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COUNCIL CONSEIL CONSEJO

**Hundred and Sixty-Seventh Session
Cent soixante-septième session
167.º período de sesiones**

**Virtual Meeting, 29 June 2021
VERBATIM RECORDS OF PLENARY MEETINGS OF THE COUNCIL**

**Réunion Virtuelle, 29 juin 2021
PROCÈS-VERBAUX DES SÉANCES PLÉNIÈRES DU CONSEIL**

**Reunión Virtual, 29 de junio 2021
ACTAS TAQUIGRÁFICAS DE LAS SESIONES PLENARIAS DEL
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CHAIRPERSON

Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, dear friends, I call the first meeting of the 167th Session of the FAO Council to order.

It is a real honour and pleasure to welcome you, the Council Members and Observers, to the Session. This is the first Council meeting after the Conference and in accordance with the items on the provisional Agenda, it is traditionally a one and perhaps even a half day meeting, so I would like to call upon your cooperation to make this a very effective and, of course, efficient Session of the Council.

I would like to take this opportunity to extend a particular welcome to the new Council Members who have begun their new term at this Session of the Council: Bangladesh, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Burundi, Cameroon, Chile, Ethiopia, France, Guatemala, Kuwait, Luxembourg, Philippines, Russian Federation and Sudan. I would also like to thank the outgoing Council Members who have finished their mandate and vacated their seats for their hard work and their support to the Organization.

I would like to express my heartfelt thanks and gratitude to all FAO Members for my election for the position of Independent Chairperson of the Council and especially the trust given in me. I wish to reiterate my fulltime commitment to continue serving all Council Members and the FAO Membership at large during my term of office.

I will endeavour to discharge my responsibilities to the best of my abilities. I am aware of the vital role that the Independent Chairperson has in the Council and for the Organization, and especially to serve the Membership with all my energy, my passion and my dedication.

I hope that I can count on your continued support, your continued trust and especially your cooperation. We have to reach out to each other to make FAO an even more effective and efficient Organization, bringing also the Council to the next level. We have to unite in achieving our ultimate goal of a world without hunger. We have to reach out to each other in striving for our collective objective of reaching consensus, both during our informal consultations, as well as during the Council Sessions.

I always live by my words, I remember what I said during my campaign for this important position that I will focus on three priorities besides the already existing priorities: strive for more inclusiveness, strive for innovation, focus on policies but also focus on the implementation of policies during the Council and serve together with the Director-General in broadening the funding base for FAO. In this regard, I am also aware of the added responsibilities we all share at this critical juncture of FAO and I am confident that we all strive and unite to offer the support to each other, as well as the support to the Director-General in making sure that we can achieve our common goals.

Before we start our meeting, I wish to bring to the attention of the Council that the European Union is participating in this meeting in accordance with paragraphs 8 and 9 of Article II of the FAO Constitution. The *Statement of Competence and Voting Rights submitted by the European Union and its Member States* is contained in information document *CL 167/INF/1*.

Item 1. Adoption of the Agenda

Point 1. Adoption de l'ordre du jour

Tema 1. Aprobación del programa

CHAIRPERSON

Now I would like to turn to Agenda Item 1, that is the *Adoption of the Agenda*, as set out in document *CL 167/1*. Kindly note that *CL 167/INF/3* contains information on the Working Methods for this Session of the Council, including a proposal to hold this Council in a virtual mode. Hopefully, this will be our last Council meeting in a virtual mode because I hope that our next meeting will be a physical meeting again, so that we can see each other and meet each other and can even work more closely together.

In addition, it is proposed that the Report of the 167th Session of the Council will be shared on the screen during the virtual meeting itself to allow the Council to adopt the Report. Following the conclusions of all items on the Agenda of the Session we will break for 30 minutes and then reconvene to adopt the Report.

Here we have something new as well, and many thanks to the Secretariat. As multilingualism is an important principle of the Organization, we will make sure that the Draft Report is directly available after we have adjourned the meeting in all six UN languages so that when we go to the adoption of the report, you have the report in front of you in all six UN languages.

Do I take that the Council wishes to adopt the Agenda and the Special Arrangements outlined in *CL 167/INF/3*?

Ms Pernilla IVARSSON (Sweden)

I just have to say that it is a pleasure to see you in the seat as Independent Chairperson of the Council and I wish you and us all the best for the coming two years.

I would kindly ask you to give the floor to Portugal to speak on behalf of European Union and its 27 Member States.

Mr José Luís COELHO SILVA (Portugal) (Observer)

Chairperson, personally, it is a great honour and a great pleasure working with you in the period starting today for the next two years of your term. I wish you all the best and I echo your words that this is hopefully the last virtual Council Session.

We have nothing to say about the Agenda, we can go along with it. I take this opportunity, since I have the floor, to say that I am honoured to speak on behalf of the European Union and its 27 Member States.

First of all, we would like to express our appreciation for the dedication and commitment demonstrated by all the three candidates during their campaign to the run-up of the Independent Chairperson of the Council (ICC) election at the Conference. All three candidates were fully commensurate with the important role and responsibility that the ICC represents in FAO's governance structure.

We would like to commend the FAO Secretariat and all the staff involved in their great effort to ensure, in the current difficult circumstances, such a smooth election process. We are very satisfied with the way in which the two rounds of voting were organized and managed. Needless to say, this smooth election process would not have been possible without the positive and constructive spirit in which the whole FAO Membership approached the secret ballot procedure. It is indeed to the credit of us all.

We would like to congratulate the newly appointed ICC, Ambassador from the Netherlands. We wish him every success with the challenging task that lies ahead. We look forward to his expressive leadership and guidance in chairing our Council Sessions in the years to come, while actively pursuing a consensus. As the outgoing Chair, Ambassador Khalid Mehboob, said in his speech at the last Council Session, this is a position of significance and privilege. We would like to take this opportunity to thank him once again for his efforts over the past four years. Moreover, we wish the new ICC an equally successful term of office.

With increasing global challenges faced by agricultural and food systems, exacerbated by the COVID-19 crisis, FAO's role in the United Nations system is more important than ever for ensuring our lasting capacity to provide sufficient, safe and affordable food and healthy diets for all within the planetary boundaries.

The work in the years to come will present the Organization with both challenge and opportunity. We look forward to fruitful discussions and the leadership of the new ICC, so that FAO will be able to fully play its part in creating a better world for us all.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you very much, Portugal, on behalf of the European Union and I certainly, of course, echo your words in thanking Mr Khalid Mehboob, not only for his four years of chairpersonship as Independent Chairperson of the Council but also for his lifetime dedication to the work and the cause of FAO. I think we should be very grateful and see him as an example.

