

REPORT

OF THE COUNCIL OF FAO

Hundred and Sixty-eighth Session
29 November – 4 December 2021



Food and Agriculture Organization
of the United Nations

COUNCIL

(as from the end of the 42nd Session of the Conference)

Independent Chairperson of the Council: Mr Hans Hoogeveen

Afghanistan ²	Canada ¹	Indonesia ³	Russian Federation ⁴
Angola ¹	Chile ³	Israel ⁶	Saudi Arabia ²
Argentina ¹	China ³	Italy ⁷	South Africa ²
Australia ²	Congo ³	Japan ³	Spain ^{3, 9}
Bahamas ¹	Costa Rica ¹	Kuwait ³	Sudan ⁵
Bangladesh ³	Egypt ²	Luxembourg ⁴	Sweden ²
Belarus ³	Equatorial Guinea ³	Mexico ¹	Thailand ^{2, 8}
Belgium ¹	Eritrea ²	Nicaragua ³	Tunisia ²
Bosnia and Herzegovina ³	Ethiopia ³	Pakistan ²	United States of America ¹
Brazil ¹	France ⁴	Peru ³	Zimbabwe ¹
Burkina Faso ¹	Guatemala ⁴	Philippines ³	
Burundi ⁵	Guinea ¹	Qatar ¹	
Cameroon ⁴	India ²	Republic of Korea ³	

¹ Term of office: end of the 41st Session of the Conference (June 2019) to 30 June 2022

² Term of office: 1 July 2020 – end of the 43rd Session of the Conference (2023)

³ Term of office: end of the 42nd Session of the Conference (2021) – 30 June 2024

⁴ Term of office: end of the 42nd Session of the Conference (2021) – end of the 43rd Session of the Conference (2023)

⁵ Term of office: end of the 42nd Session of the Conference (2021) – 30 June 2022

⁶ Israel replaced Austria from 1 July 2020 to 30 June 2022

⁷ Italy replaced France 1 July 2020 to 30 June 2022

⁸ Malaysia will replace Thailand from 1 January 2022 to the end of the 43rd Session of the Conference (2023)

⁹ United Kingdom will replace Spain from 1 July 2022 to 30 June 2024

COUNCIL

(as from 1 July 2022)

Independent Chairperson of the Council: Mr Hans Hoogeveen

Afghanistan ¹	Congo ²	Iraq ³	Qatar ³
Angola ³	Costa Rica ³	Israel ³	Republic of Korea ²
Argentina ³	Côte d'Ivoire ³	Japan ²	Russian Federation ⁴
Australia ¹	Egypt ¹	Kenya ³	Saudi Arabia ¹
Bahamas ³	Equatorial Guinea ²	Kuwait ²	Slovenia ³
Bangladesh ²	Eritrea ¹	Luxembourg ⁴	South Africa ¹
Belarus ²	Ethiopia ²	Malaysia ^{1, 5}	Sweden ¹
Bosnia and Herzegovina ²	France ⁴	Mauritania ³	Tunisia ¹
Brazil ³	Germany ³	Mexico ³	United Kingdom ^{2, 6}
Cameroon ⁴	Guatemala ⁴	Nicaragua ²	United States of America ³
Canada ³	Guinea ³	Pakistan ¹	
Chile ²	India ¹	Peru ²	
China ²	Indonesia ²	Philippines ²	

¹ Term of office: 1 July 2020 – end of the 43rd Session of the Conference (2023)

² Term of office: end of the 42nd Session of the Conference (2021) – 30 June 2024

³ Term of office: 1 July 2022 – end of the 44th Session of the Conference (2025)

⁴ Term of office: end of the 42nd Session of the Conference (2021) – end of the 43rd Session of the Conference (2023)

⁵ Malaysia will replace Thailand from 1 January 2022 to the end of the 43rd Session of the Conference (2023)

⁶ United Kingdom will replace Spain from 1 July 2022 to 30 June 2024

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Procedure of the Session

Introductory Items¹

1. The 168th Session of the Council was held from 29 November to 4 December 2021, under the Chairpersonship of Mr Hans Hoogeveen, Independent Chairperson of the Council.
2. The Session was convened in hybrid modality, on an exceptional basis, and without creating a precedent, in light of the global COVID-19 pandemic and associated public health concerns, with some representatives attending in person at FAO headquarters and others participating virtually. This followed consultations by the Director-General with the Independent Chairperson of the Council, and with the Regional Groups of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO).
3. The Council confirmed, pursuant to Rule VIII of the Rules of Procedure of the Council, that it agreed to the suspension of any rules incompatible with the hybrid setting, specifically Rule II.3 of the Rules of Procedure of the Council, which provides that each session of the Council shall be held at the seat of the Organization.

Statement by the Director-General²

4. The Director-General, Dr QU Dongyu, delivered a statement to Council.

Adoption of the Agenda and Timetable³

5. The Council noted the Declaration of Competence and Voting Rights presented by the European Union, and adopted the Agenda and Timetable for the Session.
6. The Council approved the special procedures, without creating a precedent, outlined in document CL 168/INF/5, *Methods of Work for the 168th Session of the Council*.
7. The Agenda is given in *Appendix A* to this Report.

Election of three Vice-Chairpersons, and Designation of the Chairperson and Members of the Drafting Committee⁴

8. The Council elected three Vice-Chairpersons for its Session: Ms Lynda Hayden (Australia); H.E. Md Shameem Ahsan (Bangladesh); and Ms Tamara Villanueva (Chile).
9. The Council elected Mr Maarten de Groot (Canada) as Chairperson of the Drafting Committee with the following membership: Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, France, Guinea, Luxembourg, Peru, Russian Federation, Spain and Sudan.

Programmatic Matters

Adjustments to the Programme of Work and Budget 2022-23⁵

10. The Council welcomed the recommendations of *the Reports of the 132nd Session of the Programme Committee, the 188th Session of the Finance Committee*, and their Joint Meeting with respect to the Adjustments to the Programme of Work and Budget 2022-23.
11. The Council:
 - a) welcomed the document CL 168/3, reflecting the guidance and decisions of the Conference on the Strategic Framework 2022-31, and Medium Term Plan (MTP) 2022-25 and Programme of Work and Budget (PWB) 2022-23;
 - b) expressed satisfaction that the proposed adjustments would be managed within the overall approved budget level of USD 1,005.6 million in accordance with Conference Resolution

¹ CL 168/PV/1; CL 168/PV/2; CL 168/PV/12

² CL 168/PV/1; CL 168/PV/12

³ CL 168/1; CL 168/INF/1; CL 168/INF/3; CL 168/INF/5; CL 168/PV/1; CL 168/PV/12

⁴ CL 168/PV/1; CL 168/PV/12

⁵ CL 168/3; CL 168/3 Annexes 1-10; CL 168/7 para. 9; CL 168/8 para. 6; CL 168/9 paras. 13-14; CL 168/PV/1; CL 168/PV/2; CL 168/PV/3; CL 168/PV/12;

8/2021, and noted that further budgetary transfers within the net budgetary appropriation should be handled in accordance with FAO's Financial Regulations, especially Financial Regulation 4.5;

- c) supported the re-allocation of USD 1.2 million to strengthen science and innovation, including moving forward the Science and Innovation Strategy and supporting science and innovation implementation in the field, with no impact on the overall budget;
- d) took note of the reviewed number of Programme Priority Areas (PPAs) and allocation of budget between the *four betters* to ensure a better balance among the three pillars of sustainable development (economic, social and environmental) and supported the shift of the PPA "Achieving sustainable urban food systems" from *better life to better environment* in recognition of the critical importance of a resilient natural resources base for safeguarding and enhancing sustainable urban and peri-urban agrifood systems transformation;
- e) took note of the updated results framework presented in *Annex I*, and welcomed the improved linkages between the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the *four betters* with specific SDG targets and indicators⁶, and requested (i) to replace references to "green" under BP1 with "sustainable";
- f) recognized that the blue terminology used in FAO's Strategic Framework 2022-31, PWB 2022-23 and its results framework refer to all sustainable and inclusive aquatic systems, including aquaculture systems, and requested these to be reflected in the Adjusted PWB 2022-23 and its results framework (*Annex I*, CL 168/3);
- g) welcomed the improved approach to integrating Country Programming Frameworks in the results framework in line with the repositioning of the UN development system;
- h) supported the proposed approach to results planning, monitoring and reporting, welcoming the inclusion of both quantitative and qualitative baseline data and output indicators under the PPAs, and their contribution to the SDGs;
- i) stressed the importance of partnerships in implementing the Programme of Work;
- j) noted that there are many approaches to sustainable agriculture production, emphasised the need to consider all such approaches and requested Management to reflect these considerations in the results framework;
- k) highlighted the importance of global food supply chains and open, non-discriminatory, predictable and rules-based multilateral trading system under the World Trade Organization (WTO), and taking into account the mandate of FAO in this respect;
- l) noted that there are many approaches to sustainable agriculture production, there is no one-size-fits all approach and prescriptive language, which has no consensus among Members on its direct interlinkages with sustainable agriculture production, should be avoided given the different perspectives expressed on geographical indications (GIs) and climate-smart agriculture, among other concepts, and this should be reflected in the results framework;
- m) stressed the need to duly consider in a neutral, balanced, science- and evidence-based manner, all the available approaches, systems, and tools to leverage FAO's comparative advantages to promote working at scale for greater sustainability and long-term impact in response to Members' needs;
- n) reiterated the importance of using the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and other multilaterally agreed language and concepts, in particular those agreed by the FAO Governing Bodies, noting that the SDGs are integrated and indivisible and balance the three dimensions of sustainable development, and recommended that any documents related to this PWB use this language accordingly;

⁶ With regard to the "blue economy", consider using alternatively blue food systems and aquatic food systems.

