

## 164<sup>th</sup> Session of the Council

### Written Correspondence Procedure – inputs from Members - (English version)

#### Item 12, Calendar of FAO Governing Bodies and other Main Sessions 2020-21

Member Name	Comments
United States (Wed 01/07/2020 13:23)	Notified that it does not have any written feedback regarding this item.
Costa Rica (Wed 01/07/2020 09:00)	<p>With reference to document CL 164/LIM/1 <i>Calendar of FAO Governing Bodies and other Main Sessions 2020-21</i>, Costa Rica would like to make the following points: Costa Rica thanks the Secretariat for drafting document CL 164/LIM/1, which has been amended owing to the disruption caused by the Covid-19 pandemic to the implementation of the Organization's activities. We would like to emphasize the provisional nature of the schedule in the proposed document. It is this delegation's understanding that the dates of the meetings in Appendix A may be further modified as the health situation evolves in the places where the meetings have been scheduled. Indeed, rather than meeting in person, meetings may be held using different methods, subject to the wishes and agreement of the Member States.</p> <p>Finally, with respect to the scheduling of the regional conferences, we respectfully remind you that the Organization should not request the opinion of the ministries of agriculture directly; given the hierarchical significance and level of these meetings, the request should instead be sent via the ministries of foreign affairs.</p>
Kuwait (Thu 02/07/2020 14:56)	<p>We would like to draw your kind attention to the discrepancies of the date set for the Regional Conference for the Near East (NERC) from 24 to 26 August 2020 as indicated in the Council document CL164/LIM/1, whereas the document CL164/INF/2 has proposed another date for NERC from 2 to 4 November 2020.</p> <p>As you may know, the ongoing consultations among the concerned parties have not yet reached a consensus on the convenient date to hold the NERC. Therefore, you are kindly requested to inform us in advance of the deadline for the convening of the said conference.</p> <p>Furthermore, we invite the Secretariat to take into consideration, the eventual postponement of NERC before the Council can take its decision on agenda item 12.</p> <p>Thank you once again for the kind cooperation.</p>
Russian Federation (Thu 02/07/2020 16:28)	<p>In general we agree with the revised Calendar of FAO Governing Bodies and other Main Sessions for 2020-2021 (document CL 164/LIM/1) with the understanding that all new dates are proposed tentatively in light of the ongoing uncertainties around the COVID-19 situation. It is obvious that these new dates may be subject to change as a result of consultation processes with the relevant stakeholders.</p> <p>However, we have noticed the tight concentration of the upcoming sessions, especially for the next September and October. In this regard we kindly request FAO Secretariat to make all necessary steps to avoid overlaps of FAO, IFAD and WFP main meetings which are definitely of interest to Member States. It is also crucial to distribute the workload evenly throughout the period 2020-2021.</p>

	<p>Considering the format of upcoming events, particularly those that require decision-making processes on the issues of substance, our strong preference is to have «face-to-face» in person meetings to the extent possible. That is why we welcome the «hybrid» proposal to postpone the official decision-making 47th session of the Committee on World Food Security (CFS47) till February 2021, while using the October's time slot for informal CFS high-level special events. In the same vein, we would be pleased to get more clarity on the dates, format and venue of the 43rd session of the Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC43), (according to CL 164/LIM/1, it is divided in two segments: one 24-25 September 2020, second 12 October 2020).</p>
<p>Australia (SWP representative) (Thu 02/07/2020 17:09)</p>	<p>We welcome the FAO's strong, flexible and agile response to the COVID-19 pandemic and recognise that FAO Management have worked hard to minimise the impact of the pandemic on the 2020-2021 calendar as much as possible while ensuring the safety of everyone.</p> <p>We remain flexible to the working methods employed to progress these important meetings under these extenuating circumstances which include ongoing lock down measures and travel restrictions across the globe.</p> <p>To the best extent practicable, we ask that decisions about dates and modalities be made and communicated to Members in a timely manner, particularly in relation to Regional Conferences. This will allow appropriate arrangements to be made to maximise attendance including by Ministerial-level delegates.</p>
<p>Brazil (Fri 03/07/2020 15:43)</p>	<p>Brazil believes the Technical Committees are extremely important decision-making fora, which bring together national experts and high-level authorities on each area in order to provide specialized advice to FAO. We understand the pandemic is unfolding in a quite unpredictable way and that convening those meetings is crucial to the continuity of FAO's work. However, we have noted very different approaches in rescheduling COFO, COFI and CCP. While the first one was rescheduled to the beginning of October, right after COAG, the others have been postponed to 2021. We would like to ask for clarification on the rationale behind that. Assuming both COAG e COFO are going to meet virtually, we propose considering reducing their agenda to urgent items, adopting written correspondence in some cases and sharing all presentations beforehand, as it has been done for this session of the Council. The same could be considered regarding the procedures for regional conferences, which have been rescheduled for September and October.</p>
<p>United Kingdom (Fri 03/07/2020 16:25)</p>	<p>Please can management confirm that the calendar presented in CL164/LIM/1 is the latest version.</p>
<p>Peru (Fri 03/07/2020 17:23)</p>	<p>The document states that the 164th Session of the Council approves changes made to the calendar since its last session. We therefore wish to clarify that this approval would be <b>provisional</b>, given the current status of the COVID-19 pandemic. This is also the case for the 47th Session of the Committee on World Food Security (CFS) to be held from the 8<sup>th</sup> to the 12<sup>th</sup> of February 2021, however the CFS meeting (unnumbered) of October 2020 is maintained. Finally, there is no mention of the programming of the 15th Session of the Commission on Phytosanitary Measures, which was scheduled for April 2020.</p>
<p>Indonesia (Fri 03/07/2020 20:58)</p>	<p>Indonesia welcomes the changes made to the Calendar as it is inevitable due to Covid-19 pandemic. Indonesia requests further information on consultation process for the new dates and also modalities, specifically for <i>Regional Conference</i></p>

	<i>for Asia and the Pacific (APRC)</i> which is planned for 1-4 September 2020 and <i>Committee on Commodity Problems (CCP)</i> on 10 – 12 March 2021.
European Union (07/07/2020 11:06)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The European Union and its 27 Member States thank FAO for the updated calendar for 2020 and 2021 set out in document CL 164/LIM/1, to take account of the COVID-19 crisis.</li> <li>2. Regarding the 32nd session of the European Regional Conference, which has been tentatively rescheduled for 21 to 23 September, we would like to draw attention to the fact that these dates partly coincide with the dates of the September session of the 'Agriculture and Fisheries' Council of the European Union in Brussels.</li> <li>3. The EU and its Member States would therefore have a strong preference for holding the 32nd session of the European Regional Conference at a later stage, from 2 to 4 November 2020.</li> </ol>