I would also like to echo the words of thanks to the Secretary-General and his team, that after the decision of the Conference for an in-person vote, how they organized it in a very efficient and effective way the vote. I think we have seen an Organization which is up to its task in this.

Mme Maria De Fatima JARDIM (Angola)

Monsieur le Président, permettez-moi de vous féliciter pour votre élection, et surtout pour cette première Session qui représente incontestablement l'entrée du consensus de nos régions, et de nos groupes, et la liberté de vote, et aussi la transparence. Cela a également été représenté par la votation de votre Excellence. La compréhension de chacun de faire partie de l'expression du désir de voir la FAO, ses objectifs et ses programmes comme des partenaires pour l'avenir, que nous voulons construire.

Angola exprime et confirme son engagement et sa coopération nécessaire pour transformer les systèmes alimentaires et la nutrition, un des défis les plus importants pour atteindre les objectifs de développement durable pour nos générations. Au nom de mon Gouvernement, à tous les membres des Conseils que nous avons tenus, et qui vont être tenu, Angola souhaite plein de succès et espère également que l'on puisse construire des résultats importants et des initiatives importantes, non seulement pour le Sommet des Systèmes Alimentaires, mais que nous apprenions avec le dialogue continu, à construire des ponts, à collaborer et à coopérer pour la mise en œuvre, l'intégration de l'agriculture dans un pilier de la nutrition et croissance.

Il est important que nous puissions conjointement transformer les systèmes alimentaires sur des bases solides, et nous sommes tous alliés et promoteurs de la nouvelle aide que nous voulons renforcer et construire.

Son Excellence, c'est pour vous exprimer et souhaiter, au nom de l'Angola et à tous les membres du Conseil, au Secrétariat, aux assistants, à tous cela, succès et que nous sommes conjoints dans cette FAO.

CHAIRPERSON

I really would like to echo what you said that we have to work in an open and transparent way, to reach out to each other, to build bridges, to make sure that we unite on even stronger commitments to FAO and to the implementation of projects and programmes on the ground, which will have an effect for the challenge we are facing.

With that, I would like to see whether or not we can now adopt the Agenda for this meeting. I do not see any objections.

It was so decided

Il en est ainsi décidé

Asi se acuerda

Item 2. Election of three Vice-Chairpersons**Point 2. Élection des trois vice-présidents****Tema 2. Elección de los tres Vicepresidentes****CHAIRPERSON**

We move now to Item 2, *Election of the three Vice-Chairpersons*. Following the consultations among the regional groups, we have the following proposals for the three posts of Vice-Chairpersons: Her Excellency Maria de Fatima Jardim from Angola, Mr Mohamed Elmouataz Osman from Sudan, and Ms Alison Storsve from the United States of America.

I do apologize if I did not pronounce your names well, but I know even my last name is very difficult to pronounce, so we all have the same handicap.

Can I take that the Council would like to adopt the proposal for the three Vice-Chairpersons for the Council?

I see no objections.

It was so decided
Il en est ainsi décidé
Asi se acuerda

I would like to congratulate the three Vice-Chairpersons and I am looking forward to working with you. I will reach out to you to have a joint meeting to see how we can work together as a team in support of the Membership.

Item 3. Election of the Chairperson and Twelve Members of the Programme Committee
Point 3. Élection du président et des 12 membres du Comité du Programme
Tema 3. Elección del Presidente y los 12 miembros del Comité del Programa

CHAIRPERSON

Now I turn to Item 3, *Election of the Chairperson and Twelve Members of the Programme Committee*. You can find the proposed nominations in document *CL 167/LIM/1*. There is one candidate for the post of Chairperson of the Programme Committee.

Of course, as you know, the Programme Committee is dear to my heart because I have chaired it for the last four years, and I have seen how important the Programme Committee is for the work of FAO.

The proposed candidate for the Chairperson of the Programme Committee is Ms Yael Rubinstein from Israel and according to paragraph 10 (a) of Rule XII of the General Rules of the Organization, in case of an election where there are not more candidates than vacancies, the Chairperson may submit to the Council that the appointment be made clear by general consent.

Therefore, can I take that the Council wishes to elect Ms Yael Rubinstein as Chairperson of the Programme Committee? I see no objections.

It was so decided
Il en est ainsi décidé
Asi se acuerda

I would like to congratulate Ambassador Rubinstein on her appointment as Chairperson of the Programme Committee. Please accept my best wishes for your work with the Programme Committee. It will be, as I have experienced, two years of hard working, but that is necessary for the Organization.

Regarding the membership of the Programme Committee, there are two seats to be filled and two candidates for the regions of Africa, Asia and the Pacific, Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean and the Near East.

For the region of North America and Southwest Pacific there is one candidate for the post to be filled for each region. I will now read out the names of the candidates listed in paragraph 5 of document *CL 167/LIM/1*.

For Africa, the proposed candidates are Ms Traoré Halimatou Koné from Mali and Mr Kayoya Masuhwa from Zambia.

For Asia and the Pacific, it is Mr Ni Hongxing from China and Mr Bommakanti Rajender from India.

For Europe, it is Ms Delphine Babin-Pellier and Mr Morten Aasland from Norway.

For Latin America and the Caribbean, it is Mr Carlos Bernardo Cherniak from Argentina and Mr Fernando José Marroni de Abreu from Brazil.

For the Near East, it is Mr Zaid Al-Ani and Ms Sadia Elmubarak Ahmed Daak from Sudan.

For North America, it is Mr Maarten de Groot from Canada.

For Southwest Pacific it is Mr Donald Syme from New Zealand.

Given that we have the same number of nominations as seats to be filled for all regions, I propose that the Council appoint these candidates by general consent. Can I take that the Council would like to adopt these proposals? I see no objections.

It was so decided

Il en est ainsi décidé

Asi se acuerda

I wish to congratulate not only the countries but also the candidates elected to the important task of serving the membership in the Programme Committee.

Mme Céline JURGENSEN (France)

Je voulais bien sûr féliciter les collègues élus au Comité du Programme, notamment sa Présidente, l'Ambassadrice Yael Rubinstein.

Je voulais juste préciser, parce que cela avait été omis dans la présentation, que Mme Babin-Pelliar est élue au nom de la France. Je vous remercie de l'indiquer dans le compte rendu.

CHAIRPERSON

Of course, it will be reflected in the Report that Ms Delphine Babin-Pelliar will serve in the Programme Committee on behalf of France.

Mr MOUNGUI MÉDI (Cameroon)

Let me officially seize this opportunity to extend the warm congratulations of my country to you for being elected as the Independent Chairperson of the Council. You definitely can count on our full, and when I say full, I mean it, full support to help you discharge this high responsibility.

