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منظمة  
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# COUNCIL

## Hundred and Seventy-first Session

Rome, 5-9 December 2022

**Arrangements for the 172nd Session of the Council (24-28 April 2023) and  
43rd Session of the Conference (1-7 July 2023)**

### Executive summary

This document gives an overview of arrangements for the 43rd Session of the FAO Conference (1-7 July 2023). The document also contains proposals regarding: invitations, the Provisional Agenda for the Conference, the scheduling of items, elections, resolutions, and topic for the General Debate at the Conference in 2023.

### Suggested action by the Council

The Council is requested to make recommendations to the 43rd Session of the Conference on:

- a) The Provisional Agenda for the 43rd Session of the FAO Conference (*Appendix A*);
- b) A topic for the General Debate on the State of Food and Agriculture, and a five-minute time limit for statements made by Heads of Delegation under this item;
- c) The biennial theme for consideration by Governing Bodies in 2024-25;
- d) Deadlines for the receipt of nominations for:
  - Office of Independent Chairperson of Council (July 2023 to June 2025);
  - Council Membership for:
    - i) July 2023 to June 2026; and
    - ii) July 2024 to June 2027.
- e) The establishment of two Commissions:
  - i) on Substantive and Policy Matters (Commission I);
  - ii) on Programme and Budgetary Matters (Commission II); and
- f) Inviting Palestine to participate in the Session as an observer.

*Queries on the substantive content of this document may be addressed to:*

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## I. Introduction

1. In accordance with the decision<sup>1</sup> of the 42nd Session of the Conference (14-18 June 2021), the 43rd Session of the Conference will be held in Rome from Saturday, 1 to Friday, 7 July 2023.
2. The Conference is the ultimate decision-making body of the Organization, determining its overall policy and strategy and taking the final decisions on objectives, strategy and budget.<sup>2</sup> The Conference focuses on ensuring coherence in global policy issues and regulatory frameworks, acting normally on the recommendations of the FAO Technical Committees and Regional Conferences and, where appropriate, the FAO Council. More specifically, the Conference approves the Organization's priorities, strategy and budget, having considered the recommendations of the Council.

## II. Agenda, Commissions, Topic for the General Debate and Voting

3. A Provisional Agenda for the Conference is given in *Appendix A*.
4. Two Commissions will be established:
  - a. Commission I on Substantive and Policy Matters; and
  - b. Commission II on Programme and Budgetary Matters.
5. A Tentative Timetable for the Conference session, including details of side events, will be submitted to the 172nd Session of the Council (24-28 April 2023). In line with the decision of the 165th Session of the Council,<sup>3</sup> meetings of Commission I and Commission II will be scheduled consecutively, to the extent possible.
6. The General Debate at the Conference usually has one major topic agreed by the Conference, normally on the recommendation of the Council. The topics selected for the General Debate at the past three sessions of Conference were as follows:
  - a. "Agriculture Food Systems Transformation: From Strategy to Action" (2021);
  - b. "Migration, Agriculture and Rural Development" (2019); and
  - c. "Climate Change, Agriculture and Food Security" (2017).
7. In this regard, the 171st Session of the Council is invited to consider "Water resources management for the four betters: better production, better nutrition, better environment and better life" taking into account the critical importance of water challenges *inter alia* in relation to global climate change and water management considerations, when recommending the topic for the General Debate at the 43rd Session of the Conference under Item 10, "Review of the State of Food and Agriculture".
8. Given that only five days are available for work in plenary meetings, and as the majority of Heads of Delegations present at the Conference are expected to make statements under Item 10, the Council may wish to follow past practice and recommend that statements be limited to a maximum of five minutes each.
9. In addition, in line with the decision of the 165th Session of the Council,<sup>4</sup> delegations will have the option to deliver their statements under Item 10 in digital format. These will be published on the website of the 43rd Session of the Conference on the first day of the Conference, where possible. Heads of Delegation may opt to deliver their statements in digital format in one of two ways:
  - a. Text-only statements, limited to 1 250 words in length for single-Member statements and 2 000 words in length for multi-Member statements, may be submitted to [Conference-Statements@fao.org](mailto:Conference-Statements@fao.org) three weeks ahead of the opening of the Conference session and at the latest by Friday, 23 June 2023. These statements will be published on a dedicated webpage on the 43rd Session of the Conference website; or

