

REPORT

OF THE COUNCIL OF FAO

Hundred and Seventy-second Session
24-28 April 2023



Food and Agriculture Organization
of the United Nations

COUNCIL
(as from 1 July 2022)

Independent Chairperson of the Council: Mr Hans Hoogeveen

Afghanistan ¹	Congo ²	Iraq ^{3,7}	Qatar ³
Angola ³	Costa Rica ³	Israel ³	Republic of Korea ²
Argentina ³	Côte d'Ivoire ³	Japan ²	Russian Federation ^{4,8}
Australia ¹	Egypt ¹	Kenya ³	Saudi Arabia ¹
Bahamas ³	Equatorial Guinea ^{2,12}	Kuwait ²	Slovenia ³
Bangladesh ²	Eritrea ¹	Luxembourg ^{4,10}	South Africa ¹
Belarus ²	Ethiopia ²	Malaysia ^{1,5}	Sweden ¹
Bosnia and Herzegovina ²	France ^{1,9}	Mauritania ³	Tunisia ¹
Brazil ³	Germany ³	Mexico ³	United Kingdom ^{2,6}
Cameroon ⁴	Guatemala ^{4,11}	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 to the end of the 43rd Session of the Conference (2023)

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

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

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

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

⁶ The United Kingdom replaced Spain from 1 July 2022 to 30 June 2024

⁷ Iraq was deemed to have resigned in accordance with Rule XXII.7 of the GRO

⁸ The Russian Federation replaced the United Kingdom from the end of the 42nd Session of the Conference (2021) until the end of the 43rd Session of the Conference (2023)

⁹ France replaced Germany from the end of the 42nd Session of the Conference (2021) to the end of the 43rd Session of the Conference (2023)

¹⁰ Luxembourg replaced Monaco from the end of the 42nd Session of the Conference (2021) to the end of the 43rd Session of the Conference (2023)

¹¹ Guatemala was elected at the 42nd Session of the Conference (2021) to the end of the 43rd Session of the Conference (2023), as Cuba was deemed to have resigned in accordance with Rule XXII.7 of the GRO

¹² Equatorial Guinea was deemed to have resigned in accordance with Rule XXII.7 of the GRO

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FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

Rome, 2023

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1. The 172nd Session of the Council was held from 24 to 28 April 2023, under the Chairpersonship of Mr Hans Hoogeveen, Independent Chairperson of the Council.
2. The Session was convened in a hybrid modality, on an exceptional basis without creating a precedent, 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 of the United Nations (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.
4. The Director-General, Dr QU Dongyu, delivered a statement to Council.
5. The Council adopted the Agenda and Timetable for the Session, as amended. The Agenda is given in *Appendix A* to this Report.
6. The Council noted the Declaration of Competence and Voting Rights presented by the European Union and approved the special procedures outlined in documents CL 172/INF/5, *Special Procedures for the 172nd Session of the Council*, and CL 172/INF/5 Corr.1, *Special Procedures for the 172nd Session of the Council – Corrigendum*.
7. The Council designated three Vice-Chairpersons for its Session: Mr Guillermo Valentín Rodolico (Argentina); Mr Joachim Bleicker (Germany); and Ms Josyline C. Javelosa (Philippines).
8. The Council designated Mr GUO Su (China) as Chairperson of the Drafting Committee with the following membership: Argentina, Australia, Brazil, China, Egypt, Eritrea, France, Japan, Luxembourg, the Russian Federation, Sweden and the United States of America.^{5,6,7}

¹ CL 172/PV/1; CL 172/PV/9

² CL 172/PV/1; CL 172/PV/9

³ CL 172/1 Rev.2; CL 172/INF/1; CL 172/INF/3; CL 172/INF/5; CL 172/INF/5 Corr.1; CL 172/PV/1; CL 172/PV/9

⁴ CL 172/PV/1; CL 172/PV/2; CL 172/PV/9

⁵ The Member States of the European Union which are Members of the Council and Australia, Canada, Japan, the United Kingdom and the United States of America chose to disassociate themselves from consensus on the designation of the Russian Federation as a member of the Drafting Committee.

⁶ The Russian Federation chose to disassociate itself from consensus on the designation of Australia, France, Japan, Luxembourg, Sweden and the United States of America as members of the Drafting Committee.

⁷ Belarus and Nicaragua supported the designation of the Russian Federation as a member of the Drafting Committee.

9. The Council welcomed the presentation of the *Medium Term Plan (Reviewed) 2022-25 and Programme of Work and Budget 2024-25*, and:
- a) commended the *Medium Term Plan (Reviewed) 2022-25 and Programme of Work and Budget 2024-25* were rooted in the Strategic Framework 2022-31 and were guided by the discussions that took place in the Regional Conferences in 2022, the discussions at the 171st Session of the Council and the inclusive informal consultations of Members under the guidance of the Independent Chairperson of the Council (ICC);
 - b) reaffirmed the Organization's unique position and role in transforming agrifood systems in a coherent manner, as appropriate, in accordance with, and dependent on national contexts and capacities to achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (2030 Agenda) and its Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), leaving no one behind;
 - c) reiterated the important role of the science- and evidence-based normative and standard-setting work of FAO;
 - d) stressed the importance of protecting and funding the normative and technical work of FAO, including the Technical Cooperation Programme (TCP), as well as the conventions, treaty bodies, including depositary functions, and intergovernmental arrangements;
 - e) recognized the need to support FAO's core functions and mandate through resources from its regular budget and stressed that voluntary contributions should be aligned with the implementation of the Strategic Framework 2022-31;
 - f) recognized the important and instrumental role of South-South and Triangular Cooperation in realizing the 2030 Agenda, and encouraged FAO to invigorate and further enhance South-South and Triangular Cooperation;
 - g) underlined the importance of adequately resourcing Decentralized Offices, including with adequate technical and other resources, to improve the implementation capacity of the Organization;
 - h) emphasized the importance of oversight, internal control and support functions;
 - i) recommended that consideration of the proposal for replenishment of the Working Capital Fund and incremental funding of the After-Service Medical Coverage past service liability be deferred to future biennia, and requested Management to continue to explore alternative strategies to address these requirements;
 - j) stressed the need for the Organization's governance documents to reflect multilaterally agreed concepts, approaches and language, and give preference to those adopted by FAO Governing Bodies;
 - k) highlighted the importance of Blue Transformation as a Programme Priority Area (PPA) and Roadmap reflecting FAO's vision on its work for achieving sustainable aquatic systems;
 - l) agreed on the need to explore a budget level between the currently proposed budget level in document C 2023/3 and the 2022-23 nominal level, and encouraged continued efforts towards reaching a consensus on the level of the budget, to be considered at informal consultations between Members, in the period leading up to the 43rd Session of the Conference;

⁸ C 2023/3; C 2023/3 WA 11; C 2023/3 Information Note 1; C 2023/3 Information Note 2; C 2023/3 Information Note 3; CL 172/7, paras 6-8; CL 172/8, para 5; CL 172/9, paras 20-23; CL 172/PV/1; CL 172/PV/2; CL 172/PV/9

- m) agreed to consider a budget level that would ensure that FAO can conduct its core activities as a specialized agency to support the achievement of the SDGs, within its mandate, using its comparative advantages in the UN system; and
- n) in this regard, the Council requested the ICC to convene informal consultations with Members in the run-up to the 43rd Session of the Conference to seek consensus on the budget level.

10. The Council endorsed the conclusions on the *Mid-term Review Synthesis Report – 2022* contained in the Report of the 135th Session of the Programme Committee and in the Report of the 195th Session of the Finance Committee.

