Council;

Considering further that, in accordance with the Immediate Plan of Action for FAO Renewal (2009-11), the Council should play a more dynamic role in the development of the programme and budget, drawing as appropriate on the advice of the Programme and Finance Committees, and increase its oversight and monitoring function over the implementation of governance decisions;

Noting that, in such context, the Council will have a major role in deciding and advising on matters pertaining to the implementation of programme and budget execution, monitoring of activities under the new results-based framework, monitoring of implementation of governance decisions and oversight of the administration of the Organization;

Noting further that amendments to Rules XXIV and XXV of the General Rules of the Organization have been adopted by the Conference to implement the actions of the Immediate Plan of Action for FAO Renewal (2009-11) regarding the Council;

Realizing that it is desirable, under the framework established by the above provisions, and in the light of the spirit of the Immediate Plan of Action for FAO Renewal (2009-11,) to clarify the new role of the Council under that framework;

1. *Decides that the Council will exercise a major role in respect of:*
 - (a) *planning of work and definition of performance measures for the Council itself and for other Governing Bodies with the exception of the Conference;*
 - (b) *monitoring and reporting performance against performance indicators;*
 - (c) *overseeing the implementation of the new Programming, Budget and Results Based Monitoring System;*
 - (d) *approving and overseeing any major organizational changes which do not require approval by the Conference.*

2. *Decides that the Council will monitor the implementation of governance decisions.*
3. *Decides that, in the context of its oversight functions, the Council will ensure that:*
 - (a) *the Organization operates within its legal and financial framework;*
 - (b) *there is transparent, independent and professional audit and ethics oversight;*
 - (c) *there is transparent, professional and independent evaluation of the Organization's performance;*
 - (d) *appropriate and functional policies and systems are in place for human resources management, information and communication technology, contracting and purchasing; and*
 - (e) *extra-budgetary resources are effectively contributing to the Strategic Objectives and the Organizational Results Framework .*
4. *Decides that the Council will monitor the performance of the Organization against established performance targets”.*

C. Proposed adoption by the Council of a note on its Working Methods

27. Third, it is proposed to amend the “*Note on Working Methods of the Council*”. The substance of this note needs in any case to be updated to take into account the new role of the Council, also considering that many of the proposed changes in the operation of the Council are matters of fact and not of law. The note was originally adopted by the Council at its Sixtieth Session in June 1973 and was updated at its Hundred and Nineteenth Session in November 2000, in light of the recommendations made by the CCLM at its Seventy-first Session in October 2000.

28. The revision of this note would supplement the proposed amendment of the GRO and the adoption of a Conference resolution on the Council. A proposal that the Independent Chairperson of the Council should remind Council Members of this note could also be considered. A revised version of the note would be referred to a future session of the CCLM and would be adopted by the Council itself.

V. SUGGESTED ACTION BY THE COMMITTEE

29. The CCLM is invited to review this document and make such comments thereon as appropriate.

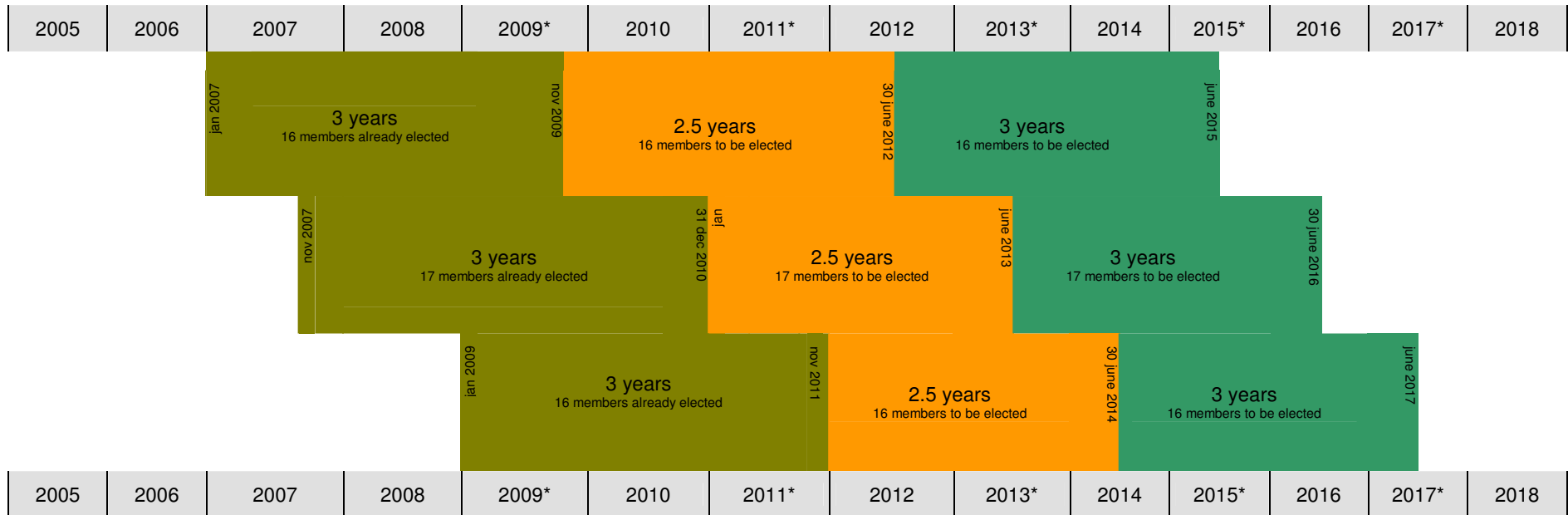
30. The CCLM is in particular invited to:

- (a) endorse the proposed amendment to Rule XXII, paragraphs 1(c) and 2 of the GRO (cf. paragraph 8);
- (b) note the implications of the new pattern of sessions of the Conference for the term of office of Members of the Council and the need for transitional measures involving a future reduction in the duration of one mandate of all Members of the Council, elected in three groups (cf. paragraphs 5 to 14 and diagramme in the Annex);

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- (c) note the implications of the new pattern of sessions of the Council for the next term of office of the Members of the Programme Committee, Finance Committee and CCLM to be elected in November 2009 until June 2011 (cf. paragraphs 15 to 17);
 - (d) note that a number of amendments regarding the functions of the Council have already been endorsed in the context of other submissions, and endorse the proposed amendment to Rule XXIV, paragraph 1 of the GRO set out in paragraph 24;
 - (e) endorse the proposed Conference Resolution clarifying the functions of the Council (cf. paragraph 26);
 - (f) note that other actions could be addressed through adjustments in working methods of the Council, and subsequently reflected in the *Note on Working Methods of the Council*, to be adopted by the Council itself (cf. paragraphs 27 and 28).

ANNEX

Membership Phases



* denotes conference year:
 2009 – November
 2011 – June
 2013 – June
 2015 – June
 2017 – June