

172nd Session of the Council

Written Correspondence Procedure – inputs from Members - English version

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

Member Name	Comments
<p>Argentina (Wednesday, 29 March 2023 – 12.39)</p>	<p>Under the written comments procedure established to address specific items on the Agenda of the 172nd Session of the FAO Council, the Representation of the Argentine Republic would like to share the following considerations: Argentina notes that, in accordance with the decision adopted by the 165th Session of the Council, a number of Round Tables are planned during the 43rd Session of the FAO Conference. These Round Tables would aim to foster interaction and dialogue among senior officials attending the Conference and address issues related to the mandate of the Organization, particularly regarding the management of water resources to achieve improvements in production, nutrition, environment and quality of life, with a view to implementing the 2030 Agenda and its Sustainable Development Goals. In this regard, Argentina once again recalls that FAO's mandate within water resources management must focus mainly on indicators 6.4.1 - Water use efficiency and 6.4.2 - Water stress, and in full collaboration with UN Water, whose role is to ensure that the UN "acts as one" in response to water-related challenges. With this in mind, Argentina expects that the Round Tables will be established with these two main elements in mind. While it is encouraging that this forum for dialogue and exchange has been provided, it is also important to consider the possibility that smaller delegations may find it difficult to cover all the opportunities for participation provided at the FAO Conference. FAO is an organization where decisions are taken by consensus of all its Members, not just those who are able to take part in all meetings.</p> <p>Therefore, it would be advisable to consider implementing measures (such as hybrid Round Tables) to ensure the fair participation of all delegations, including a geographical balance between Round Table moderators. This would ensure appropriate and fair representation in decision-making and prevent some delegations from feeling excluded or marginalized in the process.</p> <p>To conclude, while organizing these Round Tables is a positive step, it is important to approach the issue with caution in order to respect FAO's comparative advantages and to ensure that all delegations have the opportunity to participate in an equitable and fair manner, so that they can contribute effectively to discussions and decision-making within 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 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.</p>

<p>Japan (Wednesday, 12 April 2023 – 4.39)</p>	<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>
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