11. The Council decided by vote^{11,12} to reject the amendments contained in CL 172/INF/8 on the proposal contained in CL 172/INF/7 Annex 1, Item 5/5.1.

12. The Council decided by vote^{13,14} to adopt the proposal contained in document CL 172/INF/7 Annex 1, Item 5/5.1. Accordingly, the Council adopted the following decision:

13. **The Council:**

- a) **recognized as major drivers of current and longer-term global food insecurity: conflicts and insecurity, climate change and weather extremes, and economic shocks;**
- b) **noted with grave concern the continued devastating impact of the Russian Federation’s war against Ukraine on global food security, and stressed its risks to food and fertilizer access and availability and agriculture markets and trade, especially for developing countries and vulnerable communities;**
- c) **further acknowledged the compounding effects of continued global recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic, social and political instability;**
- d) **noted with concern in this regard the growing rate of acute global food insecurity and malnutrition, and the need to reverse this trend to make progress on achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), especially SDG 2, end hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture;**
- e) **regretted the impact of acute hunger and poverty on the most vulnerable populations;**
- f) **stressed again the importance of a stable and strengthened Initiative on the Safe Transportation of Grain and Foodstuffs from Ukrainian Ports, known as the “Black Sea Grain Initiative (BSGI)”, adopted in Istanbul on 22 July 2022, and extended on 17 November 2022 and 18 March 2023;**
- g) **recognized the positive and essential impact of the BSGI on global food security, food prices, and the easing of trade disruptions, especially for the most vulnerable populations, as highlighted by FAO, UNCTAD, and the Secretary-General of the UN, among others;**

⁹ PC 135/2 – FC 195/8; CL 172/8, para 6; CL 172/9, para 24; CL 172/PV/4; CL 172/PV/5; CL 172/PV/9

¹⁰ CL 172/5; CL 172/INF/7; CL 172/INF/8; CL 172/PV/3; CL 172/PV/4; CL 172/PV/6; CL 172/PV/9

¹¹ Roll call vote with total votes cast: 22; votes for: 3; votes against: 19; abstentions: 22

¹² The Russian Federation issued an Explanation of Vote which can be consulted in the verbatim (PV/172/6).

¹³ Roll call vote with total votes cast: 26; votes for: 23; votes against: 3; abstentions: 17

¹⁴ Brazil, Indonesia and the Russian Federation issued Explanations of Vote which can be consulted in the verbatim (PV/172/6).

- h) **emphasized the necessity for the BSGI to remain in effect as long as necessary and continue to help restore the pre-war export pace of agriculture and food commodities and inputs from the region;**
- i) **called on the Russian Federation to stop threatening global food supplies and allow the Black Sea Grain Initiative to operate at its maximum potential and indefinitely;**
- j) **urged FAO to support the BSGI by providing technical and data support consistent with the Organization's mandate and requested regular updates to Members in this regard;**
- k) **took note of the Memorandum of Understanding between the Russian Federation and the Secretariat of the United Nations on promoting Russian food products and fertilizers to the world markets;**
- l) **expressed gratitude to the Government of Türkiye for the diplomatic and operational support to the BSGI and encouraged all Members to support the United Nations Secretary General's efforts in respect of the BSGI;**
- m) **underlined the importance of keeping open the trade of food and agriculture inputs and products in order to avoid the negative impact on global food security, while also preventing trade distortions and unjustified trade barriers in this respect;**
- n) **supported FAO's analysis on the need for continued urgent humanitarian assistance, including the scaling up of agricultural interventions and longer-term investments in FAO's resilience-building activities, which provides those reached with urgently needed, life-saving and cost-effective agricultural assistance;**
- o) **reiterated its support of transformation towards sustainable and resilient agriculture and food systems, in line with FAO's Strategic Framework (2022-2031);**
- p) **appreciated FAO's efforts to strengthen the Agricultural Market Information System (AMIS) and called for its further support for greater market transparency and policy dialogue; and**
- q) **recognized FAO's efforts to address the global food crisis and encouraged its continued innovation and responsiveness, emphasizing the value of its normative work and global role as a science- and evidenced-based knowledge organization for food security and agriculture.**

14. The Council decided by vote to reject the proposal for decision as contained in CL 172/INF/8 Annex 1, Item 5^{15,16}.

15. The Council voted against a motion to adjourn the debate under Item 6, as provided for in the provisions of Rule XII.22 and XII.24 of the General Rules of the Organization (GRO).

16. The Council decided by vote^{18,19} to adopt the proposal contained in document CL 172/INF/7 Annex 1, Item 6. Accordingly, the Council adopted the following decision:

17. **The Council:**

- a) **recalled its decisions and recommendations of its 169th, 170th, and 171st Sessions (CL 169/REP, paragraph 11, CL 170/REP, paragraphs 14-19 and CL 171/REP,**

¹⁵ Roll call vote with total votes cast: 21; votes for: 4; votes against: 17; abstentions: 22

¹⁶ Brazil and the Russian Federation issued Explanations of Vote, which can be consulted in the verbatim (PV/172/6).

¹⁷ CL 172/INF/7; CL 172/INF/8; CL 172/PV/4; CL 172/PV/6; CL 172/PV/9

¹⁸ Roll call vote with total votes cast: 26; votes for: 22; votes against: 4; abstentions: 16

¹⁹ Egypt, Indonesia and the Russian Federation issued Explanations of Vote, which can be consulted in the verbatim (PV/172/6).

- paragraphs 10-15), **appreciated** FAO's provision data and analysis in this regard, and **stressed** the need to continue their full implementation;
- b) **recalled** UN General Assembly resolution A/RES/ES-11/6, "Principles of the Charter of the United Nations underlying a comprehensive, just and lasting peace in Ukraine" (23 February 2023);
 - c) **noted with grave concern** the continued devastating impact of the Russian Federation's war against Ukraine on global food security, and **stressed** that the achievement of a comprehensive, just and lasting peace would improve the availability and affordability of food, fertilizer and energy, particularly for the poorest countries and most vulnerable populations;
 - d) **deplored** the dire humanitarian consequences for civilians, agriculture, and food systems of the Russian Federation's aggression against Ukraine and its continued attacks on Ukraine's critical agriculture and energy infrastructure, **reiterated its call** for these attacks to cease, and **emphasized** the need to ensure respect for international humanitarian law in this regard;
 - e) **stressed** the role of FAO, in coordination and collaboration with other United Nations entities, international financial institutions and relevant bodies, to continue to address, within its mandate, the consequences of the conflict and on food security and agriculture within Ukraine and worldwide;
 - f) **welcomed** FAO's publication of a nationwide agriculture and rural livelihoods survey of rural households across Ukraine, 2023 priorities for restoring food systems and protecting food security in Ukraine, and the updated December-January 2023 Ukraine Response programme, identifying the scale of agriculture sector damage and needs for rehabilitation;
 - g) **appreciated** FAO's global impact assessment and data analysis, and **renewed its request** for FAO to provide to Members further data and information specifically targeted to developing countries and the most vulnerable populations, disaggregated by region and, where possible, at national and sub-national levels;
 - h) **requested** an update on how FAO is addressing the risk of the spread of zoonotic diseases, including African Swine Fever and contributing to the protection of animal health through a One Health Approach;
 - i) **urged** all Members to cooperate in the spirit of solidarity to address the global impacts of the war on food security and support FAO's efforts to address these impacts; and
 - j) **decided to remain seized of this matter and address it as a specific agenda item at its next sessions.**

18. The Council **welcomed** document CL 172/INF/6, *Update on the Hand-in-Hand Initiative*, and in particular:

- a) noted the increase in the number of countries joining the Hand-in-Hand (HIH) Initiative to 60 Members by March 2023 from the total target of 64, including the improved regional balance;
- b) **commended** the progress achieved and the positive impact being catalysed by the HIH Initiative at country level in support of national priorities fully aligned with the UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework, the Joint Programming of the UN Development system and the 2030 Agenda;

²⁰ CL 172/INF/6; CL 172/8, para 12; CL 172/PV/7; CL 172/PV/9

- c) acknowledged that, due to the increased demand from Members to participate in the HIH Initiative, there is an increased need for additional voluntary technical and financial support;
- d) appreciated the ongoing, improved flow of information and progress through the dashboard, the updated website, and communication with Members and looked forward to further enhancements to the dashboard and updates, including impacts at national level; and
- e) welcomed the organization of the Hand-in-Hand Investment Forum in October 2023, as a follow-up to the 2022 Investment Forum, and the efforts to organize national HIH investment fora to strengthen engagement at national level.