Now, let me come back to what I heard now from France. We need the Legal Counsel to tell us what it means because from what we know people are elected intuit personae.

Therefore, it is a little bit disturbing for me to understand that there is somebody who has been elected in the name of France, meanwhile we know that they are proposed by regions. They are not proposed by a country, they are proposed by a region and they are appointed and elected intuitu personae.

It is not a debate I want to open here, but I need more clarification on that matter for my future, because it sets a precedent, so for my future recollection. Probably I am too fast, but that is what I am trying to have as information.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you very much, Cameroon for your trust and support and we have been working close together already for many years and looking forward to our continued cooperation.

As I stated in my statement, a region proposes a country to be elected in the Programme Committee and the country has proposed a name. By mistake, I did not mention France after I mentioned Ms Delphine Babin-Pelliar.

Therefore, what Her Excellency of France said was correct. I forgot to name that Ms Babin-Pelliar is from France. But, as we know, if we look in the Basic Texts, it is the country which is nominated by the region and, if the country is elected, the country proposes a person to take the seat in the Programme Committee.

Mme Céline JURGENSEN (France)

Vous avez parfaitement résumé la situation. Mme Babin Pelliar, son origine géographique, France, était le seul candidat pour lequel le pays d'origine n'avait pas été mentionné. Je vous remercie de cette clarification.

Mr MOUNGUI MÉDI (Cameroon)

I think I am clear that probably the mistake came from you, Mr Chairperson, because you named all the candidates with their countries. I did not take it that you did not name the country of Ms Babin-Pelliard. I now understand. I was confused in my head that it is probably a matter of how you read all the candidates. My sincere apologies if I was confused at that time, but now I believe that everything is in order and we can move ahead.

CHAIRPERSON

It is my first morning in office, so please forgive me if I make a mistake, but I think we all learn from our mistakes. I think the situation is now clear, and it is good that it was mentioned. So, that is also for the Verbatim records and the Council Report that we have mentioned the countries and the names of the persons from the countries in the Programme Committee.

Item 4. Election of the Chairperson and Twelve Members of the Finance Committee

Point 4. Élection du président et des 12 membres du Comité financier

Tema 4. Elección del Presidente y los 12 miembros del Comité de Finanzas

CHAIRPERSON

With that, I would like to go to Item 4, *Election of the Chairperson and Twelve Members of the Finance Committee*. The relevant documents are *CL 167/3* and *CL 167/LIM/2*.

As indicated in paragraph 4 of document *CL 167/LIM/2*, there is one candidate for the post of Chairperson of the Finance Committee and that is Ms Imelda Smolcic from Uruguay.

I mentioned earlier that where there is the same number of candidates for the same number of posts, the Council may decide on the appointment by clear general consent. So, can I take that the Council wishes to appoint Ms Imelda Smolcic from Uruguay as Chairperson of the Finance Committee? I do not see any objections.

It was so decided

Il en est ainsi décidé

Así se acuerda

My warm congratulations go to Ms Smolcic on her appointment as Chairperson of the Finance Committee. It is also a very important Committee for the Membership and for FAO. I wish her all the success in her work and, of course, we know that she is already experienced. I have worked with her over the last two years and I am looking forward to continuing working with her in this role.

Now we go to the appointment of the members of the Finance Committee and as I did before, with Programme Committee, I will read out the names and, of course, the countries of the candidates for the Finance Committee.

For Africa, it is Mr Kaba Urgessa Dinssa from Ethiopia and Mr Rahila Rabiou Tahirou from Niger.

For Asia and the Pacific, it is Mr Kuraya Yoshihiro from Japan and Mr Thanawat Tiensin from Thailand.

For Europe, it is Vladimir Kuznetsov from the Russian Federation and Ms Pernilla Ivarsson from Sweden.

For Latin America and the Caribbean it is proposed Mr Miguel Jorge García Winder from Mexico and Mr Tomás Duncan Jurado from Panama.

For the Near East it is proposed Mr Haitham Abdelhady from Egypt and Mr Mohammed M. Alghamdi from Saudi Arabia.

From North America, it is Ms Jennifer Harhigh from the United States of America.

For the Southwest Pacific it is Ms Lynda Hayden from Australia.

Given that the same names of nominations are seats to be filled for all seven regions, can I take that there is no objection to the Council appointing these candidates by clear general consent?

Ms Jennifer HARHIGH (United States of America)

It is with regret that the United States must dissociate from consensus regarding one of the candidates of the Europe regional group.

The Basic Texts of the Food and Agriculture Organization state that “Members of the Finance Committee shall appoint as their representatives, individuals who have shown a continued interest in the objectives and activities of the Organization, have participated in Conference or Council Sessions and have a special competence in administrative and financial matters.”

The United States believes that a criminal conviction for significant financial crimes committed while serving on the financial advisory body of another international organization is not the sort of special competence in administrative and financial matters that stands to benefit FAO.

Therefore, we found it deeply regrettable in 2019 that a regional group proposed as a member to represent it on the Finance Committee, a candidate who was convicted in a US Federal Court on charges to conspiracy to commit money-laundering during his tenure as chair of the UN Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (ACABQ), while he was previously working for the United Nations in New York. At the time of the crimes, the United Nations itself waived this candidate’s diplomatic immunity, given the seriousness of the case.

The United States and two other FAO Members formally opposed this appointment to the FAO Finance Committee in 2019, noting that this individual’s felony conviction, prison sentence and time spent in prison were not disclosed to FAO Member States prior to the approval of the candidate’s initial nomination to the Finance Committee in 2011.

None of these facts have changed in the intervening two years. I would note that the Curriculum Vitae distributed by the Russian Federation once again neglects to note this information, which we consider to be a material omission. My delegation therefore provided all of the missing information to all FAO Members in 2019 and again this year, in 2021. We also urged the nominating delegation, as well as the regional group, to consider proposing an alternative qualified candidate.

Given this history, we are astonished that this individual has again been nominated for the Finance Committee.

What has changed in the intervening two years is that the membership of other international organizations have seen fit to reconsider the fitness for office of Mr Vladimir Kuznetsov, twice denying his reappointment.

In October 2020, members prevented his reappointment to the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) Advisory Body on Administrative and Financial Matters in The Hague. And as recently as one week ago, 23 June 2021, members once again decided not to approve his re-nomination to serve on the Advisory Group for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization (PREPCOM), in Vienna.

We therefore ask FAO Council Members to reflect deeply on the action that they are now taking regarding the FAO Finance Committee, especially in light of the actions taken by other international organizations’ memberships.

