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# COMMITTEE ON COMMODITY PROBLEMS

## Seventy-sixth Session

Rome, 11-13 September 2024

**NAME OF THE COMMITTEE ON COMMODITY PROBLEMS**  
**Background note prepared by the Secretariat for the second meeting**  
**of the Bureau held on 19 January 2023**

*Queries on the substantive content of the document may be addressed to:*

Secretariat of the Committee on Commodity Problems (CCP)  
Markets and Trade Division  
Email: [FAO-CCP@fao.org](mailto:FAO-CCP@fao.org)  
Tel. (+39) 06 570 52723

1. At its 75th Session in July 2022, the CCP “*requested the Bureau to reflect on the need to review the name of the Committee, and its harmonization in the different UN official languages, taking into account recent situational changes such as the growing focus on positive contributions by commodity markets and trade*” (paragraph 27.c, Report of CCP 75).

2. The Terms of Reference of the CCP, as outlined in paragraph 6 of Rule XXIX of the General Rules of the Organization, are as follows:

- To keep under review commodity problems of an international character affecting production, trade, distribution and consumption, and related economic matters;
- To prepare a factual and interpretative survey of the world commodity situation, which may be made available directly to Members; and
- To report and submit suggestions to the Council on policy issues arising out of its deliberations, and to make these reports and those of its Subsidiary Bodies available to Members for their information.

3. The name of the Committee corresponds to the English name in all FAO languages except French:

- Arabic: لجنة مشكلات السلع
- Chinese: 商品问题委员会
- English: Committee on Commodity Problems
- French: Comité des produits
- Russian: Комитет по проблемам сырьевых товаров
- Spanish: Comité de Problemas de Productos Básicos

4. Changing the name of the Committee would involve amendments to the Basic Texts of FAO, with particular reference to the Constitution and the General Rules of the Organization. These amendments would be processed separately, through established procedures to that effect, through the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters (CCLM), the Council and the Conference

5. The name of the CCP was considered twice by the Committee, in 2012 at the 69th Session and in 2016 at the 71st Session.

6. At its 68th Session in 2010, the Committee considered the roles and working arrangements of the CCP and its subsidiary bodies. Members agreed to form an Open-Ended Working Group (OEWG) to consider various issues relating to the functioning of the Committee. This included reviewing the name of the Committee.

7. During the work of the OEWG, several Members expressed a preference to have the name changed. The main concern was the word “Problems” in the name, which was viewed as giving a negative message about commodities and a restrictive scope of the Committee’s work. It was felt that the name should reflect better the Committee’s terms of reference. The OEWG agreed to put forward three options for consideration by the Committee: i) change the name to Committee on Agricultural Commodities; ii) change the name to Committee on Commodities and Trade; or iii) leave the name unchanged.

8. In 2012, the Committee considered the conclusions and recommendations of the OEWG. Regarding the name, the Committee concluded that “*there was no consensus on the need to change the name or on which alternative name might be preferable. It was decided to keep this under review*” (paragraph 24.d, Report of CCP 69).

9. At its 70th Session in 2014, under agenda item VI on “Reform of the CCP and Subsidiary Bodies”, the Committee “*agreed that the next Bureau of CCP should examine the name of the Committee as well as review and clarify Rule 1.7 of the revised Rules of Procedure and present its conclusions to the next session of the CCP*” (paragraph 27, Report of CCP 70).

10. The CCP Bureau undertook this task, and the name “Committee on Commodity Perspectives” emerged in the deliberations. Following consultations, the CCP Bureau agreed to present this alternative name to the Members of the Committee for decision. Another alternative that was proposed, following consultations between the Chairperson and the secretariat, was “Committee on Commodities”. This was viewed as an option to align the name of the CCP with the other FAO technical committees: Committee on Agriculture; Committee on Fisheries; and Committee on Forestry. It would also make it consistent with the name in French.

11. The Committee considered the matter at its 71st Session in 2016, and “*decided to maintain its name as the Committee on Commodity Problems*” (paragraph 42, Report of CCP 71).