19. The Council reviewed the Report of the Joint Meeting of the 135th Session of the Programme Committee and 195th Session of the Finance Committee, noting that the *Medium Term Plan 2022-25 (Reviewed) and Programme of Work and Budget (2024-25)* would be reviewed as a separate item, and endorsed its conclusions on:

- a) the *Feasibility study on the integration of administrative services among the Rome-based Agencies*;
- b) the *update on the work of the UN Food Systems Coordination Hub*; and
- c) the *process for Country Programming Frameworks (CPFs)*.

20. The Council reviewed the Reports of the 135th and 136th Sessions of the Programme Committee, noting that the *Medium Term Plan 2022-25 (Reviewed) and Programme of Work and Budget (2024-25)* and the *Update on the Hand-in-Hand Initiative* would be reviewed as separate items, and:

- a) noted the considerations of the Programme Committee on the *Progress report on the United Nations Decade of Action on Nutrition 2016-2025* and the updates on:
 - i. *FAO's private sector engagement*;
 - ii. *FAO statistics work for SDG indicators and the UN Statistical Commission*;
 - iii. *the implementation of the FAO Strategy on Climate Change 2022-2031*;
 - iv. *the implementation of the FAO Science and Innovation Strategy*; and
 - v. *the implementation of the plan of action on antimicrobial resistance (AMR)*;
- b) endorsed the conclusions of the Programme Committee on the *Mid-term Review Synthesis Report – 2022*, the *Evaluation of FAO's evaluation function – Terms of Reference (draft)*, the *Update on water resources management* and the follow-up reports on:
 - i. *Evaluation of FAO's support to climate action (SDG 13) and the implementation of the FAO Strategy on Climate Change (2017)*; and
 - ii. *Evaluation of FAO's role and work on antimicrobial resistance (AMR)*;
- c) endorsed the recommendations of the Programme Committee on the *FAO Evaluation Strategy: An Interim Strategy for the Office of Evaluation to build an architecture for excellence in supporting Management and Members' culture of evidence in decision-making*; and

²¹ CL 172/7; CL 172/PV/4; CL 172/PV/9

²² CL 172/8; CL 172/16; CL 172/PV/5; CL 172/PV/9

- d) endorsed its recommendations on the terms of reference for the independent evaluation of FAO's evaluation function and the oversight structure.
21. With the above observations, as stated in paragraph 20, the Council endorsed the recommendations of the Reports.
22. The Council reviewed the Report of the 195th Session of the Finance Committee, except for the *Medium Term Plan 2022-25 (Reviewed) and Programme of Work and Budget (2024-25)* and the *Restoration by the Conference of the voting rights of Member Nations in arrears in the payment of their financial contributions to the Organization*, which were taken up under separate agenda items, and endorsed the recommendations of the Finance Committee to:
- a) submit the Draft Resolution for adoption by the Conference of the *Scale of Contributions 2024-25*, as set out in *Appendix C*;
 - b) endorse the extension of the terms of office of Ms Ait-Mohamed Parent and Ms Wild as members of the FAO Oversight Advisory Committee for a further, final three years.
23. In addition, the Council endorsed the conclusions of the Finance Committee on:
- a) the Financial Position of the Organization;
 - b) the Annual Report on Budgetary Performance and Programme and Budgetary Transfers for the 2022-23 Biennium; and
 - c) the proposal to amend the Statute of the International Civil Service Commission.
24. The Council also noted the Finance Committee's considerations on:
- a) the *2022 Actuarial Valuation of Staff Related Liabilities*;
 - b) the *2022 Mid-Term Review Synthesis Report*;
 - c) the *Human Resources Annual Report*;
 - d) the *FAO Oversight Advisory Committee 2022 Annual Report*;
 - e) the *2022 Annual Report of the Inspector General*;
 - f) the *2022 Annual Report of the Ethics Office*;
 - g) progress related to the recommendations presented in the Joint Inspection Unit (JIU) Reports, *Review of Whistleblower Policies and Practices in United Nations System Organizations* and *Review of the State of the Investigation Function: Progress made in the United Nations System Organizations in Strengthening the Investigation Function*; and
 - h) scheduling of the FAO Management and Administration Review by the JIU.
25. With the above observations, as stated in paragraph 22, the Council endorsed the recommendations of the Report.
26. The Council reviewed the Report of the 118th Session of the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters (CCLM), except for the *Restoration by the Conference of the voting rights of Member Nations in arrears in the payment of their financial contributions to the Organization* and the *Code of Conduct for Voting*, which were taken up under separate agenda items.
27. The Council:
- a) endorsed the recommendations of the CCLM on the proposal to amend the Statute of the International Civil Service Commission (ICSC);

²³ CL 172/9; CL 172/LIM/2; CL 172/PV/4; CL 172/PV/9

²⁴ CL 172/10; CL 172/PV/5; CL 172/PV/9

- b) endorsed the conclusions of the CCLM on the process of election of the Chairperson of the Committee on Forestry (COFO); and
- c) noted the CCLM's considerations on:
 - i. the review of the jurisdictional set-up of the United Nations common system;
 - ii. participation of the private sector as observers at FAO Governing Body sessions; and
 - iii. the status of recommendations presented in the Joint Inspection Unit (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 the above observations, as stated in paragraph 26, the Council endorsed the recommendations of the Report.

29. The Council considered the Report of the 50th Session of the Committee on World Food Security (CFS), and in particular:

- a) expressed grave concern over the deteriorating global food security situation and expressed support to the work of the CFS;
- b) welcomed the Chairperson's engagement with the UN Secretary-General's Global Crisis Response Group on Food, Energy and Finance, and welcomed the High-Level Special Event co-convened on 18 July 2022;
- c) commended the CFS for the endorsement of the *CFS Policy Recommendations on Promoting Youth Engagement and Employment in Agriculture and Food Systems for Food Security and Nutrition*, and encouraged the RBAs and other relevant actors to support their utilization at country level;
- d) reaffirmed that advancing gender equality and women's and girls' empowerment is critical, and encouraged the CFS to continue its efforts to achieve consensus on the *CFS Voluntary Guidelines on Gender Equality and Women's and Girls' Empowerment in the context of Food Security and Nutrition*, to be presented for endorsement at the 51st CFS Plenary Session;
- e) highlighted the importance of greater collection, analysis and dissemination of data on all dimensions of food security and nutrition, in accordance with national and international laws, for science- and evidence-based decision-making, and looked forward to the elaboration of a set of policy recommendations on "Data Collection and Analysis Tools for Food Security and Nutrition", envisaged to be presented for endorsement at the 51st CFS Plenary Session;
- f) welcomed the *Third CFS HLPE-FSN Note on Critical, Emerging and Enduring Issues for Food Security and Nutrition*, as an input into the preparation of the Committee's draft *Multi-Year Programme of Work for 2024-2027*;
- g) took note of the CFS's request to the CFS High Level Panel of Experts on Food Security and Nutrition (HLPE-FSN) to undertake a study on "Strengthening urban and peri-urban food systems to achieve food security and nutrition in the context of urbanization and rural transformation";
- h) stressed the importance that all documents produced by the CFS use, as appropriate, multilaterally agreed concepts and language;
- i) supported the CFS to be more focused on the voluntary uptake, including in promoting its products, and encouraged the RBAs to encourage the voluntary uptake and use of CFS policy recommendations and voluntary guidelines; and

²⁵ C 2023/21; CL 172/PV/5; CL 172/PV/6; CL 172/PV/9

- j) noted the stocktaking of experiences and good practices in the use and application of the CFS Principles for Responsible Investment in Agriculture and Food Systems (CFS-RAI), highlighting the importance of boosting financing for sustainable development and access to resources for actions and efforts to achieve the SDGs, and in particular SDG 2 by 2030.