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<sup>1</sup> C 2021/REP, para. 81

<sup>2</sup> Conference Resolution 7/2009

<sup>3</sup> CL 165/REP, para. 33 (b)

<sup>4</sup> CL 165/REP, para. 33 (a)

- b. Video-statements may be submitted with a maximum length of three minutes for single-Member statements and five minutes for multi-Member statements. Delegations may prepare pre-recorded video statements and submit these to [Conference-Statements@fao.org](mailto:Conference-Statements@fao.org) three weeks ahead of the opening of the Conference session and at the latest by Friday, 23 June 2023. Video statements will be published on a dedicated webpage on the 43rd Session of the Conference website.

10. The Council is invited to recommend that Thursday, 6 July 2023, be set aside for the: (i) election of the Independent Chairperson of the Council (by secret ballot); (ii) election of Members of the Council (by acclamation when there are no more candidates than seats to be filled); and (iii) vote on the budget level for 2024-25 (by an electronic roll call vote).

### **III. Biennial Theme**

11. In line with the recommendation of the 39th Session of the Conference (June 2015), the Conference will be required to endorse a biennial theme for consideration by Governing Bodies at sessions taking place during the 2024-25 biennium. The aim of the “biennial theme” is to increase the focus of the Governing Bodies on the priorities and strategic global issues contained in the Strategic Framework.

12. In this regard, the Council is invited to recommend “Water resources management for the four betters: better production, better nutrition, better environment and better life” to the 43rd Session of the Conference as the biennial theme for 2024-25.

### **IV. Round Tables**

13. In accordance with the decision of the 165th Session of the Council,<sup>5</sup> Round Tables are envisaged to take place at the 43rd Session of the Conference. The aim of such high-level Round Tables is to foster interaction and dialogue among senior level officials in attendance at Conference sessions on issues of global concern related to food and agriculture.

### **V. Composition of Delegations**

14. Delegations are normally headed by Ministers. In accordance with Article III of the Constitution (*Appendix B*), each Member of the Organization may be represented by one delegate who may be accompanied by alternates, associates and advisers. Online registration is accessible through the password-protected FAO Members Gateway at <http://www.fao.org/members-gateway/en/>. Instructions for online registration can be found on the same site. It should be noted that online registration requires the uploading of a recent passport-size digital photograph.

### **VI. Constitutional Duties of the Conference**

15. In addition to adopting amendments to the Constitution, Rules and Regulations of the Organization, and approving conventions and agreements, the Conference has the following specific constitutional duties:

#### *A. Admission of New Members*

16. The Conference, as the supreme authority of the Organization, admits new Members and deals with all matters relating to membership. At the date of preparing this document, no application for membership had been received. Under Rule XIX-2 of the General Rules of the Organization (GRO), applications are receivable up to 30 days before the opening of the Conference session, i.e. by 1 June 2023. The admission of new Members is decided by secret ballot and requires a two-thirds majority of the votes cast, provided that the total number of affirmative and negative votes cast shall be more than one half of the Member Nations of the Organization. Membership becomes effective on the date on which the Conference approves the application.

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<sup>5</sup> CL 165/REP, para 33 (c).

