

172nd Session of the Council

Written Correspondence Procedure – inputs from Members - Original version

Item 14 – Arrangements for the 43rd Session of the Conference

Member Name	Comments
Argentina (Wednesday, 29 March 2023 – 12.39)	<p>En el marco del procedimiento de comentarios escritos, establecido para abordar temas específicos de la agenda del 172º período de sesiones del Consejo de FAO, la Representación de la República Argentina tiene a bien compartir los siguientes elementos:</p> <p>La Argentina toma nota que, de acuerdo con la decisión adoptada por el Consejo en su 165.º período de sesiones, se han previsto diversas mesas redondas durante el 43.º período de sesiones de la Conferencia de la FAO. Estas mesas redondas tendrían como objetivo fomentar la interacción y el diálogo entre los funcionarios de nivel superior que asistan a la Conferencia y abordar temas relacionados con el mandato de la Organización, en particular en relación con la gestión de los recursos hídricos para lograr mejoras en la producción, nutrición, medio ambiente y calidad de vida, con miras al cumplimiento de la Agenda 2030 y sus Objetivos de Desarrollo Sostenible. En ese sentido, la Argentina una vez más recuerda que el mandato de FAO dentro de la gestión de recursos hídricos se debe enfocar principalmente al indicador 6.4.1 Eficiencia del uso del agua, y 6.4.2 Estrés hídrico, y en plena colaboración con UN Agua cuyo rol es garantizar que las Naciones Unidas "actúen como uno solo" en respuesta a los desafíos relacionados con el agua. Teniendo en cuenta ello, la Argentina tiene la expectativa que las mesas redondas se establezcan teniendo en cuenta esos dos elementos primordiales.</p> <p>Por otro lado, si bien es alentador que se haya previsto este espacio de diálogo e intercambio, es importante tener en cuenta la posibilidad de que las delegaciones más pequeñas puedan tener dificultades para cubrir todos los espacios de participación previstos en la Conferencia de FAO. La FAO es una organización en la que las decisiones se toman por consenso de todos sus miembros, y no solo de aquellos que puedan participar en todas las reuniones.</p> <p>Por lo tanto, sería recomendable considerar la implementación de medidas (como mesas redondas bajo modalidad híbrida) que garanticen la participación equitativa de todas las delegaciones, incluyendo el balance geográfico de moderadores de las mesas redondas. De esta manera, se podría asegurar una representación adecuada y justa en la toma de decisiones y se evitaría que algunas delegaciones se sientan excluidas o marginadas en el proceso.</p> <p>En resumen, aunque es positivo que se estén organizando estas mesas redondas, es importante ser cautelosos en el abordaje del tema a fin de respetar las ventajas comparativas de la FAO y asegurarnos de que todas las delegaciones tengan la oportunidad de participar de manera equitativa y justa para que puedan contribuir de manera efectiva en los debates y la toma de decisiones dentro de la FAO.</p>

<p>Russian Federation (Thursday, 30 March 2023 – 9.31)</p>	<p>The Russian Federation welcomes document CL 172/13 with an overview on the arrangements for the 43rd Session of the Conference and takes note of its tentative agenda. However, we reserve the right to make any additional comments and proposals during the session if needed.</p>
<p>Australia (Thursday, 30 March 2023 – 18.06)</p>	<p>Australia appreciates the information note outlining the arrangements for the 43rd session of the Conference, which will assist Members with their preparations. We welcome the inclusion of the Roundtable discussions that are envisaged to take place at the Conference. We request Management to provide, at the earliest opportunity, further details on the specific topics and their timetabling, together with advice on how Members can nominate senior level officials to participate in the Roundtable to share their expertise and experience. We further request Management to strive towards regional and gender equity in developing panel composition.</p>
<p>Canada (Friday, 31 March 2023 – 9.58)</p>	<p>On behalf of the North American region, we submit the Honourable Madame Marie-Claude Bibeau, Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food, Government of Canada, as candidate for Chairperson of the Conference. In order for the meeting to run smoothly, and in keeping with past practice in Council and other Governing Bodies, Canada would recommend the establishment of time limits for speaker statements (e.g. Members speaking for a region would be allocated six minutes each; Members speaking for their country four minutes each). In order to enable the widest possible Member participation, pre-recorded speaker statements should be welcomed and considered equivalent to statements made in-person.</p>
<p>United States of America (Friday, 31 March 2023 – 16.53)</p>	<p>The United States joins consensus in endorsing the Tentative Timetable for the 43rd Session of the Conference, set out in <i>Appendix A</i> of CL 172/13. The United States will provide to the Secretariat its name(s) for Conference Bureau position(s) as requested, coordinated within the North America Regional Group. The United States takes note of the three proposed “Round Table” discussions in Plenary session “on the General Debate topic and on matters related to the mandate of the Organization.” Can FAO further clarify the topics or titles for each of the three Round Table events, as well as clarify whether the Round Table discussions in Plenary will have associated conclusions in the Conference Report?</p>
<p>European Union (Wednesday, 5 April 2023 – 18.39)</p>	<p>I have the honour to write to you on behalf of the European Union and its 27 Member States. We take note of the arrangements for the 43rd Conference, to which we agree in general terms. We welcome the return to the normal setting – after the changes adopted on an exceptional basis to conduct the 2021 Conference – in full accordance with the rules of procedure. This will allow for conducting a smooth and fruitful Conference in this very sensitive time for global food security and nutrition. As regards the procedures for voting by secret ballot at the Conference, we are confident that the good practice</p>

	introduced in recent elections will be applied and that the robust safeguards to ensure the integrity and complete secrecy of voting set out in the draft Code of Conduct will be respected, thereby adhering to best practices in the UN system.
Japan (Wednesday, 12 April 2023 – 4.39)	Regarding the background document of “Water Resources Management for the four betters: better production, better nutrition, better environment and better life, to achieve Agenda 2030 and the Sustainable Development Goals”, we would like to know when it will be shared to Members. We hope that the document will be shared two months before the opening of the 43rd Session of FAO Conference so that Members can afford to take necessary procedures such as drafting a statement for the Heads of Delegations. We would like to know the themes and agendas of the three High-level Round Tables and the current status of FAO’s preparation. We look forward to receiving additional information in writing, or through oral presentations at the Plenary.