30. The sole candidate for the post of Director-General for the period 1 August 2023 to 31 July 2027, Dr QU Dongyu, addressed the Council.

Provisional Timetable for the Session

31. The Council decided to submit the Provisional Timetable set out in document CL 172/13 Rev.1 to the Conference for approval.

Nomination of the Chairperson and the Vice-Chairpersons of the Conference and the Chairpersons of the Commissions of the Conference

32. In accordance with Rule XXIV.5(b) of the GRO, the Council nominated Ms Marie-Claude Bibeau, Minister for Agriculture and Agri-Food of Canada, as Chairperson of the Conference.

33. The Council agreed to submit to the Conference the following nominations for the Vice-Chairpersons of the Conference:

- Mr Morten von Hanno Aasland, Ambassador, Norway
- Mr Khalid Mehboob, Alternate Permanent Representative, Pakistan
- Mr Abdullah bin Abdulaziz bin Turki Al-Subaie, Minister for Municipality, Qatar

34. The Council agreed to submit to the Conference the following nominations for the Chairpersons of Commissions I and II:

- Chairperson of Commission I: Mr Marcel Beukeboom, Netherlands (Kingdom of the)
- Chairperson of Commission II: Mr Abdul Rahman Abdul Wahab, Malaysia

Nomination of Seven Members of the General Committee²⁸

35. In accordance with Rule XXIV.5(b) of the GRO, the Council agreed to put the following nominations before the Conference:

- Algeria
- Australia
- China
- Egypt
- France
- United States of America

²⁶ CL 172/12 Rev.1; C 2023/7; C 2023/7 Addendum 1; C 2023/7 Addendum 2; CL 172/PV/7; CL 172/PV/9

²⁷ CL 172/13 Rev.1; CL 172/PV/8; CL 172/PV/9

²⁸ United States of America chose to disassociate itself from consensus on the nomination of Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) as a member of the General Committee.

- Venezuela

Nomination of Nine Members of the Credentials Committee^{29,30}

36. In accordance with Rule XXIV.5(b) of the GRO, the Council agreed to put the following nominations before the Conference:

- Bangladesh
- Canada
- Germany
- Lebanon
- New Zealand
- Panama
- Russian Federation
- United States of America
- Zambia

37. The Council reviewed the Draft Resolution contained in document CL 172/14, *Restoration by the Conference of the voting rights of Member Nations in arrears in the payment of their financial contributions to the Organization*, and:

- a) expressed its appreciation for the informal consultations undertaken by the ICC which resulted in consensus among Members on the Draft Resolution;
- b) took note of the recommendations made by the CCLM and the FC and stressed the need to ensure consistency in the six languages of FAO for the Draft Resolution;
- c) noted with appreciation the confirmation of the CCLM that the Draft Resolution, as revised by the CCLM, is consistent with the Basic Texts of the Organization; and
- d) recommended submission of the Draft Resolution, as reproduced in *Appendix D* to this Report, to the 43rd Session of the Conference for adoption.

38. The Council reviewed document CL 172/15, *Draft Voluntary Code of Conduct for Voting procedures under Rule XII of the General Rules of the Organization as referred to in the Conference and Council Reports*, and:

- a) commended the ICC for leading open, transparent and inclusive consultations on the draft text;
- b) took note of the technical adjustments made by the CCLM; and
- c) recommended the submission of the *Draft Voluntary Code of Conduct for Voting procedures under Rule XII of the General Rules of the Organization as referred to in the Conference and*

²⁹ The Member States of the European Union which are Members of the Council, Australia, Canada, Japan, the United Kingdom and the United States of America chose to disassociate themselves from consensus on the nomination of the Russian Federation as a member of the Credentials Committee.

³⁰ The Russian Federation chose to disassociate itself from consensus on the nomination of Canada, Germany and the United States of America as members of the Credentials Committee.

³¹ CL 172/14; CL 172/9, paras 18 and 19; CL 172/10, paras 8-11; CL 172/PV/6; CL 172/PV/9

³² CL 172/15; CL 172/10, paras 27-31; CL 172/PV/6; CL 172/PV/9

Council Reports, as amended by the CCLM, and reproduced in *Appendix E* to the Report, to the 43rd Session of the Conference for adoption.

39. The Council appreciated the oral update provided by the ICC regarding his consultations with the Membership on the participation of private sector observers in sessions of the FAO Governing Bodies.

40. The Council looked forward to receiving an information note addressing questions, remarks, calendar, and observations raised by Members, and requested the ICC to consult thereon.

41. The Council took note of the status of implementation of decisions taken at its 171st Session.

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42. The Council received briefing notes on the following topics for information only:

- a) Digitalization in the Spotlight;
- b) Ninth Session of the Governing Body of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture; and
- c) The Second International Forum of the Water Scarcity in Agriculture (WASAG) and the adoption of the “Praia Call for Action”.

43. The Council approved the Calendar of FAO Governing Bodies for 2023-2024, as reproduced in *Appendix F* to this Report.

44. The Council endorsed the Tentative Agenda of its 173rd Session as contained in document CL 172/INF/2, taking into account the decisions of this Council.

45. The Council took note of the information provided on the Five Years of Action for the Development of Mountain Regions.

³³ CL 172/10, paras 18 and 19; CL 172/PV/6; CL 172/PV/9

³⁴ CL 172/LIM/3; CL 172/PV/7; CL 172/PV/9

³⁵ CL 172/INF/4; CL 172/INF/4 WAs 1-3; CL 172/PV/7; CL 172/PV/9

³⁶ CL 172/LIM/1; CL 172/PV/7; CL 172/PV/9

³⁷ CL 172/INF/2; CL 172/PV/7; CL 172/PV/9

³⁸ CL 172/PV/8; CL 172/PV/9

Appendix A

Agenda for the 172nd 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. Medium Term Plan 2022-25 (Reviewed) and Programme of Work and Budget (2024-25)
4. Mid-term Review Synthesis Report – 2022
5. Global food security challenges and its drivers: conflicts and wars in Ukraine and other countries, slowdowns and downturns, and climate change
 - 5.1 Sustainable global food supply chains: comprehensive implementation of UN-brokered two Istanbul Agreements signed on July 2022 (known as Black Sea Grain Initiative) for maintaining global food security and nutrition for all
6. The impact of the war in Ukraine on global food security and related matters under the mandate of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)
7. Update on the Hand-in-Hand Initiative