### *B. Appointment of the Director-General*

17. The procedure regarding nominations for the office of Director-General is governed by provisions of Rule XXXVII-1 of the GRO, which read as follows:

“1. In pursuance of paragraph 1 of Article VII of the Constitution, the Director-General of the Organization shall be appointed under the following conditions:

- (a) When the term of office of the Director-General is due to expire, the appointment of a new Director-General shall be placed on the agenda of the regular session of the Conference immediately preceding the expiry of the term of office; whenever, for other reasons, the office of the Director-General is vacant, or notice is received of a pending vacancy, the appointment of a new Director-General shall be placed on the agenda of the next session of the Conference which opens not less than 120 days from the occurrence or notice of the pending vacancy.
- (b) In consideration of the expiry of the term of office of the Director-General, the Council shall set the dates for a period during which Member Nations may submit nominations for the office of Director-General. The nomination period shall have a duration of three months and end at least 30 days prior to the beginning of the session of the Council referred to in subparagraph (c) of this paragraph. The nomination period shall be communicated to all Member Nations and Associate Members by the Secretary-General of the Conference and Council. Nominations validly made in accordance with Rule XII, paragraph 5 of these Rules shall be communicated to the Secretary-General of the Conference and Council by the date set by the Council. The Secretary-General shall circulate these nominations to all Member Nations and Associate Members by the date likewise set by the Council, it being understood that in the case of an election taking place at a regular session of the Conference, such date set by the Council shall be not later than 30 days before the session of the Council provided for in subparagraph (c) of this paragraph.
- (c) Subject to such arrangements as the Council may make consistent with these Rules aimed at ensuring equality among candidates, candidates shall address the session of the Council which will be scheduled not less than 60 days before the session of the Conference and respond to such questions as may be put to them by Member Nations and Associate Members of the Organization. There shall be no debate and the Council shall not draw any conclusion or recommendation from any of the statements or interventions made.
- (d) As soon as possible after the opening of the Conference session, the General Committee shall determine and announce the date of the election, it being understood that the appointment of the Director-General at a regular session shall begin and be effected within three working days following the opening date of such session. Candidates shall address the Conference and respond to questions that Member Nations and Associate Members may put to them, subject to such arrangements as the Conference may make consistent with these Rules aimed at ensuring equality among candidates.”

18. The term of office of the present Director-General will expire on 31 July 2023. Pursuant to the provisions cited in the preceding paragraph, the 170th Session of the Council set 1 December 2022 to 28 February 2023 as the period in which nominations for the post of Director-General for the period 1 August 2023 to 31 July 2027 are receivable<sup>6</sup>. Nominations received by the established deadline will be circulated one week thereafter by circular letter and through the FAO Members Gateway.

19. Procedures concerning the address to the 43rd Session of the Conference and the 172nd Session of the Council by candidates for the office of Director-General are set out in *Appendix C*. These procedures were endorsed by the Council at its 161st Session (April 2019), in view of the appointment of the Director-General in 2019.

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<sup>6</sup> CL 170/REP, para 35.

### *C. Appointment of the Independent Chairperson of the Council*

20. In accordance with Article V-2 of the Constitution and Rule XXIII-1 of the GRO, the Conference appoints the Independent Chairperson of the Council.
21. Rule XXIII-1(b) of the GRO provides that the Council determines the closing date of submission of nominations for the office of Independent Chairperson of the Council by Member Nations to the Secretary-General of the Conference and Council. Likewise, the Council also sets the date by which the Secretary-General circulates these nominations to all Members of the Organization. On the basis of past practice the Council may wish to establish 12.00 hours on Tuesday, 4 April 2023 as the closing date for submission of nominations for this appointment, and Tuesday, 11 April 2023 as the date by which such nominations are circulated by letter and through the FAO Members Gateway by the Secretary-General.

### *D. Election of Council Members*

22. In accordance with Article V-1 of the Constitution, the Conference elects the Members of the Council. A separate paper on the election of Council Members, including a Nomination Form, will be circulated as Conference document C 2023/11. In accordance with Rule XXII-10(a) of the GRO, the Conference decides the date of the election and the deadline by which nominations for election to the Council must be submitted. As laid down in Rule XXII-10(c) of the GRO, nominations must be supported in writing by the delegates of two Member Nations to the Conference, other than the delegate of the Member Nation nominated, and must be accompanied by a formal written acceptance of the nomination by the delegate of the Member Nation nominated. Rule XXII-10(d) further specifies that the General Committee shall communicate the valid nominations received to the Conference at least three working days before the date selected for the election. In the light of these requirements the Council may wish to recommend that the deadline for the receipt of nominations be set at 09.00 hours on Monday, 3 July 2023.