- o) in relation to paragraph 11 of CL 168/3, noted the importance of eradicating poverty, not only extreme poverty⁷, to reflect the different strata of the population in Least Developed Countries (LDCs), Small Island Developing States (SIDS) and in other developing countries;
- p) looked forward, following the planning process, to regular reporting to the Governing Bodies including through the 2022 Mid-Term Review Report and the 2022-23 Programme Implementation Report, and other innovative products highlighting the success stories, achievements, and lessons learned of FAO's programmes implemented at the country level;
- q) reviewed the revised budgeted post establishment (*Table 3*, CL 168/3 and *Annex 8*, CL 168/3) and the updated estimates for extrabudgetary resources (*Table 4*, CL 168/3); and
- r) recalling that the 42nd Session of the Conference highlighted the importance of flexible, lightly earmarked and unearmarked voluntary contributions, looked forward to further elaboration of possible mechanisms and approaches to attract more flexible voluntary funding, in order to support balanced budget resources for effective implementation of the Programme of Work and Budget 2022-23 under the Strategic Framework 2022-31, and reiterated the need for continued trust building between FAO and providers of voluntary funds.

12. The Council approved the revised distribution of the net appropriation by budgetary chapter as reflected in *Table 2*, CL 168/3.

FAO's Response to COVID-19: Building to Transform⁸

13. The Council welcomed document CL 168/4, *FAO's Response to COVID-19: Building to Transform*, and:

- a) noted the new phase of the COVID-19 pandemic and its contribution to the largest single-year increase in global hunger;
- b) welcomed the results achieved by FAO through its comprehensive Response and Recovery Programme and its seven priority areas of work, and emphasised the importance of FAO's work in the production and dissemination of information, including through monitoring systems and data information platforms, to assess the impact of the pandemic on food security and nutrition;
- c) stressed the need to use innovative technologies and digitalisation towards building more resilient and sustainable food systems;
- d) encouraged continued collaboration with the Tripartite and UNEP and other relevant international organizations, in line with their respective mandates, to ensure the One Health approach is included in the work of the Organization with a special focus on preventing zoonotic diseases;
- e) supported FAO to examine the behaviour of food prices from a systemic perspective and the necessity to take into account changes in macroeconomic development, including exchange rates, interest rates and their drivers; and
- f) noted with concern the inequality of vaccine access globally and its negative impacts on food security and nutrition.

⁷ Monetary poverty measure: basket of goods and services used to define a threshold for poverty. The monetary value of the basket is the poverty line and the population of people and households whose incomes are below this line, is then derived through a head count. Extreme poverty: those living on less than \$1.90 PPP a day.

⁸ CL 168/4; CL 168/7 para. 11; CL 168 PV/8; CL 168/PV/12

Food Coalition⁹

14. The Council welcomed document CL 168/4.1, *The Food Coalition*, and in particular:
- a) welcomed close collaboration with the G20 Italian Presidency and efforts towards placing food security as an integral part in the G20 Rome Leaders' Declaration and G20 Ministerial Meetings, including the recognition of the Food Coalition in the Matera and Rome Leaders' Declarations; and
 - b) looked forward to continued reporting on the Food Coalition, including information on its implementation, funding and progress, emphasising the need for alignment with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the SDGs and FAO's Strategic Framework 2022-31.

The Hand-in-Hand Initiative¹⁰

15. The Council welcomed document CL 168/5, *The Hand-in-Hand Initiative*, and:
- a) commended the increase in the number of countries participating in the Initiative to 45, and noted the different ways participating countries are using the Initiative to enhance science- and evidence-based decision-making, to make investment planning a more transparent and inclusive process through broad stakeholder consultation, and to scale up, strengthen and accelerate existing programmes or develop ambitious new ones;
 - b) highlighted the country-owned and country-led nature of the programmes supported by the Initiative, and welcomed steps taken to deepen national ownership of the Initiative, including through national or joint management of all activities undertaken in support of the nationally-led programmes;
 - c) stressed the need to ensure the Initiative is aligned with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) and joint programming within the UN development system;
 - d) noted the extraordinary challenges faced by the Hand-in-Hand (HIH) Initiative-supported countries in light of the COVID-19 pandemic and appreciated the flexibility and agility of the HIH Initiative-supported programmes to sustain work-in-progress under extreme crisis conditions;
 - e) recognized that all FAO Members may participate in the HIH Initiative as they choose, not only as direct or indirect beneficiaries, but also as development and resource partners through multiple channels, including direct assistance, South-South and Triangular Cooperation, in-kind technical support, support to public-private exchanges, and support to mechanisms which afford the flexibility to respond quickly to emerging needs and to develop new tools and training jointly with some of the Least Developed Countries;
 - f) took note of the initial progress made towards the realisation of a programme monitoring dashboard for enabling Members and partners to track progress against objectives, share information, communicate and coordinate actions in response to events and opportunities and ultimately measure and track impact against prioritised SDG indicators, and looked forward to receiving further information on its functions and use;
 - g) welcomed the designation of the HIH Initiative as one of the twenty PPAs under the Strategic Framework 2022-31, placing the Initiative under the same oversight and reporting requirements as other PPAs, to offer Members more effective and efficient support to enable more dynamic, scaled-up programming at country level in collaboration with other relevant partners in the country;
 - h) highlighted the country-owned and country-led nature, as well as the science- and evidence-based decision making, of the Initiative;

⁹ CL 168/4.1; CL 168/PV/8; CL 168/PV/12

¹⁰ CL 168/5; CL 168/8 para. 7; CL 168/PV/8; CL 168/PV/12

- i) requested regular updates on the Initiative and the Geospatial Platform, including on the use of budgetary and extrabudgetary resources, results, lessons learned and good practices at country level, and the engagement of public, private and civil society stakeholders in all those countries where the Initiative is being implemented; and
- j) emphasised the need for transparency on the financing of the HIH Initiative and noted the assurance from Management that it would have no further impact on the agreed Programme of Work and Budget.

Outcomes of the United Nations Food Systems Summit¹¹

16. The Council:

- a) welcomed the UN Secretary-General's Chair Summary and Statement of Action on the UN Food Systems Summit and noted that the Summit did not have a negotiated outcome;
- b) welcomed the momentum created by the Summit for accelerating efforts to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030 and commitment of Members and all stakeholders to transform, as appropriate, food systems to ensure economic, social and environmental sustainability and highlighted the importance of the UN-wide system approach;
- c) stressed that the coordination of the follow-up to the Summit should closely involve the High-level Political Forum (HLPF);
- d) welcomed the leading role of the Rome-based Agencies (RBAs), and encouraged close cooperation with all relevant UN Agencies, funds and programmes, as well as all relevant international organizations in the follow-up of the Summit;
- e) highlighted the pivotal role of Members in the follow-up of the 2021 UN Food Systems Summit, including through the Governing Bodies;
- f) recognised the role played by the informal Group of Friends of the 2021 UN Food Systems Summit in contributing to the Summit and providing adequate information and inputs to the Members;
- g) noted the importance of the follow-up actions in accelerating progress toward achieving the SDGs, to support Members, including via the development and implementation of national pathways and coalitions of action, as appropriate, *inter alia* through provision of technical assistance at country level, and science- and evidence-based support to policy making;
- h) welcomed FAO's hosting of the Coordination Hub, staffed by the RBAs and other Agencies, and highlighted the need for a lean structure by directly leveraging existing teams and capacities in the UN System as well as potentially leveraging key partnerships in the wider ecosystem of support;
- i) highlighted the need for mobilizing relevant UN system organizations and all relevant key partners to support the transformation, as appropriate, of Members' food systems to achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;
- j) appreciated the close cooperation of the Executive Office of the Secretary-General and the Secretary-General's Special Envoy for the UN Food Systems Summit with FAO, WFP, IFAD and others, for a smooth transition from the Summit Secretariat to the Coordination Hub;
- k) stressed the need for the Coordination Hub to leverage existing UN system capacities, in close coordination with Resident Coordinators and UN Country Teams, avoiding redundancies, and noted that the Coordination Hub is expected to be in place at the beginning of 2022, and will provide stock-taking reports as necessary in due time;

¹¹ CL 168/6; CL 168/PV/6; CL 168/PV/7; CL 168/PV/8; CL 168/PV/9; CL 168/PV/12

- l) noted the UN Food Systems Summit implementation and follow-up is still under discussion, recognized it as an opportunity to strategically enhance cooperation among all RBAs and relevant UN funds, agencies and programmes, and highlighted that the Coordination Hub should not create new structures and should not replicate existing UN functions and capacities; and
- m) requested further information on the Coordination Hub and the other components of the follow-up system, suggested by the UN Secretary-General, in a timely manner.