We recognize, even if we do not understand, that Member States are reluctant to challenge the candidature decisions of other countries and regional groups, even in a case like this where the area of conviction has direct relevance to the office for which the candidate is running. A decision to reappoint this individual to the FAO Finance Committee is directly contradictory to the Committee’s objectives and with our shared goals as Members to promote strong, transparent, accountable financial practices at FAO and safeguard the credibility of this Organization.

The United States therefore dissociates from the decision to continue Mr Vladimir Kuznetsov’s service on the FAO Finance Committee. We ask other FAO Council Members to consider taking the same action and invite them to express their views on this matter.

I would like to ask that our dissociation be recorded in the Report for this meeting.

Ms Mi NGUYEN (Canada)

Canada would like to express its full appreciation and the value it attaches to the important work that the Finance Committee carries out. As a Member of the FAO Council, we rely on the recommendation of the Finance Committee that assists in the financial administration of the Organization.

We also want to underline the need to continue to have faith in the governance institutions of any international organization, including FAO. The integrity, actual and perceived, of representatives serving on the governing bodies is essential.

As such, we are concerned by the conviction for conspiracy to commit money-laundering activities while working with the UN of one candidate who has not disclosed to Members of FAO Council prior to his initial nomination to the FAO Finance Committee in 2011 and thereafter. This should disqualify the candidate from serving on the Finance Committee. This is of particular concern considering the direct relevance between the nature of the conviction and the nature of duties required to serve on the Finance Committee.

In this context, Canada would like to dissociate as well ourselves from consensus with respect to the election of the candidate in question. We had expressed the same concerns in 2019 and believe that the nominating delegation and regional group have had sufficient time to identify a qualified candidate that meets the requirements and the highest standards expected for international organizations. We would also like to invite other Council Members, as well as the nominating delegation, to consider still this option.

Mr Urgessa Kaba DINSSA (Ethiopia)

At the outset, once again I want to congratulate Ambassador Hans Hoogeveen for being elected as the Chairperson of this important organ for the Food and Agriculture Organization.

I would also like to welcome new members of the Council and we are eagerly looking to work with Member countries in a way that ensures food security for all.

Regarding the issue at hand, the candidate presented by the Russian Federation is not a new candidate. He is being presented for the re-election. Unless we have any convincing evidence by FAO during his last service to FAO, my country fully endorses his candidacy.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you very much, Ethiopia, for your trust and support in me.

Ms Elizabeth NASSKAU (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland) (Observer)

As the Russian Federation and, indeed, the Chairperson of the Europe Regional Group are aware, the United Kingdom is also concerned that an individual with a conviction for conspiracy to commit money-laundering has been nominated again to serve on FAO's Finance Committee. This is despite requests to the Russian Federation to submit a nomination that could meet the support of all Members, meeting the criteria set out in the Basic Texts Rule for the Finance Committee, both in letter and in spirit.

The United Kingdom therefore, as an Observer to this Council, would like also to record its dissociation with consensus on this election.

Ms Dilyara RAVILOVA-BOROVNIK (Russian Federation) (Original language Russian)

Firstly, I would like to congratulate you, Mr Chairperson, on behalf of the Russian Federation. I would like to thank Mr Victor Vasiliev who was present during the nomination of the Independent Chairperson of the Council. Unfortunately, he is not here today because he is head of delegation of our country and is meeting with foreign ministers in a different meeting for the G20.

We hope that your Independent Chairpersonship of the Council will be witness to FAO's Members' trust in your personal experience, your professionalism and your authority in full respect of the trust we place in you. We would like to wish you every success in carrying out your new functions in this important, transformational stage of the Organization as you tackle important tasks, such as the UN Food Systems Summit.

We have listened to the accusations against Mr Vladimir Kuznetsov, our candidate to the Finance Committee on the part of many delegations. We have listened to these accusations with concern. We feel that this is another attempt to politicize FAO's work and to propagate nationalistic narratives against certain delegations. I will repeat this again because there is a lag in the interpretation. We believe that this is an attempt to politicize FAO's work and to represent the points of view of certain countries in doing so. We believe that this is fully unacceptable and is not aligned with FAO's mandate and activities in any way.

This type of attempt prevents mutual cooperation and hinders dialogue among FAO Members. We would like to note that the candidacy of Mr Kuznetsov was fully supported by the government of the Russian Federation. Mr Kuznetsov is a career diplomat and an expert in administrative and budgetary as well as financial matters. He has been working for many years in the United Nations system.

Mr Kuznetsov has been working for FAO since 2011. Over the last ten years, he has worked on a daily basis to uphold the goals of the Organization, which go hand in hand with upholding the interests of all countries, irrespective of their development level, their position within the international community, and their influence on international affairs.

His candidacy has taken place within full respect of the established procedures each time and this has never been a problem within the Europe Regional Group. The Russian Federation put forward, and will continue to put forward, the candidacy of Mr Vladimir Kuznetsov and we are ready and willing to discuss with the Europe Regional Group any issues that this group may wish to discuss around this candidacy. We believe that if the Europe Regional Group agreed on the nomination of Mr Kuznetsov as a Member of the Finance Committee, discussing his professional capacity is not necessary here.

We would call on all Members to conduct a constructive review in the respect of the sovereignty of each Member and right to put forward any candidate they deem to be qualified and appropriate, who has proven to have the necessary skills in respect of the established procedures in the Russian Federation and international organizations. Politicizing the work of the Council does not benefit anyone, neither the Organization, nor the Members.

I would also like to draw your attention to the fact that we are making our statement under the circumstances we all face and at times the English interpretation is not a word for word translation of the statement we are making in Russian, it is not always in line with the levels required by the Governing Bodies. We would like to call on the interpretation services to provide an exact translation, which sticks to the declarations and statements made by Members on the matters we discuss.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you very much, Russian Federation, for your words of support and, of course, I hope to live up to your and my promises.

Mr Defu GUANG (China) (Original language Chinese)

At the outset, I would like to congratulate you for your election. I am very pleased to be part of this meeting. You are commonly recognized as a very brilliant chairperson. China is appreciating the success and the progress of every Member.

As for the candidate from Russian Federation, this candidate is from the Europe Regional Group, so we should respect the decision of the regional group. As I know Mr Vladimir Kuznetsov from 2011 has been a Member of the Finance Committee, so he is professional, he is capable and has been recognized and appreciated by other Members. Therefore, China supports, once again, Mr Kuznetsov as candidate to the Finance Committee of FAO.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you very much, China, for your very nice words to me and I am looking forward to work closely together with you.

Mr Pavel NESTEROVICH (Belarus) (Original language Russian)

I would like to warmly congratulate you on your election as Independent Chairperson of the Council and I wish you full success in your work for the development of all Members and strengthening food security across the world.