## **VII. Officers of the Conference**

23. In accordance with Rule XXIV-5(b) of the GRO, the Council at its 171st Session (December 2022) is called upon to invite countries to nominate candidates for the offices of: (i) Chairperson of the 43rd Session of the FAO Conference; (ii) Chairpersons of the Commissions of the Conference; (iii) three Vice-Chairpersons of the Conference; (iv) seven elected Members of the General Committee to the Conference; and (v) nine Members of the Credentials Committee.
24. At its 172nd Session (April 2023), the Council is expected to nominate the officers mentioned in the previous paragraph, who in turn will be approved by the 43rd Session of the Conference. Nominations for the two Vice-Chairpersons of both Commission I and Commission II will be approved by the Conference through the General Committee.
25. Following past practice, the members of the Credentials Committee will commence their work in the 15 days leading up to the Conference.
26. In line with the recommendation of the 165th Session of the Council and the approval by the 42nd Session of the Conference, the nominated Members of the General Committee may meet informally ahead of the opening of the Conference session in order to undertake preparatory work, noting that such work would not constitute formal decisions of the Committee until its membership is elected by the Conference.

## **VIII. Conference Resolutions**

27. The criteria for draft Conference resolutions are set out in *Appendix D*.

## **IX. Invitations**

28. The United Nations, its Specialized Agencies and the International Atomic Energy Agency are entitled to be represented at sessions of the Conference, without the right to vote. Other

intergovernmental organizations having concluded an agreement with FAO which contains specific provisions to this effect have a right to attend as observers. Those non-governmental organizations that have consultative status are also entitled to send observers to Conference sessions. Other intergovernmental organizations, as well as non-governmental organizations having specialized consultative status or liaison status, may be invited on a provisional basis by the Director-General.

29. *Appendix E* contains the above-mentioned provisions as set out in Rule XVII of the GRO and in the FAO Policy Concerning Relations with International Non-Governmental Organizations (FAO Basic Texts, Volume II, Section M).

30. The Council may wish to note the Director-General's suggestion that, following previous practice, Palestine be invited to attend the 43rd Session of the Conference in an observer capacity.

#### **Draft Decisions**

The Council decided to set the deadline for the receipt of nominations for the office of Independent Chairperson of the Council at 12.00 hours on Tuesday, 4 April 2023.

The Council agreed to submit to the Conference for approval the Provisional Agenda and the arrangements outlined in this document, and in particular recommended that:

- a) Two Commissions be established to examine respectively Substantive and Policy Matters (Commission I), and Programme and Budgetary Matters (Commission II);
- b) The deadline for the receipt of nominations for election to the Council be set at 09.00 hours on Monday, 3 July 2023, and the election be held on Thursday, 6 July 2023;
- c) Statements by Heads of Delegation be limited to a maximum of five minutes each; and
- d) The topic for the General Debate be: "Water resources management for the four betters: better production, better nutrition, better environment and better life"; and
- e) The Conference endorse "Water resources management for the four betters: better production, better nutrition, better environment and better life" as the biennial theme for 2024-25; and
- f) Palestine be invited to attend the 43rd Session of the Conference as an observer.

**Appendix A****Provisional Agenda of the 43rd Session of the Conference****Introduction**

1. Election of the Chairperson and Vice-Chairpersons
2. Appointment of the General Committee and Credentials Committee
3. Adoption of the Agenda and Arrangements for the Session
4. Admission of Observers

**Appointments and Elections**

5. Applications for Membership in the Organization
6. Appointment of the Director-General
7. Appointment of the Independent Chairperson of the Council
8. Election of Council Members
9. Appointment of Representatives of the FAO Conference to the Staff Pension Committee