Reports of the Committees of the Council

Report of the Joint Meeting of the 132nd Session of the Programme Committee and 188th Session of the Finance Committee (Rome, 8, 9 and 12 November 2021)¹²

17. The Council welcomed the *Report of the Joint Meeting of the 132nd Session of the Programme Committee and 188th Session of the Finance Committee*, and in particular:
- a) commended the progress accomplished in the process to refine the approach for Technical Cooperation Programme (TCP) allocation among regions, including the importance of context specific approaches, according to the results generated by the methodology being developed and based on the principle of universality and the criteria approved by the 166th Session of the Council¹³, giving special attention to Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and Small Island Development States (SIDS), and looked forward to the continuation of the refinement approach in an inclusive and transparent manner in 2022; and
 - b) appreciated FAO's efforts in the prevention of and protection against harassment, sexual harassment and sexual exploitation and abuse, highlighting the importance of the victim-centred approach, encouraged FAO to further improve the effectiveness, independence and fairness of sexual harassment investigations, and encouraged FAO to continue strengthening its policies in this regard, which should be gender sensitive given that women are the most vulnerable staff asset according to FAO relevant statistics.
18. With these considerations, the Council welcomed the Report of the Joint Meeting.

Reports of the 131st (Special) (Rome, 29 July 2021) and 132nd (Rome, 8-12 November 2021) Sessions of the Programme Committee¹⁴

19. The Council welcomed the *Report of the 131st (Special) (29 July 2021) Session of the Programme Committee*, and in particular:
- a) noting that the mandate of the incumbent Director of the Office of Evaluation ends on 31 January 2022, agreed with the high-level panel and roadmap for the process of recruitment of the new Director of Evaluation, contained in *Appendix 2* of document PC 131/2¹⁵, conforming with the Charter of the Office of Evaluation.
20. The Council welcomed the *Report of the 132nd (8-12 November 2021) Session of the Programme Committee*, and in particular:
- a) welcomed the implementation of FAO's Strategy on Private Sector Engagement, and endorsed the updated Due Diligence Framework for Risk Assessment and Management of Engagements (FRAME), and the Terms of Reference of the informal Private Sector Advisory Group (PSAG);

¹² CL 168/7; CL 168/INF/6; CL 168/PV/2; CL 168/PV/4; CL 168/PV/8; CL 168/PV/10; CL 168/PV/12

¹³ “[...] *the criteria of resource allocation, beyond the traditional one per capita income, and taking into account the specific needs of each region, such as rural poverty and inequality, vulnerability to climate change and biodiversity degradation*” (CL 166/REP, para 23 c)

¹⁴ CL 168/8; CL 168/19; CL 168/PV/4; CL 168/PV/10 ; CL 168/PV/12

¹⁵ <https://www.fao.org/3/ng486en/ng486en.pdf>

- b) stressed the need for improved governance of FAO's statistical and other data activities, and their alignment with the cross-cutting FAO Policies on Protection of Data and Intellectual Property Rights being developed further to the guidance of the 166th Session of the Council, and the 42nd Session of the Conference, and looked forward to their consideration by the Council at its next session through the Programme Committee (PC) and the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters (CCLM), in line with their respective mandates;
- c) approved the indicative rolling work plan of evaluations 2022-2025; and
- d) welcomed the ongoing process of development of the Rural Youth and Gender Action plans, with the full engagement of Members, and their alignment with the Strategic Framework 2022-31 and the Medium Term Plan 2022-25.

21. With these observations, the Council welcomed the *Reports of the 131st and 132nd Sessions of the Programme Committee*.

Update on the development of the new FAO Strategy on Climate Change¹⁶

22. The Council noted document CL 168/21, *Update on the development of the new FAO Strategy on Climate Change* and the associated, inclusive and consultative process.

23. The Council:

- a) welcomed FAO's development of the new Strategy *inter alia* within the context of the evaluation of the existing Strategy, alignment with the Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development and the Paris Agreement on Climate Change, and recognized the multilateral understanding agreed by members at the Glasgow UNFCCC COP 26 to boost efforts in enhancing ambition and action in relation to mitigation, adaptation, and finance in order to overcome the challenges of climate change;
- b) stressed the need to align the new Strategy with FAO's Strategic Framework 2022-31, its PPAs, and other related FAO Strategies and initiatives, for the Organization's contribution to the achievement of SDG 13 and for more efficient, inclusive, resilient and sustainable agrifood systems;
- c) underlined the importance of avoiding a one-size-fits-all approach and taking into account the goal of sustainable and inclusive economic growth, social development, environmental protection and the eradication of poverty and hunger, but rather adopt a fit-for-purpose principle considering national circumstances, the diverse contexts, specificities, priorities, synergies and capacities across regions, countries and the local level in developing the new Strategy;
- d) stressed the importance of supporting developing countries in formulating and implementing Nationally Determined Contributions and relevant national plans, as appropriate, including via capacity building, technology transfer upon mutually agreed terms and financial resources *inter alia* to strengthen resilience building and adaptation, as well as mitigation to climate change;
- e) highlighted that FAO's new Strategy on Climate Change should align with the SDGs based on the three dimensions of sustainable development and shared goals and cooperation towards the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, and the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, including their principles, as relevant¹⁷, the Paris Agreement on Climate Change, including Article 2.1 and 2.2 and the relevant paragraphs of the Glasgow Climate Pact and notes in this regard 1/CP.26 paragraphs 5 and 6 and 1/CMA.3 paragraphs 6 and 7 of the Glasgow Climate Pact

¹⁶ CL 168/21; CL 168/PV/3; CL 168/PV/4; CL 168/PV/5; CL 168/PV/8; CL 168/PV/9; CL 168/PV/10; CL 168/PV/11; CL 168/PV/12

¹⁷ In particular, those principles related to the paragraph on Adaptation.

decisions, and 1/CP.26 paragraphs 17 and 18 and 1/CMA.3 paragraphs 22 and 23 from the Glasgow Climate Pact CMA decisions;

- f) highlighted the positive role of sustainable agriculture and agrifood systems as part of the solutions for addressing the challenges of climate change;
- g) underlined the need for a coordinated approach with all stakeholders, including the private sector, women, youth and indigenous peoples and local communities;
- h) highlighted that the focus of the Strategy should be within FAO's mandate, to avoid duplication with other international organizations in terms of the relevance of agrifood systems, while addressing and responding to climate challenges, in line with FAO's mandate;
- i) requested the use of multilaterally agreed language in the Strategy;
- j) highlighted multilateral efforts on environmental protection and commitments to sustainable agriculture;
- k) welcomed the attention in the Strategy to sustainable forest management, nutritional needs, oceans, rivers and inland waters, biodiversity, food loss and waste, soil erosion and ecosystem-based approaches;
- l) exhorted the promotion within the new Strategy of the best available science- and evidence-based decision-making for promoting solutions, innovations and good practices, including those which may be scaled up and have a lasting impact to achieve Zero Hunger and comprehensively address climate and sustainability goals;
- m) stressed the value of ensuring that the Strategy is socially inclusive and that gender considerations related to climate change are integrated;
- n) requested that the Strategy address disaster risk reduction, early warning systems, strengthen resilience, adaptation and mitigation and reduce vulnerability to climate change in line with the best available science, taking into account the priorities and needs of developing countries;
- o) highlighted the importance of identifying financing mechanisms and innovative partnerships, including with the private sector and institutional partners, to tackle climate change in the context of agrifood systems to support developing countries, including Small Island Developing States; and
- p) encouraged Management's ambition to finalise the first draft of the Strategy and to clearly define the implementation process, deliverables and performance indicators, through its Action Plan.