On behalf of Belarus, I would like to express regrets for the points of view that we have heard from certain Members who have opposed the candidacy of Mr Vladimir Kuznetsov.

Belarus feels that this type of point of view is of concern and leads to political problems. We fully share the point of view that it is unacceptable that here at FAO there be political conflicts and that geopolitical conflicts are reflected here. I would like to note that the internal jurisdiction of certain Members should not influence affairs within international organizations, especially if we truly wish to meet FAO's goals.

Belarus fully supports the candidacy of Mr Vladimir Kuznetsov and regrets that we are facing obstacles in approving his candidacy by consensus.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you very much, Belarus, for your words of appreciation to me and I am looking forward to continue to work with you.

Mr MOUNGUI MÉDI (Cameroon)

Let me, at the outset, say something that I could not say much more earlier, to congratulate Ambassador Maria de Fatima Jardim for her appointment as Vice-Chairperson of this Council. The Africa Group is honoured by her appointment and we know for sure that she is up to the task.

Before us there is a conundrum which we as Africa Regional Group, and I have the mandate of the Chairperson of the Africa Regional Group to speak on behalf of the Africa Regional Group on this issue. Before us a real conundrum because we know that Members are selected by regional groups and we have before us names that are given by a regional group.

We do not understand what is happening because the regional group has decided and some of the members of the same regional group are coming back and saying, we do not support. This could have been done earlier in the process when they were selecting the candidate and the nominations were put forward. But bringing it here, in the Council, we as a regional group, we cannot understand what is going on in the regional group of Europe.

Speaking as Mr Médi of Cameroon, during my four years as Chairperson of the Finance Committee I worked with Mr Vladimir Kuznetsov. Professionally, I found him very sound. This is a testimony I can give on that. Therefore, the rest, whatever is being done here, is a little bit confusing in our heads. We have already the fact that he has been acting in that capacity in the Finance Committee for ten years.

We feel that it is not very much appropriate today that we have a case that we bring it up. It is a little bit disturbing for us, Africa Regional Group. We plead with the group of Europe, because of the solidarities we have with that group, please to consider not to force us, as a region, to take a position on something that must have been resolved before bringing it to the Council.

Sr. Carlos Bernardo CHERNIAK (Argentina)

Permítame porque es la primera vez que uso la palabra, volver a felicitarlo como lo hice, en primer lugar, cuando terminaron las elecciones. Permítame mandar un abrazo virtual y que sepa que tanto Argentina como cada uno de los Miembros del G77&China serán absolutamente colaboradores, cooperativos y constructivos en la gestión que a usted le toca que no es fácil. Así que, ese es el primer mensaje que quería transmitirle, Presidente.

La segunda cuestión, yo sé que cuando las posiciones políticas entre los diferentes Estados es muy distante, resulta muy difícil decir algo que pueda ayudar para bajar la tensión. Mi intención no es decir nada que pueda ser utilizado en defensa de ninguna de las posiciones que están aquí en discusión. Lo único que quisiera decir es que escuché atentamente las posiciones de cada uno de los Miembros, de cada uno de los colegas con mucha atención. Y yo creo que cada una de esas posiciones fue receptada

en el verbatim de esta reunión. Por lo tanto, quedan muy claras las posiciones políticas de los Miembros.

Creo que, ahora sería oportuno, Presidente, empezar a pensar en las prioridades comunes porque ya tenemos claras cuáles son las diferencias. Pero, por lo menos, quizás podamos encontrarnos en algún lugar común a partir de las prioridades que esta Organización tiene y que fundamentalmente afecta a los países en desarrollo.

Por último, Presidente, me gustaría remarcar un tema de procedimiento. Lo digo con un tono absolutamente constructivo y que tiene que ver con la idea de que es muy importante que los Miembros agoten las discusiones para que luego los observadores puedan intervenir. Creo que complica en el proceso y la dinámica del debate que quienes no son Miembros del Consejo y que están en calidad de Observadores puedan intervenir en el medio del debate hasta que -- con su experiencia, esto va a ser administrado y resuelto, pero quiero remarcar que no creo que sea funcional que el debate entre los Miembros sea interrumpido por Observadores que deberían hablar al final, como corresponde al derecho que los textos básicos y los procedimientos permiten.

Por último, permítame también felicitar a los diferentes presidentes de los comités, en particular a mi Presidenta del Comité de Programa, la Embajadora de Israel porque al yo ser vicepresidente, trabajaremos seguramente en conjunto y en equipo el Comité del Programa.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you very much, Argentina, for your words of support and your virtual hug and I do hope that soon we can have a physical hug to celebrate our cooperation.

On the order of speakers, as I am well aware of the Basic Texts because of my legal background, I always follow the order as presented in the Basic Texts. If you have requests for the floor, it was clear that first the Members ask for the floor, then, at a certain moment, an Observer asked for the floor and Members who wanted to speak withdrew themselves from the list of speakers, so that the Observer could speak and then put themselves on the list again.

I just had to follow the order because I have to follow the order of the speakers on my list. Those were on the list and at a certain moment there were no other Members asking for the floor, so I gave the floor to the Observer and after I had given the floor to the Observer, Members asked for the floor again and, of course, then I give the Members the floor again. I just follow, I would say, the Basic Texts on how we conduct our work.

Ms Jennifer HARRIGH (United States of America)

I listened to the views of our fellow Members and I want to clarify a few points. First, these are not accusations, these are not rumours, these are not opinions. These are material facts. I have circulated to all FAO Members Mr Vladimir Kuznetsov's conviction and sentencing documents from the United States Department of Justice. Since it appears some of our Members do not have full information, I would like to ask the Secretariat to please circulate these documents as Council documents for further consideration.

I want to be very clear in response to some of our fellow Members' comments. This is not an attempt at politicization. We would welcome a Russian candidate or a candidate from any Member who does not have a criminal conviction for financial crimes. This is about fitness for duty of one individual due to crimes directly relevant to the work of the Finance Committee and this is about the reputation of this Organization.

We fully recognize that FAO Members and Regional Groups have the prerogative to nominate candidates of their choice, but we find it deeply regrettable that neither Russia nor any other Members of the Regional Group could identify another candidate who was more suitable for this role.

Ms Dilyara RAVILOVA-BOROVIK (Russian Federation) (Original language Russian)

We have listened very carefully to the statements of the representative of the United States and we would like to draw attention to the following. First, we urge FAO's Secretariat to refrain from disseminating or circulating as an official document any document prepared by an individual Member.