Reports of the Committees of the Council

8. Report of the Joint Meeting of the 135th Session of the Programme Committee and 195th Session of the Finance Committee (March 2023)
9. Reports of the 135th Session (Rome, 13-17 March 2023) and 136th (Special) Session (Rome, 18 April 2023) of the Programme Committee
10. Report of the 195th Session of the Finance Committee (Rome, 13-17 March 2023)
 - 10.1 Status of Contributions and Arrears
 - 10.2 Scale of Contributions 2024-25
11. Report of the 118th Session of the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters (Rome, 6-8 March 2023)

Committee on World Food Security

12. Report of the 50th Session of the Committee on World Food Security (10-13 October and 19 December 2022)

Appendix B

List of Documents

CL 172/1 Rev.2	Provisional Agenda
CL 172/5	Global food security challenges and its drivers: conflicts and wars in Ukraine and other countries, slowdowns and downturns, and climate change
CL 172/7	Report of the Joint Meeting of the 135th Session of the Programme Committee and 195th Session of the Finance Committee (Rome, 13 and 15 March 2023)
CL 172/8	Report of the 135th Session of the Programme Committee (Rome, 13-17 March 2023)
CL 172/9	Report of the 195th Session of the Finance Committee (Rome, 13-17 March 2023)
CL 172/10	Report of the 118th Session of the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters (Rome, 6-8 March 2023)
CL 172/12 Rev.1	Address by candidates for the post of Director-General
CL 172/13 Rev.1	Arrangements for the 43rd Session of the Conference (1-7 July 2023)
CL 172/14	Restoration by the Conference of the voting rights of Member Nations in arrears in the payment of their financial contributions to the Organization
CL 172/15	Draft Voluntary Code of Conduct for Voting procedures under Rule XII of the General Rules of the Organization as referred to in the Conference and Council Reports
CL 172/16	Report of the 136th (Special) Session of the Programme Committee (Rome, 18 April 2023)
C 2023 Series	
C 2023/3	Medium Term Plan (reviewed) 2022-25 and Programme of Work and Budget 2024-25
C 2023/3 WA 11	Web Annex 11: Cost increase methodology and estimates
C 2023/3 Inf. Note 1	Medium Term Plan (reviewed) 2022-25 and Programme of Work and Budget 2024-25 – Information Note 1 – April 2023 – PWB 2024-25 Information Note on Budgetary Scenarios
C 2023/3 Inf. Note 2	Medium Term Plan (reviewed) 2022-25 and Programme of Work and Budget 2024-25 – Information Note 2 – April 2023 – PWB 2024-25 Information Note on Budgetary Scenarios
C 2023/3 Inf. Note 3	Medium Term Plan (reviewed) 2022-25 and Programme of Work and Budget 2024-25 – Information Note 3 – April 2023 – Sources and purposes of voluntary funding in the Programme of Work and Budget 2024-25

C 2023/7	Appointment of the Director-General (Note by the Secretary-General of the Conference and Council)
C 2023/7 Add. 1	Appointment of the Director-General (Note by the Secretary-General of the Conference and Council) - Addendum 1
C 2023/7 Add. 2	Appointment of the Director-General (Note by the Secretary-General of the Conference and Council) - Addendum 2
C 2023/21	Report of the 50th Session of the Committee on World Food Security (10-13 October and 19 December 2022)

CL 172 INF Series

CL 172/INF/1	Provisional Timetable
CL 172/INF/2	Tentative Agenda for the 173rd Session of the Council
CL 172/INF/3	Statement of competence and voting rights submitted by the European Union and its Member States
CL 172/INF/4	Developments in fora of importance for the mandate of FAO
CL 172/INF/4 WA1	Web Annex 1: Digitalization in the Spotlight
CL 172/INF/4 WA 2	Web Annex 2: The Ninth Session of the Governing Body of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture
CL 172/INF/4 WA 3	Web Annex 3: The Second International Forum of the Water Scarcity in Agriculture (WASAG) and the adoption of the “Praia Call for Action”
CL 172/INF/5	Special Procedures for the 172nd Session of the Council
CL 172/INF/5 Corr.1	Special Procedures for the 172nd Session of the Council – Corrigendum
CL 172/INF/6	Update on the Hand-in-Hand Initiative
CL 172/INF/7	Proposals for decision from the United States of America for the conclusions of Items 5 and 6 of the Provisional Agenda
CL 172/INF/8	Proposals for decision from the Russian Federation for the conclusions of Items 5 and 6 of the Provisional Agenda

CL 172 LIM Series

CL 172/LIM/1	Calendar of FAO Governing Bodies and other Main Sessions 2023-2024
CL 172/LIM/2	Status of current assessments and arrears as at 17 April 2023
CL 172/LIM/3	Status of implementation of decisions taken at the 171st Session of the Council (5-9 December 2022)

Other Documents

List of Delegates and Observers

**CL 172/ Report for
Adoption**

Report of Plenary for Adoption

CL 172 PV Series

CL 172/PV/1 to

Verbatim Records of Plenary

CL 172/PV/9

CL 172 OD Series

CL 172/OD/1 to

Orders of the Day

CL 172/OD/5

Appendix C

Draft Resolution for the Conference Scale of Contributions 2024-25

THE CONFERENCE

Having noted the recommendations of the Hundred and Seventy-second Session of the Council;

Confirming that as in the past, FAO should follow the United Nations Scale of Assessments subject to adaptation for the different membership of FAO;

1. **Decides** that the FAO Scale of Contributions for 2024-25 should be derived directly from the United Nations Scale of Assessments in force during 2023;
2. **Adopts** for use in 2024 and 2025 the Scale as set out in the Annex of this report.

(2022-23 Scale shown for comparative purposes)

Member Nation	Proposed Scale¹ 2024-25	Actual Scale² 2022-23
Afghanistan	0.006	0.007
Albania	0.008	0.008
Algeria	0.109	0.138
Andorra	0.005	0.005
Angola	0.010	0.010
Antigua and Barbuda	0.002	0.002
Argentina	0.719	0.915
Armenia	0.007	0.007
Australia	2.111	2.210
Austria	0.679	0.677
Azerbaijan	0.030	0.049
Bahamas	0.019	0.018
Bahrain	0.054	0.050
Bangladesh	0.010	0.010
Barbados	0.008	0.007
Belarus	0.041	0.049
Belgium	0.828	0.821
Belize	0.001	0.001
Benin	0.005	0.003
Bhutan	0.001	0.001
Bolivia (Plurinational State of)	0.019	0.016
Bosnia and Herzegovina	0.012	0.012

¹ Derived directly from the UN Scale of Assessments for 2022-2024 as adopted by General Assembly resolution 76/238 of 24 December 2021.

² Derived directly from the UN Scale of Assessments for 2019-2021 as adopted by General Assembly resolution 73/271 of 22 December 2018.

