

REPORT OF THE FIRST ORDINARY SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE CENTER FOR MARKETING INFORMATION AND ADVISORY SERVICES FOR FISHERY PRODUCTS IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN (INFOPESCA)

1. Date, place and opening of the Session

The First Ordinary Session of the General Assembly of the Center for Marketing Information and Advisory Services for Fishery Products from Latin America and the Caribbean took place from 5 to 7 December 1994 in Montevideo, Uruguay at the Instituto Nacional de Pesca. The participants were welcomed by Ing. Bastanchuri, FAOR Uruguay. The Session was opened by Capt. Fernández, Director-General of the Instituto Nacional de Pesca, who spoke on behalf of the Minister of Livestock, Agriculture and Fisheries in Uruguay. The Session was also addressed by Mr. Steve Karnicki, Chief Fish Utilization and Marketing Service, Fisheries Department, Rome, speaking on behalf of the Director General of FAO.

2. Participants to the Session

The Session was attended by the delegations of the following Member Countries: Argentina, Belize, Brazil, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic and Uruguay, and by delegations from eight non-member countries in capacity of observer. These were Bolivia, Chile, Colombia, Guatemala, Mexico, Panama, Paraguay and Venezuela, as well as by observers from various international and national institutions. A full list of the participants is attached to this report as Appendix 1.

3. Adoption of the Agenda

The Agenda and Timetable were adopted as attached in Appendix 2.

4. Election of the Chairman and Vice-chairman of the Session

Uruguay (C/N (R) J. J. Fernández) and Costa Rica were elected as Chairman and Vice-chairman, respectively, of the General Assembly for a term of two year.

5. Adoption of the Rules of Procedure of the General Assembly

The draft Rules of Procedure as prepared by the Secretariat, were adopted and are attached as Appendix 3. As a consequence of the adoption of the Rules of Procedure, the delegate from the Dominican Republic (Lic. M. Tejera de Díaz) was designated as Rapporteur.

6. Applications for Associate Membership

The Secretariat informed the General Assembly that no applications have been received for Associate Membership. The General Assembly requested the Secretariat to prepare a document, to be submitted to the Extraordinary Session, to be convened in 1995, providing a clear definition of Associate Membership and the specific benefits that can be derived from a membership. The Secretariat should also provide rules which will include the criteria to be used for the calculation of the Associate Membership fee.

7. Adoption of the Center's Program of Work and Budget

After the introduction made by the Director a.i. of the Center, the document was adopted as presented. Taking into consideration the difficult financial situation foreseen for the first year of operations (1995) of the Center, FAO offered to provide funds to pay for the salary of the Director of the Center for 1995. The General Assembly selected the budget alternative which includes activities likely to strengthen the income generating capabilities of the Center.

The Program of Work and the Budget as adopted are attached as Appendixes 4 and 5, respectively. The General Assembly agreed that by the end of the year (1995) the Center should have accumulated savings required for the payment of the Center's Director for the period of five months, as it is reflected in the approved budget.

8. Apportionment of the Annual Contributions for the Member States and the Determination of the Quotas to be paid by Associate Members

The agreed scale of contributions for Member States is shown in the document attached as Appendix 6. As the agreed scale of contributions is higher than provisions discussed on the occasion of the Constituent Assembly some countries indicated difficulties to meet the new obligations. However, the General Assembly agreed that this matter should be considered in the light of the possibilities to pay

the increased part of the contribution at a delayed date. It was agreed by the General Assembly that timely payments of the contributions is essential for the proper operation of the Center, particularly for the coming year.

The General Assembly agreed on a scale of Quotas for Associate Members of a minimum of US\$ 2000.- and a maximum of half the contribution of the respective country.

9. Guidelines for the Management of the Center

The Guidelines for the Management of the Center and the Fees to be Charged for its Services were approved, and are attached as Appendix 7. The General Assembly requested that some of the fees charged to Members be handled with flexibility.

10. Examination of the Center's Staff Regulations

The Center's Staff Regulations, including the partial salary scale for professional staff and the Director, were examined and adopted, and are attached as Appendixes 8 and 9, respectively. When discussing the Center's Staff Regulations the General Assembly requested the Secretariat to prepare a document, to be submitted to the Extraordinary Session of the General Assembly scheduled for September 1995, with suggestions on the feasibility and possibilities of payment of a bonus to the staff of the Center related to the financial performance of the Center. In addition, the General Assembly instructed the Director of the Center to investigate with the Government of Uruguay the possibility for the staff of the Center to join national schemes of pension and social security. The matter should be considered at the Extraordinary Session of the General Assembly.

11. Adoption of the Rules Governing the Appointment of the Director of the Center.

The draft rules as presented by the Secretariat were adopted by the General Assembly, with the amendment which allows a country to nominate more than one candidate at the same time. The amended rules are attached as Appendix 10.

