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REPORT OF THE WORKING GROUP ON THE DISTRIBUTION OF SEATS OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD OF THE WORLD FOOD PROGRAMME

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NOTE TO THE EXECUTIVE BOARD

**This document contains recommendations for review and approval
by the Executive Board.**

Pursuant to the decisions taken on the methods of work by the Executive Board at its First Regular Session of 1996, the documentation prepared by the Secretariat for the Board has been kept brief and decision-oriented. The meetings of the Executive Board are to be conducted in a business-like manner, with increased dialogue and exchanges between delegations and the Secretariat. Efforts to promote these guiding principles will continue to be pursued by the Secretariat.

The Secretariat therefore invites members of the Board who may have questions of a technical nature with regard to this document, to contact the WFP staff member(s) listed below, preferably well in advance of the Board's meeting. This procedure is designed to facilitate the Board's consideration of the document in the plenary.

The WFP focal point for this document is:

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Should you have any questions regarding matters of dispatch of documentation for the Executive Board, please contact the Documentation and Meetings Clerk (tel.: 066513-2641).



BACKGROUND

1. Resolutions 50/8 of the United Nations General Assembly and 9/95 of the Conference of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) mandated that the distribution of seats of the Executive Board of the World Food Programme be reviewed within two years after the establishment of the Board with a view to achieving its final outcome in accordance with paragraphs 25 and 30 and other relevant provisions of General Assembly resolution 48/162; that the review be conducted in parallel by the General Assembly and the Conference of FAO, taking into account the relevant inputs of the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations (ECOSOC) and the Council of FAO; and that the results enter into force on 1 January 2000.
2. In New York, at an informal consultation convened on 5 January 1998, it was agreed that consultations would be carried out by a working group composed of Belgium, Brazil, Guyana, Hungary, India, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Lesotho, Mauritius, the Russian Federation and the United States of America under the chairmanship of one of the Vice-Presidents of the Economic and Social Council.
3. In Rome, the Bureau of the Executive Board—at its meeting held on 27 February 1998—decided to form a working group also composed of two members of each electoral list, namely: Angola, Belgium, Brazil, Cuba, India, Iran (Islamic Republic of), the Russian Federation, Senegal, Slovakia and the United States of America. The Working Group would be coordinated by the Vice-President of the Board, who would remain in close contact with the Vice-President of ECOSOC and chairman of the New York Working Group, so that the concept of parallel consultations be upheld. The Chairperson of the Working Group on the Distribution of Seats would report to the Executive Board on progress made. The Working Group held ten meetings in 1998–99.
4. In accordance with the mandate received, in March 1999, and in close consultation with the Legal Counsels of the United Nations and FAO, the New York and Rome working groups agreed on a consensus position.
5. At a meeting held on 25 March 1999, ECOSOC endorsed a draft resolution that embodied that position and, by its resolution 1999/3, forwarded the draft resolution to the General Assembly for adoption. The General Assembly adopted resolution 53/223 on 7 April 1999, the text of which is annexed to this report.



RECOMMENDATION

6. The Working Group on the Distribution of Seats, therefore, recommends to the Executive Board that it endorse the proposed amendment to Appendix B of WFP General Regulations, as embodied in the following draft resolution and forward it to the FAO Council for onward transmission to the FAO Conference:

Revision of the General Regulations of the World Food Programme

The Council

Recommends to the Conference the adoption of the following draft resolution:

The Conference,

Recalling its Resolution 9/95 of 1 November 1995, concerning the revision of the General Regulations of the World Food Programme,

Noting Resolution 53/223 adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nations on 7 April 1999, on the revision of the General Regulations of the World Food Programme,