Botswana	0.015	0.014
Brazil	2.013	2.949
Brunei Darussalam	0.021	0.025
Bulgaria	0.056	0.046
Burkina Faso	0.004	0.003
Burundi	0.001	0.001
Cabo Verde	0.001	0.001
Cambodia	0.007	0.006
Cameroon	0.013	0.013
Canada	2.629	2.734
Central African Republic	0.001	0.001
Chad	0.003	0.004
Chile	0.420	0.407
China	15.256	12.006
Colombia	0.246	0.288
Comoros	0.001	0.001
Congo	0.005	0.006
Cook Islands	0.001	0.001
Costa Rica	0.069	0.062
Côte d'Ivoire	0.022	0.013
Croatia	0.091	0.077
Cuba	0.095	0.080
Cyprus	0.036	0.036
Czechia	0.340	0.311
Democratic People's Republic of Korea	0.005	0.006
Democratic Republic of the Congo	0.010	0.010
Denmark	0.553	0.554
Djibouti	0.001	0.001
Dominica	0.001	0.001
Dominican Republic	0.067	0.053
Ecuador	0.077	0.080
Egypt	0.139	0.186
El Salvador	0.013	0.012
Equatorial Guinea	0.012	0.016
Eritrea	0.001	0.001
Estonia	0.044	0.039
Eswatini	0.002	0.002
Ethiopia	0.010	0.010
Fiji	0.004	0.003
Finland	0.417	0.421
France	4.319	4.428
Gabon	0.013	0.015
Gambia	0.001	0.001
Georgia	0.008	0.008
Germany	6.112	6.091
Ghana	0.024	0.015
Greece	0.325	0.366
Grenada	0.001	0.001
Guatemala	0.041	0.036
Guinea	0.003	0.003

Guinea-Bissau	0.001	0.001
Guyana	0.004	0.002
Haiti	0.006	0.003
Honduras	0.009	0.009
Hungary	0.228	0.206
Iceland	0.036	0.028
India	1.044	0.834
Indonesia	0.549	0.543
Iran (Islamic Republic of)	0.371	0.398
Iraq	0.128	0.129
Ireland	0.439	0.371
Israel	0.561	0.490
Italy	3.190	3.308
Jamaica	0.008	0.008
Japan	8.034	8.565
Jordan	0.022	0.021
Kazakhstan	0.133	0.178
Kenya	0.030	0.024
Kiribati	0.001	0.001
Kuwait	0.234	0.252
Kyrgyzstan	0.002	0.002
Lao People's Democratic Republic	0.007	0.005
Latvia	0.050	0.047
Lebanon	0.036	0.047
Lesotho	0.001	0.001
Liberia	0.001	0.001
Libya	0.018	0.030
Lithuania	0.077	0.071
Luxembourg	0.068	0.067
Madagascar	0.004	0.004
Malawi	0.002	0.002
Malaysia	0.348	0.341
Maldives	0.004	0.004
Mali	0.005	0.004
Malta	0.019	0.017
Marshall Islands	0.001	0.001
Mauritania	0.002	0.002
Mauritius	0.019	0.011
Mexico	1.221	1.292
Micronesia (Federated States of)	0.001	0.001
Monaco	0.011	0.011
Mongolia	0.004	0.005
Montenegro	0.004	0.004
Morocco	0.055	0.055
Mozambique	0.004	0.004
Myanmar	0.010	0.010
Namibia	0.009	0.009
Nauru	0.001	0.001
Nepal	0.010	0.007
Netherlands (Kingdom of the)	1.377	1.356

New Zealand	0.309	0.291
Nicaragua	0.005	0.005
Niger	0.003	0.002
Nigeria	0.182	0.250
Niue	0.001	0.001
North Macedonia	0.007	0.007
Norway	0.679	0.754
Oman	0.111	0.115
Pakistan	0.114	0.115
Palau	0.001	0.001
Panama	0.090	0.045
Papua New Guinea	0.010	0.010
Paraguay	0.026	0.016
Peru	0.163	0.152
Philippines	0.212	0.205
Poland	0.837	0.802
Portugal	0.353	0.350
Qatar	0.269	0.282
Republic of Korea	2.574	2.267
Republic of Moldova	0.005	0.003
Romania	0.312	0.198
Russian Federation	1.866	2.405
Rwanda	0.003	0.003
Saint Kitts and Nevis	0.002	0.001
Saint Lucia	0.002	0.001
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	0.001	0.001
Samoa	0.001	0.001
San Marino	0.002	0.002
Sao Tome and Principe	0.001	0.001
Saudi Arabia	1.184	1.172
Senegal	0.007	0.007
Serbia	0.032	0.028
Seychelles	0.002	0.002
Sierra Leone	0.001	0.001
Singapore	0.504	0.485
Slovakia	0.155	0.153
Slovenia	0.079	0.076
Solomon Islands	0.001	0.001
Somalia	0.001	0.001
South Africa	0.244	0.272
South Sudan	0.002	0.006
Spain	2.134	2.146
Sri Lanka	0.045	0.044
Sudan	0.010	0.010
Suriname	0.003	0.005
Sweden	0.871	0.906
Switzerland	1.134	1.151
Syrian Arab Republic	0.009	0.011
Tajikistan	0.003	0.004
Thailand	0.368	0.307

Timor-Leste	0.001	0.002
Togo	0.002	0.002
Tonga	0.001	0.001
Trinidad and Tobago	0.037	0.040
Tunisia	0.019	0.025
Türkiye	0.845	1.371
Turkmenistan	0.034	0.033
Tuvalu	0.001	0.001
Uganda	0.010	0.008
Ukraine	0.056	0.057
United Arab Emirates	0.635	0.616
United Kingdom	4.376	4.568
United Republic of Tanzania	0.010	0.010
United States of America	22.000	22.000
Uruguay	0.092	0.087
Uzbekistan	0.027	0.032
Vanuatu	0.001	0.001
Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)	0.175	0.728
Viet Nam	0.093	0.077
Yemen	0.008	0.010
Zambia	0.008	0.009
Zimbabwe	0.007	0.005
<hr/>		
Total	100.000	100.000

Appendix D

Draft Resolution for the Conference

Procedures for the restoration by the Conference of the voting rights of Member Nations in arrears in the payment of their financial contributions to the Organization

THE CONFERENCE,

Reaffirming Article III, paragraph 4 and Article XVIII of the Constitution and the obligation of each Member Nation and Associate Member to contribute annually to the Organization its share of the budget, as apportioned by the Conference, and **urging** all Member Nations and Associate Members to pay their assessed contributions in full, on time and without conditions;

Noting the critical liquidity situation of the Regular Programme as a result of delays in the payment of contributions and the continued high level of contributions that remained unpaid from prior years, in particular by major contributors;

Noting that Member Nations are quarterly informed about Member Nations in arrears and that every Member in arrears will be notified two months in advance of the Conference, in accordance with Rule XXXVIII, paragraph 2(j) of the General Rules of the Organization;

Acknowledging the necessity of maintaining sufficient cash flow to cover obligations and ensure implementation of the approved Programme of Work;

Acknowledging the need for a more specific procedure for the restoration of voting rights of Member Nations in arrears in the payment of their financial contributions to the Organization in accordance with Article III, paragraph 4, of the Constitution;

1. **Decides** to adopt the procedures as outlined in this Resolution for the restoration of voting rights under Article III, paragraph 4 of the Constitution:
 - a) Member Nations in arrears requesting the restoration of voting rights under Article III, paragraph 4 of the Constitution should provide an explanation of the nature of the conditions beyond the Member Nation's control leading to the failure to pay, and are encouraged to provide:
 - i. the fullest possible supporting information, which may include, where possible, information on economic aggregates, government revenues, and expenditure, foreign exchange resources, indebtedness, difficulties in meeting domestic or international financial obligations;
 - ii. an indication of the measures which will be taken in order to settle the arrears; and
 - iii. any other information that might support the claim that failure to make necessary payments had been attributable to conditions beyond the control of the Member Nations.
 - b) **Requests** applications for the restoration of voting rights under Article III, paragraph 4 of the Constitution to be submitted by Member Nations in writing to the Secretary-General of the Conference preferably two weeks ahead of the session of the Conference concerned, to ensure a complete review of the requests by the General Committee.
 - c) **Requests** applications for the restoration of voting rights under Article III, paragraph 4 of the Constitution to be submitted in writing by the Permanent Representative of the Member Nation or the designated *chargé d'affaires*, or the responsible minister of the government of the Member Nation as defined by Rule III, paragraph 2 of the General Rules of the Organization.
 - d) Member Nations in arrears who wish to reschedule the payment of their arrears as part of an arrangement to have their voting rights restored should submit with their request in writing to the Director-General a written payment plan.
 - e) The payment plan as referred to in sub-paragraph 1, d) should include the following information:

-
- i. the total amount due, including the current year's assessment;
 - ii. the period over which payment is proposed;
 - iii. the minimum amount of payment that the Member Nation intends to make each year;
 - iv. the date and the amount of the first payment;
 - v. an indication of whether the Member Nation expects to request approval from the Director-General to make the payment in local currency, in accordance with the Financial Regulations and rules, and with relevant resolutions of the Conference; and
 - vi. a commitment from the Member Nation to pay its future assessed contributions in full and on time and in accordance with the Financial Regulations.
2. **Requests** FAO to continue to maintain a publicly accessible, exhaustive and up-to-date information section on the FAO website reflecting the status of payment of assessed contributions.
 3. **Requests** the Director-General to include the present Resolution in the notification which is sent to Member Nations in arrears two months in advance of the Conference, as well as publish it on the website of FAO and in an Information Note for the Conference.