24. Accordingly, the Council supported the outline and roadmap of the new FAO Strategy on Climate Change, and looked forward to continuing the inclusive process with Members on the development of this thematic strategy.

The outline and roadmap of the “FAO Science and Innovation Strategy”¹⁸

25. The Council reviewed document CL 168/22, *The outline and roadmap of the “FAO Science and Innovation Strategy”*, and:

- a) welcomed the initiative to develop FAO's first ever Science and Innovation Strategy with the overall aim of strengthening FAO's capacities to deliver the Sustainable Development Goals and the Strategic Framework 2022-31, including all four accelerators, through science and innovation;

¹⁸ CL 168/22; CL 168/PV/3; CL 168/PV/4; CL 168/PV/5; CL 168/PV/6; CL 168/PV/9; CL 168/PV/10; CL 168/PV/12

- b) appreciated the guiding principles and the proposed outline of the FAO Science and Innovation Strategy, and commended the broad scope of the Strategy as responding to the complexity of agrifood systems, covering all relevant scientific disciplines and types of innovations, including those stemming from indigenous and local knowledge, as well as community-based innovation and provide effective protection;
- c) encouraged FAO to continue to undertake an inclusive and transparent consultative process with Members for its elaboration;
- d) highlighted the need of addressing accountability, affordability and access, while also recognising the benefits of science, technology and innovation, especially for micro-, small- and medium-scale producers, including family farmers and indigenous peoples;
- e) highlighted that science and innovation should be adaptable to local, national and regional development contexts, addressing national priorities and capacities, as appropriate;
- f) underlined the need for due attention to the needs of indigenous peoples, local communities, people in vulnerable situations, people with disabilities, youth and women, and supporting the strengthening of national and local institutions upon request of Members;
- g) stressed the need for the dissemination and scaling up of good practices in sharing of science, knowledge, technology and innovation, in line with Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development, including para 41 and SDG target 17.7;¹⁹
- h) stressed the importance that the FAO Science and Innovation Strategy should include innovative communication and dissemination of available innovations, technologies and good practices;
- i) stressed the relevance of using multilaterally agreed language and concepts, as appropriate, while noting that the Strategy deals with innovation and science, which have a very rapid terminology development and the need to accommodate scientific advances;
- j) stressed the importance of assessing potential benefits and risks from using new technologies and innovations on the three pillars of sustainable development;
- k) recognized the need for the Strategy to consider a set of principles that include voluntary participation, informed consent, anonymity, confidentiality, potentials for harm, and on how, building upon experience of other relevant UN organizations, FAO may take these set of principles or “ethical” considerations into account, within its mandate;
- l) noted the importance of increasing investments and strengthening financial resource mobilisation, including via public-private partnerships;
- m) looked forward to strengthening cooperation within the UN System;
- n) supported the strengthening of national agricultural research institutions;
- o) stressed the need for Management to ensure clear links with the development of FAO policies on Protection of Data and Intellectual Property Rights; and
- p) highlighted the need to consider all forms of innovation, including social, organizational and financial innovation.

26. With these considerations, the Council supported the outline of the FAO Science and Innovation Strategy and requested FAO to implement the proposed roadmap.

¹⁹ The United States of America issued an Explanation of Position, which may be found in the Verbatim Records of this Session at CL 168/PV12

Reports of the 186th (7-9 June 2021), 187th (Rome, 28-29 October 2021) and 188th (Rome, 8-12 November 2021) Sessions of the Finance Committee²⁰

27. The Council considered the *Reports of the 186th, 187th and 188th Sessions of the Finance Committee*, and in particular:

- a) urged all Member Nations to make payment of assessed contributions on time and in full;
- b) expressed concern regarding the impact of the non-payment of arrears on the Organization's activities, Programme of Work and financial situation and recognized the timeliness of its consideration of this issue in view of the global COVID-19 pandemic and its potentially devastating effects on Members, recalled the request of the 42nd Session of the Conference for the conduct of a comprehensive review of the process for reinstating voting rights for Member Nations in arrears for consideration by the relevant Governing Bodies, asked Management to study options, including through leveraging local currencies and repayment plans to address this issue, and looked forward to its consideration by the Finance Committee at its next Session concerning FAO matters, in line with its mandate;
- c) recommended the Draft Resolution for adoption by the Conference of the FAO Audited Accounts 2020 as presented in *Appendix C* to this Report;
- d) stressed the importance of a coordinated and unified approach of the UN System organizations in overcoming common challenges by ensuring coherence in administrative and financial areas of their activities and invited in this regard the FAO Management to provide regular updates on the relevant decisions on the UN General Assembly (UNGA) as well as on the ongoing deliberations of the CEB concerning the development of common approaches to address managerial, financial and programmatic challenges insofar as possible;
- e) noted the concern expressed by the Finance Committee on the impact of unfunded employee benefit obligations on the financial position of the Organization and supported the guidance to Management to continue to review options to address the funding gap in the context of the considerations of this matter by the UNGA;
- f) noting the intrinsic linkage between internal control and risk management, urged Management to keep the integrity, architecture and mechanisms of internal control under continual and due attention and review;
- g) encouraged the filling of vacant positions across the Organization, especially in Decentralized Offices *inter alia* for the effectiveness of delivery at that level, ensuring equitable geographic representation; and
- h) noted the recommendations of the 188th Session of the Finance Committee on *the JIU Report, Review of Whistleblower Policies and Practices in United Nations System Organizations (JIU/REP/2018/4)* and *JIU Report, Review of the State of the Investigation Function: Progress made in the United Nations System Organizations in Strengthening the Investigation Function (JIU/REP/2020/1)*.

28. With these observations, the Council welcomed the *Reports of the 186th, 187th and 188th Sessions of the Finance Committee*.

Reports of the 113th (Rome, 25-27 October 2021) and 114th (26 November 2021) Sessions of the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters²¹

29. The Council considered the *Reports of the 113th and 114th Sessions of the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters (CCLM)*, and noted that it considered the substance of the Report of the 114th Session under Item 15 of its Agenda - *Selection and Appointment of Secretaries of Article XIV Bodies*.

²⁰ CL 168/9; CL 168/16; CL 168/20; CL 168/LIM/2; C 2023/5A; C 2023/5B; CL 168/PV/4; CL 168/PV/6; CL 168/PV/10; CL 168/PV/12

²¹ CL 168/10; CL 168/24; CL 168/PV/6; CL 168/PV/7; CL 168/PV/9; CL 168/PV/12

30. The Council:

- a) took note of the CCLM recommendation against the elaboration of a formal standardization procedure for FAO policies, voluntary guidelines, strategies, and action plans, noting the complexity of a standardization exercise, given the broad range and volume of products that the Organization develops, and invited the Secretariat to prepare a concept note for Members' analysis in relation to the types of FAO products and the means for their development, and looked forward to further discussion at the next Sessions of the Programme Committee and the CCLM, within their respective mandates;
- b) expressed concern regarding the impact of the non-payment of arrears on the Organization's activities, Programme of Work and financial situation and recognized the timeliness of its consideration of this issue in view of the global COVID-19 pandemic and its potentially devastating effects on Members;
- c) recalled the request by the 42nd Session of the Conference for the conduct of a comprehensive review on the process for reinstating voting rights for Member Nations in arrears for consideration by the relevant Governing Bodies, including the CCLM, supported by a process of informal consultation led by the Independent Chairperson of the Council (ICC) with the Chairpersons and Vice-Chairpersons of the Regional Groups, noted that the practice developed by the Organization over past years on the restoration of voting rights is consistent with the approach of most other UN System organizations, encouraged the ICC to hold transparent and inclusive informal consultations open to all Members on the subject-matter, taking into account the existing rules and procedures, the CCLM's findings and recommendations and relevant United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) resolutions, as appropriate, and invited the ICC to report the progress to the Council at its next Session;
- d) recognizing the fundamental role of data in FAO's work on global public goods, supported the findings and conclusions of the CCLM with respect to the guiding principles on data protection and intellectual property which would shape the development of the FAO framework on the protection of data and intellectual property rights and, observing the interest and engagement by FAO Members in this issue, highlighted the importance of developing the policies in consultation with Members and recommended FAO Management to arrange further inclusive consultations with the Membership with a view to clarify and finalise the framework paper, including through the FAO Governing Bodies, as relevant;
- e) stressed the need for alignment of all FAO work and activities involving data or statistics with the FAO framework on the protection of data and intellectual property rights that is being developed and requested the CCLM be regularly updated in this regard;
- f) welcomed the importance given by the Development Law Branch (LEGN) to sound legal frameworks and their effective implementation for the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the *four betters*, and encouraged LEGN's work on legislative interventions for improved nutrition and sustainability;
- g) endorsed the proposed amendments to the Staff Regulations 301.11.1 to 301.11.3, as set out in paragraph 12 of CCLM document 113/7; and
- h) welcomed FAO's engagement in UN System discussions on the review of the jurisdictional set-up of the United Nations common system and looked forward to being updated on further developments in this regard.