If a Member would like to circulate a document, which reflects their personal national position, then they may do so on their own, making use of FAO's mechanisms for feedback with Members. This is a practice that can work in practice and it will give the possibility to all Members in time to become familiar with the positions of one or another country. The circulation of any document which is prepared by an individual Member, as an official document of the Organization, cannot be supported by us, otherwise we would come to the situation in which all documents that are prepared by Members may be disseminated as official documents of FAO, irrespective of their content.

The second point that we would like to draw attention to, the distinguished representative of the United States has just now said that the document that was circulated, referring to the professional and personal characteristics of the Russian candidate, Mr Vladimir Kuznetsov, contains facts and facts alone. Now, in this connection we would like to draw attention to the fact that some of the facts in this document do not reflect reality and in particular I am referring to the alleged non-election of Mr Kuznetsov to the Preparatory Commission of the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty.

We would like to draw the attention of the United States to the fact that a more accurate and careful use of language should be made in the document so as not to lead Members into mistakes. Mr Kuznetsov and his candidacy was never rejected by the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty. The process has not been concluded.

CHAIRPERSON

As we have seen, the United States and a response of the Russian Federation have already been circulated on the Members' Gateway. So, I would like now to propose to continue as follows.

I would like to propose again to adopt the appointments of the Members of the Finance Committee proposed by the Africa region, by the Asia and Pacific region, by the European region, by the Latin America and the Caribbean region, the Near East region, North American region and the Southwest Pacific region.

We will note in the Report the dissociation of the United States and Canada of this decision for the Members of the Finance Committee. Of course, in the Verbatim of this meeting, we will reflect the positions of all the Members as well as the Observers who took the floor.

Can I take that we can proceed as suggested by me?

Mr MOUNGUI MÉDI (Cameroon)

We follow your guidance, that is fine, but I do not know whether it is in the verbatim that we are going to address the issue of what the Observer said, or in the Report, because we are at the level of decision-making. We cannot associate Observers when we are taking the decision. If we put it in the verbatim or in the Report, then we will block that. We cannot accept that anything said by an Observer should be recorded in the Report of the Members.

CHAIRPERSON

I am following the procedure, which we have followed in the past, which is in accordance with the Basic Texts. We will reflect in the Report the positions of the Members. That is why I propose that we will reflect the dissociation of the United States and Canada in the Report. We always reflect the position of Observers in the verbatim of the meeting. That is how it has been done. That is how I propose to follow the procedure again, so that the positions of the Observers are reflected in the verbatim, but the dissociation of the United States of America and Canada to the decision will be in the Report.

I would like to ask, can we follow and can we decide as I propose?

I do not see any objections.

It was so decided

Il en est ainsi décidé

Asi se acuerda

Item 5. Election of the Chairperson and Seven Members of the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters

Point 5. Élection du président et des sept membres du Comité des questions constitutionnelles et juridiques

Tema 5. Elección del Presidente y los siete miembros del Comité de Asuntos Constitucionales y Jurídicos

CHAIRPERSON

Now let us continue with the *Election of the Chairperson and Seven Members of the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters*. You can find the information in CL 167/3 and CL 167/LIM/3.

We have one candidate for the post of Chairperson of the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters and that is Ms Alison Storsve of the United States of America. As previously indicated, when there is the same number of candidates for the same number of vacancies, the Council may decide on the appointment by general consent. So, may I take that there is a general consent that we can appoint Ms Alison Storsve as Chairperson of the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters?

I do not see any objections.

It was so decided

Il en est ainsi décidé

Asi se acuerda

I would like to congratulate Ms Storsve on her appointment as Chairperson of the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters and wish her a lot of success in this important task. As we have seen over the last two years, many times, it is very important that we discuss and prepare decisions in this Committee.

Now we have to appoint the Members of the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters and, as indicated in paragraph 5 of the document CL 167/LIM/3, there is an equal number of candidates as vacancies to be filled for all regions.

For Africa, it is Ms Lamia Ben Redouane from Algeria.

For Asia and the Pacific region, it is Ms Nina P. Cainglet from the Philippines.

For Europe, it is Ms Zora Weberova from Slovakia.

For the region of Latin America and the Caribbean, it is Ms Mónica Robelo Raffone from Nicaragua.

For the region of the Near East, it is Mr Khaled Ahmad Zekriya from Afghanistan.

For North America, it is Ms Julie Emond from Canada.

For Southwest Pacific, it is Ms Esala Nayasi from Fiji.

Can I take that the Council endorses the appointment of these Members and countries as Members of the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters? I do not see any objections.

It was so decided

Il en est ainsi décidé

Asi se acuerda

First of all, I would like to congratulate the Members of this Committee and the important work they have to do in the coming two years.

I would also like to recognize the work carried out by the outgoing Members and Chairpersons for their work in the different committees.

Mr MOUNGUI MÉDI (Cameroon)

On behalf of the Africa Regional Group, we warmly congratulate the three Chairpersons of the Programme Committee (PC), Finance Committee (FC) and Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters (CCLM) for their election and also congratulate all the Members of the three Committees for their nomination.

The Africa Regional Group looks forward to supporting their work as long as it is built in the work of our Organization and we believe that those people who are being nominated today are up to the task and they will have all the support of the Africa Regional Group.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you very much, Cameroon, and I think all the Members and certainly me, firstly, echo and join your words of congratulation of the three Chairpersons and all the Members in the important Committees.

Item 6. Matters Arising out of the Conference Session

Point 6. Questions découlant de la session de la Conférence

Tema 6. Asuntos planteados en el período de sesiones de la Conferencia

CHAIRPERSON

I would like now to continue to Item 6, *Matters arising out of the Conference Session*. Ladies and gentlemen, the Matters arising from the Conference will be handled by the relevant Committees or the Secretariat and the Council will follow up on the implementation.

I would like to take this opportunity to make reference to the Conference Report, which requested the conduct of a comprehensive review of the process for reinstating voting rights for Members in arrears, for consideration by the relevant Governing Bodies, including the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters (CCLM), and supported by a process of informal consultations led by me, with the Chairpersons and Vice-Chairpersons of the Regional Groups.

I wish also to inform Members that I will commence this process of consultations by adding the matter to the Agenda for our next informal meeting with the Chairpersons and Vice-Chairpersons of the Regional Groups.

In addition, the Conference requested the need to continue the work achieved on the draft Code of Conduct for Voting Procedures with a view to finalizing a draft text for submission to the next Conference, the 43rd Session of the Conference. I would like to inform Members that I will be convening an entire-Membership consultation on this matter.

Members will also recall that the Conference mandated the Council at its 168th Session to consider the endorsement of the Report of the 18th Regular Session of the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture. This item will be taken up at the 168th Session of the Council.