Appendix E

Draft Resolution for the Conference

Draft Voluntary Code of Conduct for Voting procedures under Rule XII of the General Rules of the Organization as referred to in the Conference and Council Reports¹

I. Introduction

1. This Voluntary Code of Conduct for voting procedures under Rule XII of the General Rules of the Organization (the “Code”) aims at promoting open, fair, equitable, and transparent voting procedures during the election for the office of Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (“FAO” or “the Organization”) in accordance with the Basic Texts of the Organization (“the Basic Texts”), including the General Rules of the Organization (“GRO”).

II. Status and scope of the Code

2. The Code is an understanding reached by the Member Nations of FAO. It recommends desirable behaviour by Member Nations and candidates nominated by the Member Nations regarding the election of the Director-General of the Organization in order to increase the fairness, credibility, openness, and transparency of the process. Consequently, this Code is of a voluntary nature and is not legally binding. Member Nations and candidates are nevertheless expected to honour its contents.

3. The Code does not amend the *Basic Texts* and, in case of any ambiguity or inconsistency, the *Basic Texts* prevail.

III. General principles

4. The entire election process, including electoral campaign activities, should be guided by the *Basic Texts*, relevant decisions of the Conference, and the following principles:

- fairness,
- equity,
- openness and transparency,
- sovereignty,
- good faith,
- dignity, mutual respect, and moderation,
- non-discrimination, and
- merit.

5. Member Nations and the FAO Secretariat should make this Code publicly known and easily accessible, including through relevant channels of communication of the Organization, such as the FAO Members Gateway.

IV. Rights, obligations and responsibilities

6. Member Nations recognize the rights, obligations, and authorities established in the *Basic Texts* and decisions of the Conference.

¹ CL 162/REP, paragraph 7; CL 163/2 paragraphs 6-8; CL 163/REP, paragraph 12; CL 164/2 paragraphs 8-11; CL 164/REP, paragraph 20 (a); CL 165/REP, paragraph 23 (a); CL 166/REP, paragraph 42; C 2021/REP, paragraph 71; CL 167/REP, paragraph 11 (b); CL 168/REP, paragraph 34; CL 170/REP, paragraph 49; CL 171/REP, paragraphs 46 and 47.

7. The Code does not amend the Basic Texts that constitute the sole references governing election processes at FAO.

8. The Code applies to the voting procedures or proceedings during the election of the FAO Director-General.

A. Members and Candidates

9. Member Nations acknowledge that the process for the election of the Director-General, more specifically with regard to the voting procedure, should be fair, open, transparent, and equitable.

B. Employees of FAO

10. Employees of FAO, especially those involved in supporting the voting procedures, have the duties and obligations under Article VIII of the Constitution, to respect the principles of integrity, impartiality, and independence with respect to all candidates for the post of Director-General of FAO.

11. The same employees of FAO are also subject to obligations under the Staff Regulations and the Standards of Conduct for the International Civil Service, including obligations of confidentiality.

12. Any actions or behaviour inconsistent with the above-mentioned obligations should be addressed in accordance with the administrative rules and procedures, including disciplinary procedures, applicable to the employee concerned.

V. The vote

13. Member Nations should abide strictly by the Basic Texts and should respect the integrity, legitimacy, and dignity of the voting proceedings. As such, delegates and candidates should avoid behaviours and actions, both inside and outside the plenary hall that could be perceived as aiming at influencing the outcome of the voting proceedings.

14. An Elections Officer will be appointed by the Director-General for the Conference Session who is responsible for ensuring adherence to the provisions of the Basic Texts during the voting and electoral procedure (GRO Rule XII, paragraph 16).

15. The Elections Officer and all FAO personnel involved in the voting procedure are subject to the obligations of impartiality, neutrality and confidentiality set out at paragraphs above. Any failure to adhere to these obligations will result in the initiation of administrative processes, which may include disciplinary processes.

A. The complete Secrecy of the Ballot

16. Member Nations should respect the confidentiality of the proceedings and abide by the procedures to ensure the complete secrecy of the ballot.

17. They should refrain from communicating or broadcasting the proceedings during the conduct of the vote.

18. The Secretary-General should remind delegates of the importance of complete secrecy of the ballot and request them to refrain from any action which may tend to undermine the complete secrecy of the ballot, including the display of filled ballot papers during the conduct of the vote. The Secretary-General should also remind all those responsible for the supervision of any vote by complete secret ballot of the requirement not to disclose to any unauthorized person any information which might tend, or be presumed to tend, towards destroying the complete secrecy of the ballot.

19. Voters should best leave their recording devices, including but not limited to cameras, mobile phones, or smartwatches, outside of the voting area or the room where counting is conducted.

20. Any delegate or Secretariat employee participating in the supervision of the count of the vote should leave any electronic record devices outside the room or area where the count is to take place. This requirement may be enforced by any means deemed appropriate by the Elections Officer.

21. The above measures are without prejudice to any further arrangements that the Conference may consider necessary to ensure that the results of ballots remain undisclosed until the formal announcement of the outcome of the ballot.

B. Arrangements for voting, transparency of the vote

22. Access to the voting area will be limited to tellers, scrutineers, electors, and Secretariat employees who are directly involved in supporting the electoral process.

1. Voting Booths

23. As provided in Rule XII, paragraph 10(e), one or more voting booths shall be set up, supervised in such a manner as to ensure complete secrecy of the ballot.

24. The voting area should be arranged, and be sufficiently separated from plenary or other accessible spaces so that observation of the votes being cast by those outside the voting area is prevented.

25. The booths in the voting area should be visible to representatives during the vote.

26. In accordance with established practice, and in light of its mandate to supervise and coordinate all preparatory work for Conference sessions under Rule XXIV, paragraph 5(c), the Council could make recommendations to the Conference on arrangements, including arrangements to ensure complete secrecy of the ballot, taking into consideration the other good practices and booths used in the broader UN System.

2. Tellers

27. The Chairperson of the Conference will appoint two tellers from among the delegates who are not parties directly interested in the election. The duties of the tellers are to supervise the balloting procedure, count the ballot papers, decide on the validity of a ballot paper in any case of doubt, and certify the result of each ballot (GRO Rule XII, paragraph 10(c)).

28. The tellers should be chosen in a fair and impartial manner. Member Nations should not attempt to influence the teller selection.

29. The duties of the tellers should be considered independent and separate from their role as delegates or representatives, or their alternates. The tellers should perform their duties in a manner that is strictly impartial and neutral. They should refrain from any actions or behaviour which may influence electors to vote for or against a candidate. Tellers should not attempt to discover the intention or choice of an elector.

30. The tellers should have unimpeded access to the voting area and counting room at all times in order to visually confirm that proper procedures are followed.

