

**Note on the procedure regarding the duration of division bell
prepared by the Secretariat**

The procedure to provide for the shortening of the division bell under paragraph 47 of Finance Committee Procedure ("FCP") was made by the Finance Committee ("FC") on 9 July 2010. Before the proposal was put to FC for consideration, a consultation exercise with all FC members was conducted. In the relevant consultation paper (FC110/09-10(01)), members' attention was drawn to the fact that divisions claimed under an agenda item may include divisions claimed in respect of motions moved and questions put pursuant to paragraphs 37A, 39 or any other provisions in FCP.

2. As such, it appears that when the procedure for shortening of the division bell was made by FC, members were well aware that upon passage of a motion to shorten to the division bell to one minute, the one-minute duration of the division bell shall apply to all further divisions claimed in respect of any motions or questions under the same agenda item, as is made clear by the language of paragraph 47 of FCP itself. A change to this arrangement would require amendment to the FCP.

3. On the concern that some members may not be able to return to the conference room in time after the division bell has been rung for one minute to vote on the funding proposal under an agenda item, the Chairman may consider addressing the concern by way of administrative arrangements. For example, when the committee is about to finish dealing with motions proposed under paragraph 37A of FCP and proceed to vote on the funding proposal, he may openly alert members of such at the meeting.