12. The Appointment of the Director of the Center

Only one application for the post of the Director of the Center was received. Considering the actual financial situation and fact that the General Assembly would like to select the Director of the Center from a larger number of candidates, it was

agreed to postpone the election of the Director until the Extraordinary Session of the General Assembly. The post should be re-advertized. It was also agreed that the present applicant for the post should be informed about the decision of the General Assembly and have the right to re-apply.

In view of the above decision, the General Assembly accepted the FAO offer to pay for the post of the Director until the end of 1995. The General Assembly agreed that Mr. J.L.M. van Eijs will serve as Director a.i. during this period.

13. Decision Regarding the Center's Financial Regulations

The General Assembly adopted the financial regulations of the Center as submitted by the Secretariat, as attached in Appendix 11.

14. Decision Regarding the Appointment of the Auditor

As Rule XII of the Financial Regulations (Para 12.1) of the Center provides that: "The Auditor General of a Member State shall be appointed as External Auditor in the manner and for the period decided by the General Assembly", the General Assembly agreed that a paid External Auditor shall be appointed at its Extraordinary Session of the General Assembly. It requested the Director a.i. to seek candidatures from the Member Countries for selection. In the meantime, the General Assembly accepted with appreciation the offer from the Host Country to provide administrative /financial advice to the Center on a no cost basis.

15. Cooperation with Other Organizations and Institutions

The General Assembly encouraged the Director to foster close cooperation with other organizations and institutes, and consider the need to enter into a formal agreement and forward such proposals to the Executive Committee.

16. Election of the Executive Committee Members

The General Assembly elected, in addition to Uruguay and Costa Rica, which are the current Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the General Assembly, the following Members of the Executive Committee: Argentina, Brazil (al referendum) and Dominican Republic.

17. Election of the Consultative Committee

The General Assembly agreed to consider the matter at the Extraordinary Session to be convened. At the same time, the delegates present at the General Assembly were requested to provide names of experts from the region recognized for their expertise in fisheries and aquaculture matters. The Director a.i. will establish a list of proposed candidates to be submitted for review to the Executive Committee, and subsequently to the General Assembly at its Extraordinary Session.

18. Other Matters

The General Assembly decided to convene an Extraordinary Session in early September of 1995, to consider the following agenda:

- Appointment of the Director of the Center;
- Discussion and decision regarding the feasibility and possibility of introducing a bonus system for the staff;
- Adoption of rules which include the criteria to be used for the calculation of the Associate Membership fee;
- Adoption of a definition of Associate Membership, and specification of the benefits Associate Members can derive from a membership;
- Appointment of the External Auditor of the Center;
- Consideration of the need to appoint Consultative Committee members;
- Review of the financial situation of the Center, and the level of the Members' contributions or quotas;
- Decision on participation in national schemes for pensions and social security;
- Decision on the place of next Ordinary Session of the General Assembly.

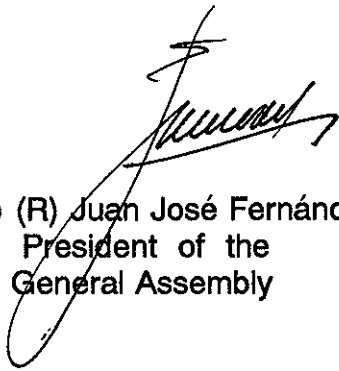
The General Assembly accepted the kind offer of the Dominican Republic to host the Extraordinary Session of the General Assembly.

It was decided that the next Ordinary Session of the General Assembly will be held early December 1996.

The General Assembly expressed its appreciation to the Government of Uruguay for the excellent facilities provided for the Session, and to the Chairman of the General Assembly for the very efficient way in which he conducted the Session.

19. Adoption of the Report

This Report has been adopted in Montevideo, Uruguay, on the seventh of December 1994.



C/N (CG) (R) Juan José Fernández
President of the
General Assembly



J.L.M. van Eijs
Director a.i.
INFOPECA

**CENTER FOR MARKETING INFORMATION AND ADVISORY
SERVICES FOR FISHERY PRODUCTS
IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN**

(INFOPECA)

First Ordinary Session of the General Assembly

Montevideo, 5-7 December 1994

SCALE OF CONTRIBUTIONS

(FOS GA 1/3)

1. Article 6 of the Constitution of the Center for Marketing Information and Advisory Services for Fishery Products in Latin America and the Caribbean (INFOPECSA) provides for two categories of membership to INFOPECSA, namely Member Countries and Associate Members. Furthermore, the Article provides an indication for membership of Countries and organizations from outside the region.

1.1 Member Countries are described in Article 6, Paragraph 2 as:

The Member States shall be the States of Latin America and the Caribbean that have signed de Constitution or that have acceded to said Constitution by depositing an instrument of accession with the Depository, in addition to those States outside the Region that are admitted in accordance with paragraph 5 of this Article.