**Substantive and Policy Matters**

10. Review of the State of Food and Agriculture

***A. Regional Conferences***

11. Regional and Global Policy and Regulatory matters arising from:
  - 11.1 Report of the 32nd Session of the Regional Conference for Africa (Malabo, Equatorial Guinea, 11-14 April 2022)
  - 11.2 Report of the 36th Session of the Regional Conference for Asia and the Pacific (Dhaka, Bangladesh, 8-11 March 2022)
  - 11.3 Report of the 33rd Session of the Regional Conference for Europe (Łódź, Poland, 10-13 May 2022)
  - 11.4 Report of the 37th Session of the Regional Conference for Latin America and the Caribbean (Quito, Ecuador, 28 March-1 April 2022)
  - 11.5 Report of the 36th Session of the Regional Conference of the Near East (Baghdad, Iraq, Senior Officers Meeting 10-13 January 2022 and Ministerial Meeting 7-8 February 2022)
  - 11.6 Report of the Seventh Informal Regional Conference for North America (United States of America, 12-14 April 2022)

***B. Technical Committees***

12. Global Policy and Regulatory matters arising from:
  - 12.1 Report of the 28th Session of the Committee on Agriculture (18-22 July 2022)
  - 12.2 Report of the 75th Session of the Committee on Commodity Problems (13-15 July 2022)
  - 12.3 Report of the 35th Session of the Committee on Fisheries (5-9 September 2022)

- 12.4 Report of the 26th Session of the Committee on Forestry (3-7 October 2022)

***C. Committee on World Food Security***

13. Reports of the 48th (Special) (4 June 2021), 49th (11-14 October 2021) and 50th (10-13 October 2022) Sessions of the Committee on World Food Security

***D. Other Substantive and Policy Matters***

14. Progress report on the Quadrennial Comprehensive Policy Review of Operational Activities for Development of the United Nations System
15. International Years and Days:
- 15.1 Evaluation of the International Year of Plant Health 2020
- 15.2 Evaluation of the International Year of Fruits and Vegetables 2021
- 15.3 Evaluation of the International Year of Artisanal Fisheries and Aquaculture 2022
- 15.4 Proposal for an International Day of the Potato
16. United Nations/FAO World Food Programme
17. Biennial Theme 2024-25

**Programme and Budgetary Matters**

18. Programme Implementation Report 2020-21
19. Programme Evaluation Report 2023
20. Medium Term Plan 2022-25 (Reviewed) and Programme of Work and Budget 2024-25 (Draft Resolution on budget level)

**Legal, Administrative and Financial Matters**

***A. Constitutional and Legal Matters***

21. Draft Code of Conduct for Voting Procedures under Rule XII of the General Rules of the Organization
22. Technical Cooperation Programme's resource allocation shares (Draft Resolution)
23. Guidelines for the participation of the private sector as observers in FAO Governing Body sessions (Draft Resolution)
24. Restoration by the Conference of the voting rights of Member Nations in arrears in the payment of their financial contributions to the Organization (Draft Resolution)
25. Other Constitutional and Legal Matters

***B. Administrative and Financial Matters***

26. Audited Accounts 2020 and 2021 (Draft Resolutions)
27. Scale of Contributions 2024-25 (Draft Resolution)
28. Payment by the European Union to Cover Administrative and other Expenses Arising out of its Membership in the Organization
29. Other Administrative and Financial Matters

## Other Matters

- 30. Date and Place of the 44th Session of the Conference
- 31. Any Other Matters
  - 31.1 McDougall Memorial Lecture
  - 31.2 In Memoriam

**Information Documents will be tabled on the following subjects:\***

- A. Multilateral Treaties Deposited with the Director-General
- B. Status of Contributions

\* Delegates wishing to comment on Information Documents will be given an opportunity to do so under Item 31, “Any Other Matters”

**Appendix B****Extract from Article III of the Constitution of FAO****The Conference****[Provisions regulating composition of delegations]**

1. There shall be a Conference of the Organization in which each Member Nation and Associate Member shall be represented by one delegate. Associate Members shall have the right to participate in the deliberations of the Conference but shall not hold office nor have the right to vote.
2. Each Member Nation and Associate Member may appoint alternates, associates and advisers to its delegate. The Conference may determine the conditions for the participation of alternates, associates and advisers in its proceedings, but any such participation shall be without the right to vote, except in the case of an alternate, associate, or adviser participating in the place of a delegate.
3. No delegate may represent more than one Member Nation or Associate Member.
4. Each Member Nation shall have one vote. A Member Nation which is in arrears in the payment of its financial contributions to the Organization shall have no vote in the Conference if the amount of its arrears equals or exceeds the amount of the contributions due from it for the two preceding calendar years. The Conference may, nevertheless, permit such a Member Nation to vote if it is satisfied that the failure to pay is due to conditions beyond the control of the Member Nation.

