

43rd Session of the Conference

Introduction to Item 21: Draft Code of Conduct for Voting Procedures under Rule XII of the General Rules of the Organization

Following the 41st Session of the Conference in 2019, the 162nd Session of the Council considered matters arising from the Conference including, *inter alia*, voting procedures and requested these be reviewed by the appropriate Governing Bodies and through a process of informal consultations led by the Independent Chairperson of the Council (ICC).¹

The matter has been discussed at numerous Governing Body sessions, including the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters (CCLM) at its 109th, 110th, 112th, 113th, 115th, 116th, 117th and 118th sessions, and the Council at its 162nd, 163rd, 164th, 166th, 168th, 170th, 171st and 172nd sessions.

The Governing Bodies provided guidance to the informal process led by the ICC who, between February 2020 and February 2023, held thirteen informal consultations with the Members of FAO to develop a draft code of conduct for voting procedures.

At its 42nd Session in 2021, the Conference appreciated the efforts of the ICC in facilitating the discussions amongst Members on the draft Code of Conduct, and requested his successor to continue such efforts with a view to a draft text being submitted to this 43rd Session of the Conference, following review by the relevant Governing Bodies of the Organization.

The first draft text of the voluntary Code of Conduct was presented to the 170th Session of the Council in June 2022, through the draft Report of the ICC to the Council contained in document CL 170/INF/7. The Council at its 170th Session commended the ICC for his efforts in leading consultations and requested he continue the consultations to achieve consensus, prior to submitting an updated version to the relevant Governing Bodies, with a view for a draft Code to be submitted for approval at the 43rd Session of the Conference.

After further rounds of informal consultations held in September 2022, November 2022 and January 2023, a consensus text was arrived at during the informal consultation of the ICC with the Membership held on 9 February 2023. This draft text was reviewed by the 118th Session of the CCLM, which made some technical adjustments in line with its mandate, and invited the Council to endorse it. The Council, at its 172nd Session in April 2023, commended the ICC's efforts, took note of the adjustments made by the CCLM, and accordingly recommended submission of the *Draft Voluntary Code of Conduct for Voting Procedures under Rule XII of the General Rules of the Organization as referred to in the Conference and Council Reports* to the 43rd Session of the Conference for approval.

Document C 2023/LIM/8 contains the extract from the Report of the 172nd Session of the Council as well as the draft Conference Resolution before the Conference for approval.

Dr Hans Hoogeveen, Independent Chairperson of the Council

¹ CL 162/REP, para 7.