1. Prior to each session of the Governing Council the Secretariat has traditionally sought to provide members of the Council with its thinking as to possible dates for the subsequent Council session, principally so as to enable Council members before coming to Rome to consult their diaries to see whether such dates would work for them. In the past, most Council members have tended to prefer Council sessions to take place in spring time.

2. Since at the time of preparing this memorandum the dates in Spring 2008 on which other Organisations will be holding meetings are, by and large, unknown, it would seem prudent to settle the dates for the holding of the 87th session of the Council during the 86th session so as to avoid any overlapping with meetings the dates of which are still to be arranged in which Council members might be involved.

3. As with the 86th session, the Secretariat considers it sufficient for the 87th session of the Council to last three days session.

4. Following the tradition of holding Council sessions in spring time whilst, at the same time, avoiding weeks including public holidays, the Secretariat would therefore propose, for the consideration of members of the Council, that the 87th session of the Governing Council be held at the seat of the Institute either from 14 to 16 April or from 21 to 23 April 2008.