31. With these considerations, the Council welcomed the *Reports of the 113th and 114th Session of the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters*.

Committee on World Food Security

Reports of the 48th (Special) (4 June 2021) and 49th (11-14 October 2021) Sessions of the Committee on World Food Security²²

32. The Council welcomed the conclusions, findings and recommendations contained in the *Reports of the 48th and 49th Sessions of the Committee on World Food Security (CFS)*, and in particular:
- a) welcomed the policy recommendations on “*Agroecological and other innovative approaches for sustainable agriculture and food systems that enhance food security and nutrition*” and requested FAO to support their dissemination;
 - b) acknowledged activities by different stakeholders to promote the uptake at regional, country and local levels of the CFS “*Voluntary Guidelines on Food Systems and Nutrition*” and reiterated their importance to enhance policy coherence and address policy fragmentation across sectors that have an impact on food systems and nutrition;
 - c) recognized that the ongoing work of the CFS Open-Ended Working Group (OEWG) that is responsible for the development of the Voluntary Guidelines on “*Gender Equality and Women’s and Girls’ Empowerment in the Context of Food Security and Nutrition*” is part of the MYPoW workstreams of the CFS and appreciated the transparency and inclusiveness of the process, including regional consultations, as a way to strengthen ownership of the final version of the Guidelines to be presented for endorsement by the Committee in October 2022;
 - d) welcomed the CFS policy process to develop policy recommendations on “*Promoting Youth Engagement and Employment in Agriculture and Food Systems*” that will be presented for endorsement in October 2022;
 - e) stressed the importance that all documents produced by the CFS use, as appropriate, multilaterally agreed concepts and language; and
 - f) noted requests for continued deliberation on, and due attention to, the impacts of COVID-19 on food systems, agriculture and nutrition at all stages of the implementation of the approved MYPoW’s workstreams.

Governance Matters

Progress Report on Rome-based Agencies Collaboration²³

33. The Council:
- a) welcomed the Progress Report and noted its concrete achievements, including in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, in-depth examples and strategic direction of Rome-based Agencies (RBAs) (FAO, IFAD and WFP) collaboration;
 - b) noted the strengthened RBA collaboration at country, regional and headquarters (HQ) levels, resulting in tangible impact at country level and concrete contributions to the UN development system (UNDS) repositioning in line with the recommendations from the Joint Evaluation on the collaboration among the UN RBAs and looked forward to discussion of this Evaluation, including its recommendations, at the forthcoming Sessions of the Programme Committee and Council;
 - c) reiterated its request for a joint RBA assessment regarding the feasibility of integrating administrative functions and greater collaboration in some oversight areas, to be presented to the next Session of the Council;
 - d) requested an update on RBA collaboration in the administrative and financial areas at headquarters; and

²² C 2023/19; C 2023/20; CL 168/PV/7; CL 168/PV/10; CL 168/PV/12

²³ CL 168/11; CL 168/7 para. 12; CL 168/PV/8; CL 168/PV/10; CL 168/PV/12

- e) encouraged further strategic collaboration among the RBAs, based on their comparative advantages and building on their complementarities.

Code of Conduct for Voting²⁴

34. The Council commended the Independent Chairperson of the Council (ICC) on his efforts in leading an open, inclusive and transparent consultation process towards the development of a voluntary draft Code of Conduct for Voting, and requested the ICC to continue such consultations.

Status of Implementation of Decisions taken at the 166th Session of the Council (26 April – 1 May 2021)²⁵

35. The Council took note of the status of implementation of decisions taken at its 166th Session (26 April-1 May 2021).

Selection and Appointment of Secretaries of Article XIV Bodies²⁶

36. The Council commended the Independent Chairpersons of the Council (ICC) for the consultations undertaken with the Members and with the Chairpersons of the Bodies established under Article XIV of the Constitution towards long-term procedures for the selection and appointment of Secretaries, and taking into account the recommendations of the CCLM at its 114th Session, endorsed the procedure contained in *Appendix D* to this Report.

37. The Council recommended to consider extending this procedure to all Article XIV Bodies in a manner consistent with the Basic Texts and the Treaties concerned.

Report of the 18th Regular Session of the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (CGRFA) (27 September – 1 October 2021)²⁷

38. The Council endorsed the recommendations of the *Report of the 18th Regular Session of the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture*, including the Framework for Action on Biodiversity for Food and Agriculture, and in particular:

- a) adopted the Global Plan of Action for the Conservation, Sustainable Use and Development of Aquatic Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture; and
- b) adopted Council Resolution 1/168, *The conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity for food and agriculture and the post-2020 global Biodiversity framework*, set out in *Appendix E*.

Other Matters

Election of Six Members of the WFP Executive Board²⁸

39. The Council, pursuant to FAO Conference Resolution 7/2011 of 2 July 2011, elected six members of the WFP Executive Board, for a period of three years (from 1 January 2022 to 31 December 2024) in accordance with the following distribution:

- a) List A: Senegal

²⁴ CL 168/10 paras. 20-21; CL 168/PV/8; CL 168/PV/12

²⁵ CL 168/LIM/3; CL 168/PV/8; CL 168/PV/12

²⁶ CL 168/17; CL 168/10 paras. 22-24; CL 168/24; CL 168/PV/8; CL 168/PV/12

²⁷ CL 168/23; CL 168/PV/8; CL 168/PV/12

²⁸ CL 168/15.1; CL 168/LIM/4; CL 168/PV/8; CL 168/PV/12

- b) List B: Bangladesh²⁹ and Iran³⁰
- c) List C: Peru
- d) List D: Netherlands and the United States of America

Annual Report of the WFP Executive Board on its Activities in 2020³¹

40. The Council:

- a) acknowledged WFP's programme performance results in meeting its Strategic Objectives, supported by Management Results Dimensions;
- b) recognized the ongoing commitment of WFP staff in the field that worked in challenging circumstances to respond to complex humanitarian crises throughout 2020, triggering significant reversals in poverty reduction and food security and nutrition;
- c) welcomed WFP commitment to annual targets for key programme output indicators to show where resources are directed and demonstrate the breadth of WFP's work; and
- d) welcomed WFP continued efforts to strengthen its work on partnerships at all levels and its contributions to efforts to achieve Zero Hunger and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Progress Report on Multilingualism at FAO³²

41. The Council noted the progress made in strengthening multilingualism at FAO, and in particular:

- a) welcomed the development of the strategic policy framework for multilingualism and the appointment of a Corporate Coordinator for Multilingualism;
- b) stressed the importance and value of multilingualism for FAO and stressed the need to follow the best UN standards in this area, including the timely delivery of all Governing Body documents in all FAO languages;
- c) noted the surge in translation and interpretation goods and services especially in the context of remote operations as a measure to address the challenges of COVID-19;
- d) encouraged the development of digital innovations and language technologies;
- e) acknowledged the Organization's commitment to ensuring the linguistic diversity and capacity of its workforce and underlined the importance of financial and human resources policies to support these aims within the approved budgetary appropriations; and
- f) looked forward to reviewing the strategic policy framework for multilingualism at its 170th Session.

Developments in Fora of Importance for the Mandate of FAO³³

42. The Council received Briefing Notes on the following topics for information only:

- a) COP 15 (CBD) and COP 26 (UNFCCC) briefs on agriculture and food;
- b) Science and innovation for agrifood systems transformations;

²⁹ Bangladesh and Iran reached an agreement to share an FAO Council elected seat, with Bangladesh serving from 1 January 2022 until 31 December 2023 and Iran occupying the seat from 1 January 2024 until 31 December 2024.

³⁰ Iran and Kuwait reached an agreement to share an FAO Council elected seat, with Iran serving from 1 January 2022 to 31 December 2022 and Kuwait occupying the seat from 1 January 2023 to 31 December 2024.

³¹ CL 168/15.2; CL 168/PV/8; CL 168/PV/12

³² CL 168/18; CL 168/PV/8; CL 168/PV/12

³³ CL 168/INF/4; CL 168/INF/4 WA 1-4; CL 168/PV/8; CL 168/PV/12

- c) Emergency and resilience for food crisis action in Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) Phases 3 or above countries (CL 168/INF/4 WA3); and
- d) Pathways for transforming agrifood systems for food security, improved nutrition and affordable healthy diets for all.

