

172nd Session of the Council

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

The Secretariat thanks Members for their comments and support for the arrangements for the 43rd Session of the Conference, as contained in document CL 172/13/Rev.1.

In relation to the comments from several Members regarding Round Table discussions at the Conference, the Secretariat will provide further details on related topics, themes and agenda soonest available, and in any case well before the Session. As per document CL 172/13/Rev.1, three Round Table discussions are planned, one each in the morning Plenary Session from Monday 3 July 2023 to Wednesday 5 July 2023 in hybrid physical-virtual modality in order to ensure participation of all Members on equal footing. The Round Table discussions being an integral part of the Conference, their content will be recorded in the verbatim records of the 43rd Session.

The Secretariat welcomes Canada's exhortation for the use of time-saving measures in order to ensure efficient conduct and maximise Member participation at the Conference, including well established instruments such as speaking time-limits, and the use of pre-recorded speaker statements which are equivalent in all respects to in-person statements.

In response to the European Union, all votes at the 43rd Session of the Conference will be conducted in conformity with the applicable rules and regulations of the FAO Basic Texts.

In response to the query from Japan, the Secretariat assures that Conference document C 2023/2 *The State of Food and Agriculture*, which Members are invited to refer to in preparing their statements for the General Debate, shall be published as soon as available.