31. Tellers should preserve the secrecy of the ballot and should not disclose the outcome of a ballot to any unauthorized person before the formal announcement of the results by the Chairperson.

32. At the beginning of the Conference, the tellers will be offered a briefing by the Secretariat on duties to be carried out.

3. Scrutineers

33. A candidate or a scrutineer appointed by a candidate may attend the count of the votes (GRO Rule XII, paragraph 10 (g)). Each candidate must provide the name of his/her scrutineer in advance of the Conference Session.

34. Candidates or scrutineers appointed by them may only observe the counting process. They do not take part in the count.

35. Candidates and scrutineers should preserve the secrecy of the ballot and should not disclose the outcome of the count to any unauthorized person before the formal announcement of the results by the Chairperson.

C. Casting and counting of the vote

36. The Chairperson of the Conference and the tellers shall satisfy themselves that the ballot box is empty and, having locked it, the tellers shall hand the key to the Elections Officer.
37. Delegations shall be called in turn to cast their vote by the Secretary of the Conference, in English alphabetical order of the names of the Member Nations.
38. When their names are called, delegations shall proceed to the voting area, receive the ballot paper and put their ballot paper in the ballot box.
39. To indicate the recording of each Member's vote, the Secretary of the Conference and one of the tellers shall sign or initial the list in the margin opposite the name of the Member in question.
40. At the conclusion of the calling, the Chairperson of the Conference shall declare the ballot closed and announce that the votes are to be counted.
41. In accordance with GRO Rule XII.10 (g) the tellers count the votes in the meeting, in the presence and under the gaze of Member Nations. Should the tellers withdraw from the presence of the delegates or representatives in order to carry out the count of the votes, only the candidates or scrutineers appointed by the candidates may attend the count, but they shall not take part in the count, and the Conference may decide that the representatives of the Member Nations have the possibility to witness the counting virtually.
42. When the Elections Officer has opened the ballot box, the tellers shall check the number of envelopes. If the number is greater or less than that of the voters, the Chairperson of the Conference shall be informed and shall then declare the vote invalid and announce that it is necessary to re-open the ballot.
43. One of the tellers shall read aloud what is written on the ballot paper, and pass it to the other teller. The votes inscribed on the ballot papers shall be entered on lists prepared for that purpose.
44. When the counting of the votes is completed, the Chairperson of the Conference shall announce the results of the ballot in the following order:
- number of Member Nations entitled to vote at the Session;
 - number absent;
 - number of abstentions;
 - number of invalid ballot papers;
 - number of votes recorded;
 - number of votes constituting the required majority;
 - number of votes for the candidates and number of votes secured by each of them, in descending order of the number of votes.
45. The Chairperson of the Conference shall announce the decision resulting from the vote.
46. The lists on which the tellers have recorded the results of the vote shall, after signature by the Chairperson of the Conference, the Elections Officer, and by the tellers, constitute the official record of the ballot, and shall be deposited in the archives of the Organization.

VI. Voluntary adherence to the Code

47. Member Nations and candidates are encouraged to observe and respect this Code. Personnel of the Secretariat are obliged to adhere to their contractual obligations, as set out herein.

VII. Review of the Code

48. The Code and Procedures outlined in this code, including its application to other secret ballot elections, may be reviewed by the Conference upon request of the Council.

Appendix F

Calendar of FAO Governing Bodies and other Main Sessions 2023-2024

	2023		2024	
JANUARY				
FEBRUARY	IFAD/GC WFP*	13-17 27/2-2/3	37 NERC (SOM) IFAD/GC 37 APRC WFP	5-8 12-16 19-23 26/2-1/3
MARCH	118 CCLM 195 FC 135 PC	6-8 13-17 13-17	37 NERC (MM) (cont'd) 38 LARC 120 CCLM	4-5 18-22 25-27
APRIL	136 PC* 172 CL	18 24-28	8 INARC 33 ARC IFAD/EB	2-4 15-19 22-26
MAY	IFAD/EB	8-12	34 ERC 199 FC 138 PC* 200 FC (WFP)	13-17 20-24 20-24 29-31
JUNE	196 FC (WFP) WFP	5-7 26-30	175 CL WFP	10-14 17-21
JULY	43 C 173 CL 19 CGRFA*	1-7 10 17-21	36 COFI 27 COFO	8-12 22-26
AUGUST				
SEPTEMBER	IFAD/EB	18-22	76 CCP IFAD/EB 29 COAG	11-13 16-20 30/9-4/10
OCTOBER	119 CCLM* WFD WFF 51 CFS 197 FC (WFP)	9-11 16 (Monday) 17-20 23-27 30-31	WFF WFD 52 CFS 121 CCLM	14-18 16 (Wednesday) 21-25 28-30
NOVEMBER	198 FC 137 PC* WFP 46 CODEX (Rome)	6-10 6-10 13-17 27/11-2/12	201 FC (WFP) 202 FC 139 PC* WFP 47 CODEX (Geneva)	4-5 11-15 11-15 18-22 25-29
DECEMBER	174 CL IFAD/EB	4-8 11-15	176 CL IFAD/EB	2-6 9-13

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

Easter: 31 March 2024
Orthodox Easter: 5 May 2024
Ramadan: 10 March – 8 April 2024
Eid Al-Fitr: 9 April 2024
Eid Al-Adha: 17 June 2024

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	WFF	World Food Forum
		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 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 (Mr Esala Nayasi)

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

WFP EXECUTIVE BOARD 2023

Term of office expiring

31 December 2023

Elected by FAO Council

Argentina (C)^{1,2}
Guatemala (C)³
Hungary (E)
Ireland (D)⁴
Italy (D)⁴
Morocco (A)

Elected by ECOSOC

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

31 December 2024

Bangladesh (B)⁵
Kuwait (B)⁶
Netherlands (D)
Peru (C)
Senegal (A)
United States of America (D)

France (D)
Ghana (A)
India (B)
Republic of Korea (B)
Russian Federation (E)
Sweden (D)

31 December 2025

Brazil (C)
Canada (D)
Gabon (A)⁷
Germany (D)
Kenya (A)
Saudi Arabia (B)

Australia (D)
Ethiopia (A)
Iran (Islamic Republic of) (B)
Mauritania (A)
Panama (C)
Spain (D)

¹ Rotating seat occupied by a country of List C (2021-2023) held by Argentina.

² Argentina replaced Guatemala from 1 January 2022 having reached an agreement to share an FAO Council-elected seat.

³ 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.

⁴ Denmark and Norway respectively reached an agreement with Ireland and Italy to share an FAO Council-elected seat, with Ireland and Italy serving in 2023.

⁵ 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.

⁶ 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.

⁷ Gabon and Chad reached an agreement to share an FAO Council-elected seat, with Gabon serving from 1 January 2023 until 30 June 2024 and Chad occupying the seat from 1 July 2024 until 31 December 2025.

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
Bangladesh	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	Madagascar	Switzerland
Congo	Malawi	Syrian Arab Republic
Cook Islands	Malaysia	Tajikistan
Costa Rica	Maldives	Thailand
Côte d'Ivoire	Mali	Timor-Leste
Croatia	Malta	Togo
Cuba	Marshall Islands	Tokelau
Cyprus	Mauritania	(Associate Member)
Czechia	Mauritius	Tonga
Democratic People's Republic of Korea	Mexico	Trinidad and Tobago
Democratic Republic of the Congo	Micronesia	Tunisia
Denmark	(Federated States of)	Türkiye
Djibouti	Monaco	Turkmenistan
Dominica	Mongolia	Tuvalu
Dominican Republic	Montenegro	Uganda
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 (Kingdom of the)	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	