

171st Session of the Council

Item 13: Arrangements for the 172nd Session of the Council (24-28 April 2023) and 43rd Session of the Conference (1-7 July 2023)

Document CL 171/14, *Arrangements for the 172nd Session of the Council (24-28 April 2023) and 43rd Session of the Conference (1-7 July 2023)*, contains a number of proposals regarding the preparations for the upcoming Council and Conference Sessions for decision by the Council at its 171st Session.

The 43rd Session of the Conference will be held in Rome from Saturday, 1 to Friday, 7 July 2023. The 171st Session of the Council is invited to endorse the Provisional Agenda for the Conference given in *Appendix A* of document CL 171/14. A Tentative Timetable for the Conference session will be submitted for consideration at the next Session of the Council in April 2023.

The Council is invited, in line with established practice, to recommend the establishment of two Commissions for the 43rd Session of the Conference, namely Commission I to deal with substantive and policy matters, and Commission II to consider programmatic and budgetary matters.

In line with past practice, the Council is invited to recommend that statements by Heads of Delegation in the General Debate be limited to a maximum of five minutes each. In addition, delegations will have the opportunity to deliver their statements in digital format, in line with the working methods implemented at the 42nd Session of the Conference.

Following endorsement of the working methods for the Conference by the 165th Session of the Council, Round Tables are envisaged to take place at the 43rd Session of the Conference in order to foster senior or high-level official action-oriented dialogue.

The Council is also invited to endorse “Water resources management for the four betters: better production, better nutrition, better environment and better life” as the topic for the General Debate of the 43rd Session of the Conference, and as the Biennial Theme for Governing Body Sessions 2024-25.

With regards to the appointment of the FAO Director-General, procedures concerning the address to the Conference and the 172nd Session of the Council by candidates for the office of Director-General are set out in *Appendix C* of document CL 171/14. These procedures follow those used and endorsed at the 161st Session of the Council for the appointment of the Director-General in 2019. The Council is invited to endorse such procedures to be used at the Council Session in April 2023, and at the 43rd Session of the Conference in July 2023.

With regard to the election for appointment of the Independent Chairperson of the Council at the 43rd Session of the Conference, the Council is invited to establish 12.00 hours on Tuesday, 4 April 2023 as the closing date for submission of nominations, 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.

The Council is also invited to recommend the Conference sets 9.00 hours on Monday, 3 July 2023 as the deadline for the receipt of nominations for Council Membership.

Finally, 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; and the (iii) vote on the budget level for 2024-25.

Mr Rakesh Muthoo, Secretary-General of the Conference and the Council