Calendar of FAO Governing Bodies and other Main Sessions 2021-23³⁴

43. The Council approved the Calendar of FAO Governing Bodies for 2021-23, as reproduced in *Appendix F* to this Report, and taking into account the comments made by Members.

Tentative Agenda for the 169th Session of the Council³⁵

44. The Council endorsed the Tentative Agenda of its 169th Session as contained in CL 168/INF/2, and noted comments from Members in this regard.

Statement by a Representative of the FAO Staff Bodies³⁶

45. Mr Jakob Skoet, President of the AP-in-FAO, made a statement on behalf of the FAO Staff Representative Bodies.

³⁴ CL 168/LIM/1; CL 168/PV/8; CL 168/PV/12

³⁵ CL 168/INF/2; CL 168/PV/8; CL 168/PV/12

³⁶ CL 168/PV/10; CL 168/PV/12

Appendix A

Agenda for the 168th Session of the Council

Procedure of the Session

1. Adoption of the Agenda and Timetable
2. Election of three Vice-Chairpersons, and Designation of the Chairperson and Members of the Drafting Committee

Programmatic Matters

3. Adjustments to the Programme of Work and Budget 2022-23
4. FAO's Response to COVID-19: Building to Transform
 - 4.1 Food Coalition
5. The Hand-in-Hand Initiative
6. Outcomes of the United Nations Food Systems Summit

Reports of the Committees of the Council

7. Report of the Joint Meeting of the 132nd Session of the Programme Committee and 188th Session of the Finance Committee (Rome, 8, 9 and 12 November 2021)
8. Reports of the 131st (Special) (Rome, 29 July 2021) and 132nd (Rome, 8-12 November 2021) Sessions of the Programme Committee
 - 8.1 Update on the development of the new FAO Strategy on Climate Change
 - 8.2 The outline and roadmap of the "FAO Science and Innovation Strategy"
9. Reports of the 186th (7-9 June 2021), 187th (Rome, 28-29 October 2021) and 188th (Rome, 8-12 November 2021) Sessions of the Finance Committee
 - 9.1 Audited Accounts - FAO 2020
 - 9.2 Status of Current Assessments and Arrears
10. Reports of the 113th (Rome, 25-27 October 2021) and 114th (26 November 2021) Sessions of the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters

Committee on World Food Security

11. Reports of the 48th (Special) (4 June 2021) and 49th (11-14 October 2021) Sessions of the Committee on World Food Security

Governance Matters

12. Progress Report on Rome-based Agencies Collaboration
13. Code of Conduct for Voting
14. Status of Implementation of Decisions taken at the 166th Session of the Council (26 April-1 May 2021)

15. Selection and Appointment of Secretaries of Article XIV Bodies
16. Report of the 18th Regular Session of the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (CGRFA) (27 September-1 October 2021)

Other Matters

17. World Food Programme:
 - 17.1 Election of Six Members of the WFP Executive Board
 - 17.2 Annual Report of the WFP Executive Board on its activities in 2020
18. Progress Report on Multilingualism at FAO
19. Developments in Fora of Importance for the Mandate of FAO
20. Calendar of FAO Governing Bodies and other Main Sessions 2021-23
21. Tentative Agenda for the 169th Session of the Council
22. Any Other Matters
 - 22.1 Statement by a Representative of the FAO Staff Bodies

Appendix B

List of Documents

CL 168/1	Provisional Agenda
CL 168/3	Adjustments to the Programme of Work and Budget 2022-23
CL 168/4	FAO's response to COVID-19: Building to transform
CL 168/4.1	The Food Coalition
CL 168/5	The Hand-in-Hand Initiative
CL 168/6	Results of the United Nations Food Systems Summit
CL 168/7	Report of the Joint Meeting of the 132nd Session of the Programme Committee and 188th Session of the Finance Committee (Rome, 8, 9 and 12 November 2021)
CL 168/8	Report of the 132nd Session of the Programme Committee (Rome, 8-12 November 2021)
CL 168/9	Report of the 188th Session of the Finance Committee (Rome, 8-12 November 2021)
CL 168/10	Report of the 113th Session of the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters (Rome, 25-27 October 2021)
CL 168/11	Progress Report on Rome-based Agencies collaboration
CL 168/15.1	Membership of the WFP Executive Board
CL 168/15.2	2020 Annual Report of the WFP Executive Board to ECOSOC and the FAO Council
CL 168/16	Report of the 186th Session of the Finance Committee (7-9 June 2021)
CL 168/17	Selection and Appointment of Secretaries of Article XIV Bodies
CL 168/18	Progress Report on Multilingualism at FAO
CL 168/19	Report of the 131st (Special) Session of the Programme Committee (Rome, 29 July 2021)
CL 168/20	Report of the 187th Session of the Finance Committee (Rome, 28-29 October 2021)
CL 168/21	Update on the development of the new FAO Strategy on Climate Change
CL 168/22	The outline and roadmap of the "FAO Science and Innovation Strategy"
CL 168/23	Report of the 18th Regular Session of the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (CGRFA) (27 September-1 October 2021)

CL 168/24 Report of the 114th Session of the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters (26 November 2021)

C 2023 Series

C 2023/5A Audited Accounts - FAO 2020

C 2023/5B Audited Accounts - FAO 2020 - Part B - Report of the External Auditor

C 2023/19 Report of the 48th (Special) Session of the Committee on World Food Security (4 June 2021)

C 2023/20 Report of the 49th Session of the Committee on World Food Security (11-14 October 2021)

CL 168 INF Series

CL 168/INF/1 Provisional Timetable

CL 168/INF/2 Tentative Agenda for the 169th Session of the Council

CL 168/INF/3 Statement of Competence and Voting Rights submitted by the European Union and its Member States

CL 168/INF/4 Developments in Fora of Importance for the Mandate of FAO

CL 168/INF/4
Web Annex 1 COP 15 and COP 26 briefs on agriculture and food

CL 168/INF/4
Web Annex 2 Science and innovation for agrifood systems transformation

CL 168/INF/4
Web Annex 3 Emergency and resilience for food crisis action in Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) Phases 3 or above countries

CL 168/INF/4
Web Annex 4 Pathways for transforming agrifood systems for food security, improved nutrition and affordable healthy diets for all

CL 168/INF/5 Methods of Work for the 168th Session of the Council

CL 168/INF/6 Annual Report on Corporate Policy, Processes and Measures on the Prevention of Harassment, Sexual Harassment and Sexual Exploitation and Abuse

CL 168 LIM Series

CL 168/LIM/1 Calendar of FAO Governing Bodies and other Main Sessions 2021-2023

CL 168/LIM/2 Status of Current Assessments and Arrears as at 22 November 2021

CL 168/LIM/3 Status of Implementation of Decisions taken at the 166th Session of the Council (26 April-1 May 2021)

CL 168/LIM/4 Election of Six Members of the WFP Executive Board

Other Documents

List of Delegates and Observers

CL 168/Draft Report Draft Report of Plenary

CL 168 PV Series

CL 168/PV/1 to Verbatim Records of Plenary
CL 168/PV/12

CL 168 OD Series

CL 168/OD/1 to Orders of the Day
CL 168/OD/6

Appendix C
Draft Resolution for the Conference
FAO Audited Accounts 2020

DRAFT CONFERENCE RESOLUTION

FAO Audited Accounts 2020

THE CONFERENCE,

Having considered the Report of the 168th Session of the Council, and

Having examined the 2020 FAO Audited Accounts and the External Auditor's Report thereon

adopts the Audited Accounts.