## Appendix C

### **Procedures to be followed for the Address by candidates for the post of Director-General of FAO at the 172nd Session of the Council (Rome, 24-28 April 2023) and the 43rd Session of the Conference (1-7 July 2023)**

#### ***Allocation of rooms to candidates***

An office will be assigned to each candidate for the duration of the 172nd Session of the Council (24-28 April 2023) and an office and a meeting room will be assigned to each candidate for the first two days of the 43rd Session of the Conference (1 and 2 July 2023).

The Director-General-Elect will continue to use the facilities until the end of the session.

The offices and meeting rooms will be determined by drawing of lots by the candidate or his or her representative one week prior to the start of the 172nd Session of the Council on Monday, 17 April 2023 in the office of the Independent Chairperson of Council (ICC).

#### ***Order of speakers***

The order of speakers for both the 172nd Session of the Council and the 43rd Session of the Conference will be determined by drawing of lots by the candidate, or his or her representative, one week prior to the start of the 172nd Session of the Council on Monday, 17 April 2023 in the office of the ICC.

#### ***Time allocation for each candidate during the 172nd Session of the Council (24-28 April 2023)***

The total time allocated to each candidate will be limited to 90 minutes, as follows:

- 15 minutes for opening remarks by the candidate;
- 10 minutes for an interactive question-and-answer session with each of the seven Regional Groups;
- five minutes for closing remarks by the candidate.

Each Regional Group will be responsible for managing their allocated 10 minutes for the interactive question-and-answer session, during which they can decide on which and how many questions to be posed, as well as the order in which they wish to pose the questions; Regional Groups have the prerogative of not asking the same question to each candidate.

In this regard, the advantage of posing the same question(s) to each candidate should be borne in mind as it could facilitate comparison.

Questions can be asked only by a representative of each of the seven FAO Regional Groups.

Should they wish, each candidate may provide his or her written statement to Members ahead of the Council session.

Time allocation will be managed by the ICC. A timer will be visible on the screens in the meeting room. The microphone will be deactivated once the time limit has been reached.

#### ***Order of Regional Groups to pose questions***

Members representing the Regional Groups will speak in the alphabetical order of the English names of the Regional Groups, and the order of the Regional Group will move up one place for each candidate in line with the procedure used at the 161st Session of the Council in 2019.

#### ***Scheduling of the item “Address by candidates for the post of Director-General” during the 172nd Session of the Council (24-28 April 2023)***

The item *Address by candidates for the post of Director-General* during Council will be scheduled on Thursday, 27 April 2023. Candidates will address the Council with a 15 minute interval between each candidate.

***Procedure to be followed by the Conference***

In line with the procedure followed at the Conference in 2019, 15 minutes will be allocated to each candidate to address the 43rd Session of the Conference and no question-and-answer session will take place thereafter.

The *Address by candidates for the post of Director-General* to the Conference will be scheduled on the afternoon of Saturday, 1 July 2023.

***Participation by candidates in Regional Group Meetings***

Upon request of a Regional Group, any candidate may participate in the meetings of that Regional Group, with the premise that any incremental cost, including additional interpretation services if required, due to the result of the participation of a candidate shall be borne by the candidate.

Any requests by candidates for facilities for meetings to be held during FAO sessions, not within the period of the 172nd Session of the Council or the first two days of the 43rd Session of the Conference, are subject to the established procedures for requesting bilateral meeting rooms.

