

**CL 166/13 – Information Note 2 – April 2021**  
**Special procedures for alternative Voting Modalities**

**Introduction**

1. This Note presents, below, elements that could be reflected in a decision by the 42<sup>nd</sup> Session of the Conference with respect to decision-making during that Conference to be convened in virtual modality.
2. It will be necessary for the Conference to adopt some exceptional, special processes, in order to conduct its business in virtual modality. The nature of those special processes would need to be decided by the Conference.
3. This Note, presented in a form which could be adapted or incorporated in a draft decision addresses, firstly, the conduct of a secret ballot through an on-line voting system, physical in-person voting by appointment, a hybrid combination of the former two options, and a postal ballot. Thereafter, the Note addresses the rules that could be applied in a ballot conducted by post.

Possible Elements of a Draft Decision

**PROCEDURE FOR VOTING AT THE 42<sup>ND</sup> SESSION OF THE CONFERENCE**

Reaffirming that the procedures of the Conference are governed by the provisions of the FAO Basic Texts, including the General Rules of the Organization;

Recalling the unprecedented limitations caused by the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic;

Reaffirming that the Conference shall, as a rule and in accordance with established practice, always meet in person, and recognizing that the exception to this practice is made only in the most extraordinary circumstances;

1. Decides that decision-making during the 42<sup>nd</sup> Session of the Conference shall follow the FAO Basic Texts, except as set out in the present decision;
2. Confirms that, where provided in the Basic Texts that elections may be determined by general consent as provided in Rule XII, 10(a), such processes shall apply;
3. Decides, for the conduct of a secret ballot, that:

**a. For voting through an electronic system**

- i. For the purposes of voting in the electronic online system, the delegate identified in credentials submitted in accordance with Rule III and who has received the authentication code shall be counted as present and/or place the vote for the purposes of Rule XII-2 and Rule XII-3 within the electronic voting system;

- ii. Processes set out in Rule XII-10 shall be conducted within the electronic environment and references to booths, ballot papers and other documentary records shall be deemed to refer to voting procedures and electronic records stored in the electronic voting system;

**b. For voting in-person through physical secret ballot**

- i. The procedures under Rule XII-10 paragraphs (a), (d), (e), (f) and (g) shall be conducted by appointment at one of the three locations, which are in FAO Headquarters, the FAO Liaison Office in New York and the FAO Liaison Office in Geneva.
- ii. For the purpose of Rule XII-10 (g), the count of the votes at the location outside of FAO Headquarters will be supervised through the presence of tellers and scrutineers at the FAO Liaison Office in New York and the FAO Liaison Office in Geneva as well as by video-link from the FAO Headquarters location.
- iii. The outcome of the votes shall be the sum of votes validly made from the three locations.

**c. For simultaneous in-person and electronic voting procedures**

- i. The provisions set out under paragraphs a. and b. above shall apply;
- ii. The elections officer designated pursuant to Rule XII-16 shall be responsible for the coordination of the parallel processes and consolidation of the outcomes;

**d. For voting by postal ballot**

- i. All rules related to the conduct of the vote using voting booths are replaced by the recording of ballot papers received and their verification under the supervision of the tellers at the Organization's Headquarters in accordance with Rule XII-10.

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