Appendix D

Revised proposed procedure for the selection and appointment of Secretaries of Article XIV Bodies³⁷

1. A Vacancy Announcement is drafted by technical departments with support of the Human Resources Division (“CSH”) as is done for all senior (D1 and above) staff positions. The draft Vacancy Announcement is shared with the Chairperson of the Body concerned who is invited to provide views thereon.
2. The Vacancy Announcement is issued and posted for 30 days.³⁸
3. A first review and screening of candidates is undertaken by CSH based on the minimum criteria and qualifications set out in the Vacancy Announcement.
4. A second review is undertaken by the offices of the relevant Deputy Director-General and the relevant Director (D2) and three representatives of the Members of the Article XIV Body to establish a shortlist of candidates for interview. The interview shortlist must contain at least seven candidates including at least one female candidate. If there is no female candidate in the shortlist, the Panel Report must contain a justification. If the interview shortlist does not contain seven candidates, the Report must contain a justification.
5. An Interview Panel is established, which is composed of:
 - a) the relevant Deputy Director-General or Director (D2);
 - b) two Senior FAO officers;
 - c) three representatives of the Members of the Article XIV Body;
 - d) one external member, to be selected by other Interview Panellists from among three candidates proposed by CSH; and
 - e) one representative of CSH, without the right to participate in decision-making. The role of the CSH representative is to offer administrative support to the panel. He/She will not be involved in interviewing or assessing the candidates.
6. Interviews of shortlisted candidates are conducted by the Interview Panel, which will prepare a report. The Panel Report will identify a minimum of three and a maximum of five qualified candidates. If no female candidate is selected at this stage, the Panel Report must contain a justification.
7. Both the shortlist of candidates for interview as well as the three to five candidates submitted to the Director-General is compiled with due regard to gender and geographic balance in line with the policy of the Organization. If this balance is not achieved, the Panel Report must contain a justification for this. All efforts should be made to reach a decision by consensus.
8. Reference checks are undertaken by CSH.
9. The Panel Report is submitted for consideration by the Director-General.

³⁷ Annex I to CL 168/17.

³⁸ [Unless the Article XIV Body requests for a longer period up to maximum 45 days].

10. The Director-General identifies for appointment one candidate, from the proposed candidates identified in the Panel Report, whose name and curriculum vitae are referred to the relevant Article XIV Body for approval in accordance with the provisions of the treaty concerned. The name and curriculum vitae, and a written statement that reference checks have been conducted, will be transmitted to the Article XIV Body Chairperson, who will keep the information confidential, within ten weeks of the closure of the Vacancy Announcement.
11. Upon approval of the Body, an offer is issued to the candidate. Should there be non-approval, the Director-General will propose to the Body another candidate, identified in the Panel Report, recommended for appointment. In case none of the candidates identified in the Panel Report are approved by the Body, the Vacancy shall be reissued.
12. Upon acceptance, the Director-General appoints the candidate.

Appendix E

Resolution 1/168

The Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biodiversity for Food and Agriculture and the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity

THE COUNCIL,

Having considered the report of the Eighteenth Regular Session of the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (Commission);

Recalling that the Commission has a coordinating role and deals with policy, sectoral and cross-sectoral matters related to the conservation and sustainable use of genetic resources of relevance to food and agriculture, including their conservation and sustainable use and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits derived from their utilization;

Noting the Commission's vision of valuing and conserving biodiversity for food and agriculture and promoting its use in support of global food security and sustainable development, for present and future generations; and its strive to halt the loss of genetic resources for food and agriculture, and to ensure world food security and sustainable development by promoting their conservation and sustainable use, including exchange, and the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising from their use;

Recognizing the importance of the Commission's Global Plans of Action and other policy tools as voluntary frameworks for action at local, national, regional and global levels;

Recalling the importance of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture and its support for conservation and sustainable use of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture and equitable sharing of benefits derived from their use;

Acknowledging the important work of the Commission in the development of targets and indicators on genetic resources for food and agriculture in the context of monitoring the implementation of the Commission's Global Plans of Action, and the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals and the development of the Convention on Biological Diversity post-2020 global biodiversity framework;

Noting that the Commission's sectoral Global Plans of Action and other policies and tools, and the *FAO Strategy on Mainstreaming Biodiversity across Agricultural Sectors* and the *2021-23 Action Plan* for its implementation, provide important contributions to global efforts for the sustainable use and conservation of biodiversity, and the sharing of benefits arising from their use;

Stressing the importance of mutual supportiveness of the Commission's Global Plans of Action and the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, once adopted, and the need to closely keep under review the implementation of the different instruments, avoiding duplication:

1. **Reiterates** the need for FAO, the Commission and the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture to contribute, within their mandate, to the development and implementation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework currently being developed under the auspices of the Convention on Biological Diversity.
2. **Invites** all Members of the Commission to request the Secretariat of the Commission to convey to the Convention on Biological Diversity open-ended working group on the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, when developing the framework, the need to, and also invites the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, when adopting the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, to:
 - i. recognize the importance of sustainable use of components of biodiversity for food and agriculture as a contribution to the conservation and restoration of biodiversity;

- ii. take into account the special nature of agricultural biodiversity, in particular genetic resources for food and agriculture, their distinctive features and problems needing distinctive solutions; and
 - iii. take into account the Global Plans of Action, the Framework for Action on Biodiversity for Food and Agriculture, the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture and, other instruments related to the conservation and sustainable use of genetic resources for food and agriculture negotiated and developed under the aegis of FAO.
3. **Encourages** FAO to take a leading position in the implementation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, once adopted, on issues within its mandate and, for this purpose, closely collaborate with relevant international organizations and instruments at national, regional and international levels, research institutes, non-governmental organizations, civil society organizations, indigenous peoples and local communities and the private sector with a view to avoid duplications and to enhance effectiveness.
4. **Invites** the private sector to support the implementation of the Commission's Global Plans of Action, and encourages donors to provide support to their implementation as part of the global effort to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, particularly Target 2.5 on genetic diversity noting the challenges faced by developing countries and countries with economies in transition.
5. **Calls** for support of FAO's capacity-development efforts with regard to the conservation and the sustainable use of biodiversity for food and agriculture in developing countries including for smallholder and family farmers, including through South–South and triangular cooperation.
6. **Invites** Members to:
 - i. integrate the Commission's sectoral Global Plans of Action, the Framework for Action on Biodiversity for Food and Agriculture and policy tools into policies, programmes and national and regional plans of action on agriculture, forestry, fisheries and aquaculture, biodiversity, climate change, food security, nutrition and health, and other relevant sectors, as appropriate;
 - ii. actively support, as appropriate and according to national contexts, priorities and capacities, the transformation to more efficient, inclusive, resilient and sustainable agri-food systems that promote the sustainable use, conservation and restoration of biodiversity for food and agriculture, including genetic resources, leaving no farmer, livestock keeper and pastoralist, forest-based producer, fisher or aquaculturalist behind; and taking into account the contributions and needs of women, indigenous peoples and local communities; and
 - iii. consider developing funding proposals on biodiversity for food and agriculture including genetic resources, consistent with their national priorities, as appropriate, when seeking funding from various sources, including the Global Environment Facility, the Green Climate Fund and other funding mechanisms and modalities.

Adopted on 4 December 2021

Appendix F

Calendar of FAO/IFAD/WFP Governing Bodies and other Main Sessions 2021-2023

	2022		2023	
JANUARY	36 NERC*	10-13		
FEBRUARY	36 NERC* (cont'd) IFAD/GC WFP	7-8 14-18 28/2-4/3	IFAD/GC WFP	13-17 27/2-3/3
MARCH	36 APRC 114 CCLM 37 LARC	8-11 21-23 28/3-1/4	116 CCLM 193 FC 135 PC	6-8 13-17 13-17
APRIL	32 ARC* INARC* IFAD/EB	TBC TBC 25-29	171 CL	24-28
MAY	33 ERC 189 FC 133 PC	10-13 16-20 16-20	IFAD/EB	8-12
JUNE	190 FC (WFP) 169 CL WFP 45 CODEX (Rome)	1-3 13-17 20-24 27/6-1/7	194 FC (WFP) WFP	5-7 26-30
JULY	75 CCP 28 COAG	13-15 18-22	43 C 172 CL 46 CODEX (Geneva) 19 CGRFA	1-7 10 17-21 24-28
AUGUST				
SEPTEMBER	35 COFI IFAD/EB	5-9 12-16	IFAD/EB	18-22
OCTOBER	26 COFO 50 CFS* WFD* 115 CCLM 191 FC (WFP)	3-7 10-13 14 (Friday) 17-21 24-26 27-28	51 CFS WFD 117 CCLM 195 FC (WFP)	16-20 16 (Monday) 23-25 30-31
NOVEMBER	192 FC 134 PC WFP	7-11 7-11 14-18	196 FC 136 PC WFP	6-10 6-10 13-17
DECEMBER	170 CL IFAD/EB	5-9 12-16	173 CL IFAD/EB	4-8 11-15

Easter: 17 April 2022
 Orthodox Easter: 24 April 2022
 Ramadan: 2 April – 1 May 2022
 Eid Al-Fitr: 2 May 2022
 Eid Al-Adha: 10 July 2022

Easter: 9 April 2023
 Orthodox Easter: 16 April 2023
 Ramadan: 22 March – 20 April 2023
 Eid Al-Fitr: 21 April 2023
 Eid Al-Adha: 29 June 2023

APRC	Regional Conference for Asia and the Pacific	COFO	Committee on Forestry
ARC	Regional Conference for Africa	ERC	Regional Conference for Europe
C	Conference	FC	Finance Committee
CCLM	Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters	IFAD/EB	IFAD Executive Board
CCP	Committee on Commodity Problems	IFAD/GC	IFAD Governing Council
CFS	Committee on World Food Security	INARC	Informal Regional Conference for North America
CGRFA	Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture	LARC	Regional Conference for Latin America and the Caribbean
CL	Council	NERC	Regional Conference for the Near East
COAG	Committee on Agriculture	PC	Programme Committee
CODEX	Codex Alimentarius Commission	WFD	World Food Day
COFI	Committee on Fisheries	WFP	World Food Programme Executive Board

(*) Change compared to Calendar submitted to the previous Council session.