Finally, I would like to draw the attention of the Members to the First Report of the General Committee, which was endorsed by the 42nd Session of the Conference, which recommended a comprehensive review by the Council for a possible use of an online voting system in the future. I wish to inform you that I intend to include this item on the Agenda of my informal meetings with the Chairpersons and Vice-Chairpersons of the Regional Groups.

These are the issues which came out of the Conference and, of course, we will discuss many more items which are important for the Organization.

Ms Pernilla IVARSSON (Sweden)

I would kindly ask you to pass the floor to Portugal to speak on behalf of the European Union (EU) and its 27 Member States.

Mr José Luís COELHO SILVA (Portugal) (Observer)

I am honoured to speak on behalf of the European Union and its 27 Member States.

We would like to thank the Independent Chairperson of the Council (ICC) and the Secretariat for this opportunity to comment on the work that lies ahead of us in the FAO Council context. Regarding the decisions and guidance from the 42nd Session of the FAO Conference, we would like to highlight the following.

Firstly, on the FAO Strategic Framework, the Conference requested stronger linkages between the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the four betters. In practical terms, this implies

addressing all the recommendations of the 166th Session of the Council on the Strategic Framework 2022-31, and in particular the balance between the three dimensions of sustainable development (economic, social and environmental) throughout the Programme of Work and Budget, including through the number of Programme Priority Areas and the budget allocation between the four betters. In this respect, we look forward to further proposals from the Secretariat. Those could then be considered in the context of the adjustments to the Medium Term Plan and the Programme of Work Budget that should be presented to the next Council Session.

Secondly, we look forward to the inclusive consultations for the development of the new FAO Strategy on Climate Change, which is aligned with the SDGs.

Thirdly, we have noted the request for a Council discussion on a standardized procedure for the elaboration and approval of FAO policies, voluntary guidelines, strategies and action plans.

Fourthly, we have noted the request for a progress report on Multilingualism at FAO and the request to have an item on the Food Coalition on the Agenda of the 168th Session of the Council.

Fifthly, it should be mentioned that the Conference requested a comprehensive review on the process for reinstating voting rights for Member Nations in arrears.

Finally, we have noted the request to the ICC to continue the consultations with the Membership with a view to finalizing a draft Code of Conduct for Voting Procedures, to be submitted for consideration by the 43rd Session of the Conference.

We look forward to continue working on these and other topics with all Members and the Secretariat, to achieve our common goals to fulfil FAO's vision.

CHAIRPERSON

I do not see any other requests for the floor. Of course, your interventions will be reflected in the Report. What you said about the Strategic Framework and the reflections and decisions made by the Conference will be reflected in the document going to the Programme and Finance Committees in the Joint Meeting and, in preparation, I will take that up as well in my informal meeting with the Regional Groups.

Item 7. Calendar of FAO Governing Bodies and other Main Sessions 2021-22

Point 7. Calendrier 2021-2022 des sessions des organes directeurs de la FAO et des autres réunions principales

Tema 7. Calendario de los períodos de sesiones de los órganos rectores de la FAO y otras reuniones importantes en 2021-22

CHAIRPERSON

I would like now to continue to Item 7, *Calendar of FAO Governing Bodies and other Main Sessions 2021-22*. You can find the information in document CL 167/2. The relevant document has been prepared in close cooperation with IFAD and WFP to avoid any overlaps with the dates of IFAD and WFP Governing Bodies and you can be assured that the Secretariat are working even more closely together to avoid overlaps of meetings in the heavy agenda which is in front of us.

The dates given for the Sessions in 2022 are provisional and will be submitted for approval to the next Council Session in December 2021.

Ms Jennifer HARHIGH (United States of America)

I just had a short update to the calendar dates that were circulated in the document and that is that the North American Regional Group is exploring dates in mid-April 2022 for our Informal North American Regional Conference (iNARC). We are looking at either the week of April 11th or 19th, but we will inform the Secretariat and Members as soon as those dates are finalized.

If I could ask that the Secretariat kindly add to the April block of the calendar “to be confirmed” (TBC), mid-April dates for the iNARC Conference, if that chart will be, in fact, included in our Council Report today.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you, United States of America, for your remarks and certainly we will update the Calendar as you have requested.

Mr Bommakanti RAJENDER (India)

I am taking the floor for the first time, so on behalf of the Asia Group, on my own behalf and on behalf of India, I would like to congratulate you, Chairperson, on your election as Independent Chairperson of the Council and we assure our full support to you and we expect there will be inclusivity and transparency in the functioning of FAO.

Regarding this Agenda Item, I would like to mention, for the last two years we have been seeing it, there is so much overlap. I am not commenting particularly on this, but the document which has been circulated, generally there will be many clashes, so many meetings are taking place in virtual mode, whether it is WFP, IFAD or FAO. I think this needs to be properly worked on and especially the small delegations where only there is one delegate, it is very difficult to attend all the meetings. For some delegations it is fine. So, this has to be kept in mind.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you very much, your Excellency, for your nice words and support. I am looking forward to continue working with you, but also with your region. I echo your words about the many meetings and I see it as my personal task also to see how we can streamline the meetings better. Not only the formal meetings of the Governing Bodies but also the other meetings so that it is possible for all delegations to participate in those meetings. Not only delegations which have many members, but also for small delegations. When I speak about more inclusiveness, it means that every Member should have the possibility to take part in important meetings and for that, we need to make sure that we streamline much more not only the meetings of the Governing Bodies, but also the other meetings with WFP, IFAD, but also the Committee on World Food Security (CFS), because I think it is for the benefit of all and especially benefits the results coming out of those meetings, for the implementation, that we all participate in those meetings.

Thank you for those words and I will certainly take this up in the next coming two years.

Item 8. Tentative Agenda for the 168th Session of the Council (November-December 2021)**Point 8. Ordre du jour provisoire de la cent soixante-huitième session du Conseil (novembre-décembre 2021)****Tema 8. Programa provisional del 168.º período de sesiones del Consejo (noviembre-diciembre de 2021)****CHAIRPERSON**

I would like to continue with Item 8, *Provisional Agenda for the 168th Session of the Council*, which will be held in November/December 2021. You can find the information in CL 167/INF/2. Are there any delegations who would like to take the floor on this item?

Ms Pernilla IVARSSON (Sweden)

Could you please pass on the floor to Portugal to speak on behalf of the European Union and its Members?

Mr José Luís COELHO SILVA (Portugal) (Observer)

Maybe the Secretariat can clarify to us, and I will be grateful for that, about the questions we raised in our previous statement, how the Food Coalition will be addressed in the next FAO Council. This is my first question.