1. *Decides*, subject to the concurrence of the General Assembly of the United Nations, that the members of the Executive Board of the World Food Programme shall be elected on an interim basis for a term of three years from among the States included in the lists set out in the Basic Texts of the World Food Programme, in accordance with the following distribution of seats, it being understood that this allocation of seats creates no precedent for the composition of other United Nations bodies of limited membership:
 - a) Eight members from the States included in list A, four members to be elected by the Economic and Social Council and four by the Council of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations;
 - b) Seven members from the States included in list B, four members to be elected by the Economic and Social Council and three by the Council of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations;
 - c) Five members from the States included in list C, two members to be elected by the Economic and Social Council and three by the Council of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations;
 - d) Twelve members from the States included in list D, six members to be elected by the Economic and Social Council and six by the Council of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations;
 - e) Three members from the States included in list E, two members to be elected by the Economic and Social Council and one by the Council of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations;



- f) One additional member rotating among the States included in lists A, B, and C to be elected by the Council of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations; the pattern of rotation shall be as follows:
 - i) A State from list A is to be elected to occupy the additional seat every other term out of four, starting from 1 January, 2000;
 - ii) A State from list B is to be elected to occupy the additional seat the second term out of four, starting from 1 January, 2003;
 - iii) A State from list C is to be elected to occupy the additional seat the fourth term out of four, starting from 1 January, 2009;
2. *Decides* that the above-mentioned distribution of seats shall be reviewed two years before the end of one full rotation scheme of four terms, as referred to in paragraph 1 (f) of the present resolution. Such a review shall be in accordance with the relevant provisions of General Assembly resolutions 48/162 and 50/8, taking into account the relevant inputs of the Economic and Social Council and the Council of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations; the result of the review shall enter into force on 1 January 2012;
3. *Decides further* that, subject to concurrence of the General Assembly of the United Nations, the revised General Regulations shall enter into force on 1 January 2000.



ANNEX

UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION 53/223**Revision of the General Regulations of the World Food Programme***The General Assembly,*

Recalling its resolutions 48/162 of 20 December 1993 and 50/8 of 1 November 1995,

1. *Decides*, subject to the concurrence of the Conference of the Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations, that the members of the Executive Board of the World Food Programme shall be elected on an interim basis for a term of three years from among the States included in the lists set out in the Basic Texts of the World Food Programme, in accordance with the following distribution of seats, it being understood that this allocation of seats creates no precedent for the composition of other United Nations bodies of limited membership:
 - a) Eight members from the States included in list A, four members to be elected by the Economic and Social Council and four by the Council of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations;
 - b) Seven members from the States included in list B, four members to be elected by the Economic and Social Council and three by the Council of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations;
 - c) Five members from the States included in list C, two members to be elected by the Economic and Social Council and three by the Council of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations;
 - d) Twelve members from the States included in list D, six members to be elected by the Economic and Social Council and six by the Council of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations;
 - e) Three members from the States included in list E, two members to be elected by the Economic and Social Council and one by the Council of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations;
 - f) One additional member rotating among the States included in lists A, B, and C to be elected by the Council of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations; the pattern of rotation shall be as follows:
 - i) A State from list A is to be elected to occupy the additional seat every other term out of four, starting from 1 January, 2000;
 - ii) A State from list B is to be elected to occupy the additional seat the second term out of four, starting from 1 January, 2003;
 - iii) A State from list C is to be elected to occupy the additional seat the fourth term out of four, starting from 1 January, 2009;
2. *Requests* the Economic and Social Council to elect one member from the States included in list E for a term of three years beginning on 1 January 2000;



3. *Decides* that the above-mentioned distribution of seats shall be reviewed two years before the end of one full rotation scheme of four terms, as referred to in paragraph 1 (f) of the present resolution. Such a review shall be in accordance with the relevant provisions of General Assembly resolutions 48/162 and 50/8, taking into account the relevant inputs of the Economic and Social Council and the Council of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations; the result of the review shall enter into force on 1 January 2012;
4. *Decides further* that, subject to concurrence of the Conference of the Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations, the revised General Regulations shall enter into force on 1 January 2000.