PROGRAMME COMMITTEE

(July 2021 - July 2023)

Chairperson

Ms Yael Rubinstein
(Israel)

Members

Argentina (Mr Carlos Bernardo Cherniak)
Brazil (Mr Fernando José Marroni de Abreu)
Canada (Mr Maarten de Groot)
China (Mr Ni Hongxing)
France (Ms Delphine Babin-Pelliard)
India (Mr Bommakanti Rajender)

Iraq (Mr Zaid Al-Ani)
Mali (Ms Traoré Halimatou Koné)
New Zealand (Mr Donald Syme)
Norway (Mr Morten Aasland)
Sudan (Ms Saadia Elmubarak Ahmed Daak)
Zambia (Mr Kayoya Masuhwa)

<https://www.fao.org/unfao/govbodies/gsbhome/programme-committee/substitute-representatives/en/>

FINANCE COMMITTEE

(July 2021 - July 2023)

Chairperson

Ms Imelda Smolcic
(Uruguay)

Members

Australia (Ms Lynda Hayden)
Egypt (Mr Haitham Abdelhady)
Ethiopia (Mr Kaba Urgessa Dinssa)
Japan (Mr Kuraya Yoshihiro)
Mexico (Mr Miguel García Winder)
Niger (Ms Rahila Rabiou Tahirou)

Panama (Mr Tomás Duncan Jurado)
Russian Federation (Mr Vladimir V. Kuznetsov)
Saudi Arabia (Mr Mohammed M. Alghamdi)
Sweden (Ms Pernilla Ivarsson)
Thailand (Mr Thanawat Tiensin)
United States of America (Ms Jennifer Harhigh)

<https://www.fao.org/unfao/govbodies/gsbhome/finance-committee/substitute-representatives/en/>

COMMITTEE ON CONSTITUTIONAL AND LEGAL MATTERS

(July 2021 - July 2023)

Chairperson

Ms Alison Storsve
(United States of America)

Members

Afghanistan (Mr Khaled Ahmad Zekriya)
Algeria (Ms Lamia Ben Redouane)
Canada (Ms Julie Emond)
Fiji (Ms Esala Nayasi)

Nicaragua (Ms Mónica Robelo Raffone)
Philippines (Ms Nina P. Cainglet)
Slovakia (Ms Zora Weberova)

WFP EXECUTIVE BOARD 2021

Term of office expiring

31 December 2021

Elected by FAO Council

Afghanistan (B)¹
Côte d'Ivoire (A)²
India (B)³
Netherlands (D)
Peru (C)⁴
United States of America (D)

Elected by ECOSOC

Burkina Faso (A)
Iran (Islamic Republic of) (B)
Italy (D)¹⁰
Republic of Korea (B)
Russian Federation (E)
Sweden (D)

31 December 2022

Angola (A)⁵
Canada (D)
Dominican Republic (C)⁶
Germany (D)
Saudi Arabia (B)
Somalia (A)

Australia (D)
Burundi (A)
Cuba (C)
Madagascar (A)
Spain (D)
Turkmenistan (B)

31 December 2023

Brazil (C)⁷
Denmark (D)
Guatemala (C)^{8,9}
Hungary (E)
Morocco (A)
Norway (D)

China (B)
Japan (D)
Lesotho (A)
Mexico (C)
Poland (E)
United Kingdom (D)

¹ Afghanistan replaced Kuwait from 1 January 2021 until 31 December 2021 having reached an agreement to share an FAO Council-elected seat.

² Côte d'Ivoire replaced Nigeria from 1 January 2020 until December 2021 having reached an agreement to share an FAO Council-elected seat.

³ India replaced Afghanistan from 1 January 2020 until 31 December 2021 having reached an agreement to share an FAO Council-elected seat.

⁴ Peru replaced Mexico from 1 January 2020 until 31 December 2021 having reached an agreement to share an FAO Council-elected seat.

⁵ Angola and South Africa reached an agreement to share an FAO Council-elected seat, with Angola serving in 2020 and 2021 and South Africa serving in 2022.

⁶ Dominican Republic replaced Argentina from 1 January 2021 until 31 December 2022 having reached an agreement to share an FAO Council-elected seat.

⁷ Brazil and Guatemala reached an agreement to share an FAO Council-elected seat, with Brazil serving in 2021 and 2022 and Guatemala serving in 2023.

⁸ Rotating seat occupied by a country of List C (2021-2023) held by Guatemala.

⁹ Guatemala and Argentina reached an agreement to share an FAO Council-elected seat, with Guatemala serving in 2021 and Argentina serving in 2022 and 2023.

¹⁰ Italy replaced Austria from 1 January 2021 until 31 December 2021 after Austria resigned its seat.

FAO MEMBERS

194 Member Nations
2 Associate Members
1 Member Organization

Afghanistan	Gambia	Palau
Albania	Georgia	Panama
Algeria	Germany	Papua New Guinea
Andorra	Ghana	Paraguay
Angola	Greece	Peru
Antigua and Barbuda	Grenada	Philippines
Argentina	Guatemala	Poland
Armenia	Guinea	Portugal
Australia	Guinea-Bissau	Qatar
Austria	Guyana	Republic of Korea
Azerbaijan	Haiti	Republic of Moldova
Bahamas	Honduras	Romania
Bahrain	Hungary	Russian Federation
Banladesh	Iceland	Rwanda
Barbados	India	Saint Kitts and Nevis
Belarus	Indonesia	Saint Lucia
Belgium	Iran (Islamic Republic of)	Saint Vincent and the Grenadines
Belize	Iraq	Samoa
Benin	Ireland	San Marino
Bhutan	Israel	Sao Tome and Principe
Bolivia (Plurinational State of)	Italy	Saudi Arabia
Bosnia and Herzegovina	Jamaica	Senegal
Botswana	Japan	Serbia
Brazil	Jordan	Seychelles
Brunei Darussalam	Kazakhstan	Sierra Leone
Bulgaria	Kenya	Singapore
Burkina Faso	Kiribati	Slovakia
Burundi	Kuwait	Slovenia
Cabo Verde	Kyrgyzstan	Solomon Islands
Cambodia	Lao People's Democratic Republic	Somalia
Cameroon	Latvia	South Africa
Canada	Lebanon	South Sudan
Central African Republic	Lesotho	Spain
Chad	Liberia	Sri Lanka
Chile	Libya	Sudan
China	Lithuania	Suriname
Colombia	Luxembourg	Sweden
Comoros	Madaqascar	Switzerland
Conqo	Malawi	Syrian Arab Republic
Cook Islands	Malaysia	Tajikistan
Costa Rica	Maldives	Thailand
Côte d'Ivoire	Mali	Timor-Leste
Croatia	Malta	Toqo
Cuba	Marshall Islands	Tokelau
Cyprus	Mauritania	(Associate Member)
Czechia	Mauritius	Tonqa
Democratic People's Republic of Korea	Mexico	Trinidad and Tobago
Democratic Republic of the Conqo	Micronesia	Tunisia
Denmark	(Federated States of)	Turkey
Djibouti	Monaco	Turkmenistan
Dominica	Monqolia	Tuvalu
Dominican Republic	Montenegro	Uqanda
Ecuador	Morocco	Ukraine
Egypt	Mozambique	United Arab Emirates
El Salvador	Myanmar	United Kingdom
Equatorial Guinea	Namibia	United Republic of Tanzania
Eritrea	Nauru	United States of America
Estonia	Nepal	Uruguay
Eswatini	Netherlands	Uzbekistan
Ethiopia	New Zealand	Vanuatu
European Union	Nicaragua	Venezuela
(Member Organization)	Niger	(Bolivarian Republic of)
Faroe Islands	Nigeria	Viet Nam
(Associate Member)	Niue	Yemen
Fiji	North Macedonia	Zambia
Finland	Norway	Zimbabwe
France	Oman	
Gabon	Pakistan	