**Appendix D****Criteria for Conference Resolutions**Criteria for the Formulation of Resolutions:

Resolutions should be confined essentially to the following formal matters:

- i. Amendments to the Constitution, the GRO, and the Financial Regulations.
- ii. Approval or confirmation of conventions or agreements and of amendments thereto.
- iii. Establishment of bodies under Article VI of the Constitution and adoption or amendment of the Statutes of such Bodies.
- iv. Adoption of the Programme of Work and Budget for the ensuing biennium.
- v. Decisions regarding financial matters such as the Working Capital Fund, the scale of contributions, and adoption of audited accounts.
- vi. Major programme and policy matters.
- vii. Recommendations to Member Nations or to international organizations.
- viii. Matters relating to the appointment of the Director-General and the Independent Chairperson of the Council.
- ix. Tributes and commemorations of special importance to FAO.

**Appendix E****FAO Policy Concerning Relations with International Non-Governmental Organizations****Rule XVII of the General Rules of the Organization****Participating International Organizations**

1. A representative of the United Nations and a representative of any specialized agency of the United Nations, accompanied by advisers and assistants, may attend the plenary meetings of the Conference and the meetings of any commission, of any committee of a commission, and of any committee established under Rule XV. Such representatives may, without vote, speak and participate in the discussions and may circulate to the Conference, without abridgement, the views of the organizations which they represent.
2. An observer of any other intergovernmental organization with which an agreement has been concluded providing for representation, accompanied by advisers and assistants, may attend the plenary meetings of the Conference, and the meetings of any commission, of any technical committee of a commission and of any technical committee established under Rule XV. Such observer may, without vote, speak and, upon the request of the Chairperson, participate in the discussions. They may circulate to the Conference, without abridgement, the views of the organizations which they represent.
3. An observer of any international non-governmental organization having consultative status, accompanied by advisers and assistants, may attend the plenary meetings of the Conference and the meetings of any commission, of any technical committee of a commission and of any technical committee established under Rule XV. Such observers may, without vote, speak before such commissions and committees, participate in the discussions therein upon the request of the Chairperson and, with the consent of the General Committee, speak before plenary meetings of the Conference. They may circulate to the Conference, without abridgement, the views of the organizations which they represent.
4. The Director-General shall determine provisionally what other international organizations shall be invited to any session of the Conference and shall submit the list of such organizations to the Conference for approval.

**Extract from the FAO Basic Texts, Volume II, Section M****FAO Policy Concerning Relations with International Non-Governmental Organizations****General Arrangements**

5. The Organization established relationships with certain international non-governmental organizations in order to secure their advice and to associate them effectively with the work of the Organization.

*Organizations eligible for consultative status*

6. In order to be eligible for consultative status, an international non-governmental organization shall:
  - a) be international in its structure and scope of activity, be sufficiently representative of the field of interest in which it operates, and be of a recognized standing that renders its views on policy a matter of great interest to governments and to FAO;
  - b) be concerned with matters covering a substantial portion of FAO's field of activity;

- c) have aims and purposes in conformity with the general principles embodied in the Constitution of FAO;
- d) have a permanent directing body, authorized representatives and systematic procedures and machinery for communicating with its membership in various countries.

*Organizations eligible for specialized consultative status*

7. In order to be eligible for specialized consultative status, an international non-governmental organization shall:

- a) be international in its structure and scope of activity, and representative of the specialized field of interest in which it operates;
- b) be concerned with matters covering a particular portion of FAO's field of activity;
- c) have aims and purposes in conformity with the general principles embodied in the Constitution of FAO;
- d) have a permanent directing body, authorized representatives and systematic procedures and machinery for communicating with its membership in various countries.

*Organizations eligible for liaison status*

8. In order to be eligible for liaison status an international non-governmental organization shall:

- a) be international in its structure and scope of activity and be sufficiently representative of the field of interest in which it operates;
- b) be concerned with matters covering a portion of FAO's field of activity and be in a position to give practical assistance in that field;
- c) have aims and purposes in conformity with the general principles embodied in the Constitution of FAO;
- d) have a permanent directing body, authorized representatives and systematic procedures and machinery for communicating with its membership in various countries.