1.2 According to Article 6, Paragraph 3 of the Constitution, Associate Member status can be granted to:

- a) any international intergovernmental organization that is directly concerned;
- b) any educational or research institute that is involved in fisheries and aquaculture;
- c) any national or regional bank or financial institution that intervenes or may intervene actively in the funding of programs or projects related to fisheries, the fishery industry and to aquaculture;
- d) any regional organization involved in fishery and aquaculture research, technical assistance, financial aid or development;
- e) any juridical person that operates in or is associated with the fisheries and aquaculture sector in Latin America and the Caribbean;
- f) any national or regional, public or private institution with an established involvement in commercial fisheries development.

2. Article 15, Paragraph 3 of the Constitution states:

The Members shall undertake to pay the annual contributions, admission quotas, annual quotas and all sums due to the Center in freely convertible currency.

3. Article 15, Paragraph 6 states:

The General Assembly shall determine the annual and admission quotas for Associate Members in accordance with the classification in Article 6.3. (see Article 1.2 of this document for reference).

4. A classification of the countries of the region was prepared, using FAO statistics of the year 1992, the latest available. The resulting classification is provided in Annex I of this document.

5. In order to maintain the current level of activities and available staff, and to initiate a number of vital new activities as mentioned in the Provisional Program of Activities and Budget Proposal for 1995. Three options of annual contributions for the period 1995–1996 are put to the consideration of the First Ordinary Session of the General Assembly. The General Assembly shall determine which level of country contributions is appropriate to cover the budget requirements.

	<u>OPTION 1</u>	<u>OPTION 2</u>	<u>OPTION 3</u>
Category A:	USD 30 000.–	USD 20 000.–	USD 15 000.–
Category B:	USD 20 000.–	USD 15 000.–	USD 15 000.–
Category C:	USD 10 000.–	USD 10 000.–	USD 10 000.–
Category D:	USD 5 000.–	USD 5 000.–	USD 5 000.–

6. Categories were specified as:

- A More than USD 500 million annually of total value of trade in fishery products
- B USD 250 million – USD 499 million annually of total value of trade in fishery products
- C USD 100 million – USD 249 million annually of total value of trade in fishery products
- D Less than USD 100 million annually of total value of trade in fishery products

The General Assembly adopted Option 2.

7. The annual quotas by Associate Members from the region should be fixed a minimum of USD 2.000 and a maximum of half the Member Country contribution of the respective country. The Executive Committee, which will establish the quotas, will also take into account the objectives and the participation in the fishery sector of the Associate Member.
8. Member Country contributions for countries from outside the region should have a fixed nominal value. An amount of annual contribution of USD 30 000.– is adopted. The same amount should be charged to Associate Members from outside the region.

Total Value of Exports and Imports of Fishery Products for Latin America and Caribbean Nations
 (Source: FAO Fisheries statistics 1992) (in Million U.S.dollar)

<u>Country</u>	<u>Export Value</u>	<u>Import Value</u>	<u>Total Value</u>	<u>Category</u>
Argentina	559.029	48.173	607.202	A
Bahamas	0.053	8.630	8.683	D
Barbados	0.220	6.077	6.297	D
Belize	12.011	0.934	12.945	D
Bolivia	0.282	0.612	0.894	D
Brazil	170.808	133.506	304.314	B
Chile	1.252.363	21.892	1.274.255	A
Costa Rica	74.855	14.427	89.282	D
Colombia	170.807	53.546	224.353	C
Cuba	110.582	11.844	122.426	C
Dominica	-	1415	1.415	D
Dom. Rep.	0.640	32.485	33.125	D
Ecuador	608.830	4.025	612.855	A
El Salvador	23.932	4.778	28.760	D
Grenada	0.120	2.650	2.770	D
Guatemala	21.384	3.890	25.274	D
Guyana	14.300	-	14.300	D
Haití	1.650	3.420	5.070	D
Honduras	38.939	2.313	41.252	D
Jamaica	6.950	27.450	34.400	D
Mexico	316.799	73.646	390.445	B
Nicaragua	24.199	2.650	26.849	D

<u>Country</u>	<u>Export Value</u>	<u>Import Value</u>	<u>Total Value</u>	<u>Category</u>
Panama	82.203	12.776	94.979	C
Paraguay	0.013	0.928	0.941	D
Perú	470.000	0.960	471.860	B
St. Lucía	0.050	3.580	3.630	D
St. Vincent and The Grenadines	2.823	0.840	3.663	D
Suriname	5.500	4.780	10.280	D
Trinidad & Tobago	3.835	3.978	7.813	D
Uruguay (*)	101.500	5.958	107.458	C
Venezuela	70.562	7.024	77.586	D

(*) host country

Annex II

**Annual Contributions, approved by Member Countries of
INFOFISH, INFOPECHE and INFOSAMAK**

CATEGORY	INFOFISH	INFOPECHE	INFOSAMAK
B	30 000	20 000	35 000
C	20 000	15 000	30 000
D	15 000	10 000	25 000
E	10 000		20 000
F	5 000		15 000
A*	50 000	40 000	50 000

* Developed Countries/Countries from outside of the region.