My second question is, as we heard from the Secretariat in the last Conference, we have to discuss the endorsement of the 18th Session Report of the Commission on Food Resources and Agriculture. I am wondering whether that will be addressed in the next FAO Council Session.

CHAIRPERSON

As I said already in my introductory remarks, your latter issue will be the Agenda item on the next Council Session. On the Food Coalition, it will be an issue on the Agenda for the next Session of the Council, to see where we are with the Food Coalition, the latest developments. Documents will be prepared by the Secretariat on this issue.

Item 9. Any Other Matters

Point 9. Autres questions

Tema 9. Asuntos varios

CHAIRPERSON

I would like to go to Item 9, *Any Other Matters*. Does any Member wish to raise an issue for Any Other Matters? I do not see any requests for the floor. That means that Item 9 is concluded.

Now, as I noted at the beginning of the Session, we will now break for 30 minutes to give you the time to see and read the Draft Report, which we will now circulate to you, in about five to ten minutes, because we have to take the last remarks in it as well.

We have a novelty because the Draft Report will be circulated in all six UN languages, as we have shown during Council meetings and during the Conference that multilingualism is a crucial and principle issue for FAO.

We will circulate it in all six UN languages, but when we discuss the Report we put only the English version on the screen.

We break now for 30 minutes and I hope to see you back at this Session of the Council at 11:30 hours. Thank you so much, meeting adjourned.

The meeting was suspended between 11:02 and 12:04

La séance est suspendue de 11 h 02 à 12 h 04

Se suspende la sesión de las 11.02 a las 12.04

SECRETARY-GENERAL

With an update on the Report, I am pleased to inform you that the Report of the Council has now been circulated to Members in Arabic, Chinese, English and French, and the other languages will follow suit. So, we expect to reconvene for Adoption in 15 minutes' time. Thank you.

The meeting was suspended between 12:05 and 12:20

La séance est suspendue de 12 h 05 à 12 h 20

Se suspende la sesión de las 12.05 a las 12.20

ADOPTION OF REPORT

ADOPTION DU RAPPORT

APROBACION DEL INFORME

CHAIRPERSON

I do apologize if we were a little bit behind schedule, because of course we have to adjust also now to the new working method that we circulate the conclusions in all the six languages. That took a little bit more time, but everything has been circulated now in all the six languages.

Let us go through the Adoption of the Report in I hope a very efficient and effective way. We put now in English, as I said before, the document on the screen, and I would like to go through the Report, paragraph by paragraph. Of course, I will see if you have a request for the floor for any changes.

With your indulgence, let us start with paragraph 1. Can we agree to paragraph 1? I do not see any requests for the floor.

We go to paragraph 2. Can we agree to paragraph 2? I do not see any requests for the floor.

We go to paragraph 3. I do not see any requests for the floor.

We go to paragraph 4. I do not see any requests for the floor.

We go to paragraph 5. I do not see any requests for the floor.

We go to paragraph 6. I do not see any requests for the floor.

We go to paragraph 7. I do not see any requests for the floor.

We go to paragraph 8. I do not see any requests for the floor.

We go to paragraph 9. I do not see any requests for the floor.

We go to paragraph 10. I do not see any requests for the floor.

We go to paragraph 11.

Ms Dilyara RAVILOVA-BOROVİK (Russian Federation) (Original language Russian)

We would like to draw attention to paragraph 11, subparagraph (b), where it talks about the continuation of consultations on a Code of Conduct. As now worded in subparagraph (b), this does not reflect what was reflected in the Report of the 42nd Session of the Conference.

In the report of the Conference, in paragraph 71, it talks about the fact that the text would be submitted for consultation to the 43rd Session, not for approval, submitted for consideration, not for approval.

In this connection, we have two proposals. In order to make the text shorter, we could reword subparagraph (b). We could directly refer to paragraph 71 of the Report of the Conference, or we could replace the word “approval” with the word “consideration”. We put this for the consideration of other Members of the Council.

Ms Pernilla IVARSSON (Sweden)

I would kindly ask you to give the floor to Portugal to speak on behalf of European Union and its 27 Member.

Mr José Luís COELHO SILVA (Portugal) (Observer)

Our comment is regarding the subparagraph (c). We are referring to “a possible use of an online voting system”. A quick search on the language we have from the Conference, I am asking for your patience, so that I cannot find it so quickly as we are moving, but considering this, I think that we should stick to what we have as the language that comes from the General Committee of the Conference.

Our proposal is for the moment, and asking also for the support from the Secretariat regarding the exact wording we have from the General Committee, but as a first proposal from our side, in order to move forward, is to replace in the first sentence “the use of online voting system” by “a comprehensive review of an online voting system”. I will read it at dictation speed; “consider a comprehensive review of a possible online voting system.”

Ms Jennifer HARRIGH (United States of America)

We would like to support the proposal made by the European Union regarding paragraph 11, subparagraph (c), with one small adjustment. Perhaps it could say, “consider a comprehensive review for the possible use of an online voting system,” just to keep the language the same as it was in the Conference Report.

CHAIRPERSON

I do not have any other requests for the floor, so let us first take up subparagraph (b). Can we agree to the proposed change in subparagraph (b)? I do not see any objections.

We go to the proposed change of subparagraph (c), can we agree to the proposed changes in subparagraph (c)? I do not see any objections.

We scroll down to see if there are any other requests for paragraph 11. I see none, so we have agreed on paragraph 11.

We scroll down to paragraph 12. Can we agree to paragraph 12? I do not see any requests for the floor, as agreed.

We go to paragraph 13. I do not see any requests for the floor, so agreed.

We are done with the paragraphs. The Appendices will be adjusted to what we have agreed upon. So, with that I think we have adopted our report of the Council meeting of today.

Adopted

Adopté

Aprobado

I really would like to thank you for your work, your trust, your considerations, for electing the Chairpersons and the Members of the Programme Committee, the Finance Committee and the Committee on Constitution and Legal Matters (CCLM), three crucial Committees for the work of FAO.

Thank you for working closely together for an efficient and effective Council.

I am looking forward to work with you in the coming months and the next two years in my new role as Independent Chairperson of the Council, to work closely in a teamwork effort, with you, with the Director-General and the staff of FAO.

I really would like to thank the Secretary-General and his staff and his team for having a very efficient Council today, so that we could conduct our work with the adoption of the Report in all six UN languages.

Thank you so much, a very good day, and I remind everybody about the meeting of this afternoon, which will be looking ahead to the UN Food Systems Summit.

I wish you a very good day. Thank you so much. The Session is closed.

The meeting rose at 12:32 hours

La séance est levée à 12 h 32

Se levanta la sesión a las 12.32