

General Conference

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(GC(47)/1)

Restoration of Voting Rights

Background

1. At the 46th regular session of the General Conference, the Secretariat reported on actions taken on the restoration of voting rights for the period 1999–2002 and provided background information on decisions taken by the General Conference and Board of Governors in relation to this issue¹.
2. Pursuant to decision GC(44)/DEC/8, the Committee of the Whole discussed the usefulness and pertinence of the application of the criteria, guidelines and measures, in particular the requirements for payment plans, in connection with the requests for the restoration of voting rights. The representative from Argentina proposed an extension of the maximum payment period from five years to ten years². As no consensus was reached at the Committee, the General Conference through its decision GC(46)/DEC/8 requested the Board to consider the matter at its June 2003 meetings, following the meetings of the Programme and Budget Committee in May 2003. At the meeting of the Board in June 2003, a decision was not taken on this issue, as the matter was part of a package proposal being considered by an informal working group established by the Chairman of the Board. Following an agreement that was reached by the working group on 16 July 2003, the Board, on 18 July 2003, approved the package proposal including the measure to extend the maximum payment period to ten years³.
3. The purpose of this document is to provide Member States with updated information on actions taken by the Secretariat since the 46th regular session of the General Conference.

¹ See documents GOV/INF/2002/12-GC(46)/INF/6 including attachments and Add.1.

² See documents GC(46)/COM.5/OR.1 and GC(46)/COM.5/OR.7.

³ See document GC(47)/INF/7, Attachment 1, para. 17.

Actions Taken In 2003

4. On 10 March 2003, the Secretariat sent letters to 30 Member States which had no right to vote in the Agency during 2003 informing them of the minimum amount they would have to pay in order to regain their right to vote. The attention of those Member States was drawn to the relevant decisions of the General Conference and the Board, and the availability of a payment plan was pointed out. In response to those letters, three Member States paid the minimum amount necessary in their cases and three Member States made partial payments.

One Member State — Armenia — concluded a five-year payment plan agreement and has paid the required instalment plus its assessed contribution for 2003. It has also submitted a request for restoration of voting rights to be forwarded to the General Conference. One Member State that had no voting rights has withdrawn from the Agency. Two Member States — Belarus and Kazakhstan — participating in payment plan agreements with the Agency made partial payments on the required instalments for 2003.

5. Reminder letters were sent out in July and August 2003 urging Member States to take action in order to regain the right to vote, and subsequently one Member State paid the minimum amount and two Member States made partial payments. Belarus made another partial payment on the required instalment of its payment plan agreement.

6. A final reminder was sent by fax on 25 August 2003 to those Member States still faced with the loss of voting rights. To date, one Member State paid the amount required to regain its right to vote. Belarus has paid the balance of the required instalment in accordance with the payment plan agreement plus its assessed contribution for 2003. Kazakhstan informed the Secretariat on 27 August 2003 that it will not be able to fully meet the financial requirements of the payment plan concluded in 2001 and has requested an exemption under Article XIX.A of the Agency's Statute. The status of the three Member States currently participating in payment plans can be found in the annex to this document.

7. The table has been updated since the last issuance of this document to include a further payment of \$57,162 received by the Secretariat on 8 September 2003 from the Government of Kazakhstan, and applied towards its payment plan.

**STATUS OF MEMBER STATES PARTICIPATING IN A PAYMENT PLAN
AS AT 10 SEPTEMBER 2003**

[expressed in United States dollars]

Member	Date of plan	Arrears	Annual installment of arrears *	Current year assessment	Total due current year	Received towards payment plan	Balance payable towards this year's payment plan
Belarus	1999	373 359	373 359	34 981	408 340	408 340	-
Kazakhstan	2001	910 331	286 658	52 470	339 128	311 271	27 857
Armenia	2003	211 846	42 369	4 058	46 427	46 427	-

* Annual installment is 20% of arrears at the time payment plan is adopted. Each Member must, in addition, pay the current year's assessment (Regular Budget) and any increase in the Working Capital Fund in full.