



联合国  
粮食及  
农业组织

Food and Agriculture  
Organization of the  
United Nations

Organisation des Nations  
Unies pour l'alimentation  
et l'agriculture

Продовольственная и  
сельскохозяйственная организация  
Объединенных Наций

Organización de las  
Naciones Unidas para la  
Alimentación y la Agricultura

منظمة  
الغذية والزراعة  
للأمم المتحدة

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# CONFERENCE

**Forty-third Session**

**Rome, 1-7 July 2023**

**First Report of the General Committee**

## A. Architecture

1. The Committee reviewed and endorsed the architecture of the 43rd Session of the Conference, as outlined in Section A of document C 2023/12, *Arrangements for the 43rd Session of the Conference*. Accordingly, the Committee recommended the Conference:

- a) approve the 43rd Session of the Conference to be held in hybrid physical-virtual modality, on an exceptional basis, and without creating a precedent;
- b) adopt the Provisional Agenda, as given in document C 2023/1;
- c) approve the Provisional Timetable, as given in document C 2023/INF/1;
- d) approve as topic for general debate “*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*”;
- e) approve the establishment of two Commissions:
  - Commission I to review and examine substantive and policy matters; and
  - Commission II to review and examine programmatic and budgetary matters
- f) endorse the nomination of Chairpersons for the two Commissions, as follows:
  - Commission I: Mr Marcel Beukeboom, Ambassador, Permanent Representative, Netherlands (Kingdom of the)
  - Commission II: Mr Abdul Rahman Abdul Wahab, Alternate Permanent Representative, Malaysia
- g) endorse the nomination of Vice-Chairpersons for the two Commissions:
  - Commission I: Mr Aly Coulibaly, Mali
  - Commission II: Ms Ratchanok Sangpenchan, Thailand.

## B. Decisions

2. The Committee reviewed the decisions to be taken by the 43rd Session of the Conference under its constitutional duties, as outlined in Section B of document C 2023/12, and recommended the Conference:

- a) note that the appointment of the Director-General shall be undertaken by in-person, secret ballot vote, even in the case of a sole candidate, in full conformity with the relevant provisions of the Basic Texts of the Organization; that the voting population and quorum shall be determined by delegates present physically in the Plenary Hall at the time; and that arrangements for the vote scheduled for 10.30 hours on Sunday, 2 July 2023 are outlined in Annex 1;
- b) undertake appointment of the Independent Chairperson of the Council by clear general consent, in line with Rule XX.10(a) of the General Rules of the Organization (GROs) on Thursday, 6 July 2023;
- c) approve deadline of 9.00 hours on Monday, 3 July 2023 for submission of nominations for election of Council Members on Thursday, 6 July 2023;
- d) undertake elections for Council Members by in-person, secret ballot vote, or by clear general consent where the number of nominations does not exceed the number of vacant seats in question, in line with GRO XII.10(a); and
- e) confirm for the 43rd Session the current criteria for Conference Resolutions, first adopted by the Conference in 1975, and outlined in Annex 2.

### **C. Efficiency**

3. The Committee reviewed and endorsed measures for efficiency at the 43rd Session of the Conference outlined in Section C of document C 2023/12, and recommended the Conference:

- a) approve the application of the written correspondence procedure;
- b) approve a limit of five minutes for keynote statements delivered in Plenary by delegates under Agenda Item 10, *Review of the State of Food and Agriculture*;
- c) approve, for all other items, a speaking time limit of three minutes for interventions by Members, and five minutes for multi-Member statements; and
- d) agree that established practice on the right of reply be followed at the 43rd Session, such that delegates wishing to reply to criticisms of their governments do so preferably on the day such criticism had been voiced, after all those wishing to participate in the discussion had had an opportunity to speak, and that interventions in the exercise of the right of reply be brief.

### **D. Other arrangements**

4. The Committee reviewed and endorsed other arrangements as outlined in Section D of document C 2023/12, and recommended the Conference:

- a) confirm the invitations to Organizations in the list contained in document C 2023/13 to which invitations for the 43rd Session were extended on a provisional basis, that is (i) Organizations with which FAO does not have a formal agreement providing for representation; (ii) International Non-Governmental Organizations which do not have consultative status with FAO, and (iii) intergovernmental Organizations with which FAO does not have a formal agreement; and
- b) confirm the recommendation of the 171st Session of the Council consonant with practice and terms established at the Conference since 1975, the invitation for Palestine to attend the 43rd Session of the Conference in an observer capacity.

**Annex 1****Arrangements for Appointment of the Director-General**

The following arrangements will apply for appointment of the Director-General, scheduled for 10.30 hours on Sunday, 2 July 2023 through an in-person, secret ballot vote, in full conformity of the Basic Texts of the Organization:

- the voting population, and thus the **quorum** for the vote, shall be determined solely on the basis of delegates present physically in the Plenary Hall at the time
- the Director-General shall be elected by a **majority of votes cast**; votes cast means affirmative and negative votes, and does not include abstentions or defective ballots
- two **tellers** will be appointed among the delegates by Chairperson of the Conference, to oversee the vote, including supervision of the balloting and counting procedures
- the candidate may appoint a **scrutineer** to attend the count of the votes, without taking part in the counting itself
- the Secretariat will request that **electronic recording or communication appliances**, such as mobile telephones and tablets, be handed over to provide for their exclusion from the voting area during the casting of ballots, as well as from the counting room during the counting of votes; and
- the **Elections Officer** will be responsible for ensuring adherence to the provisions of the Constitution and the General Rules of the Organization during the voting and electoral procedure.

**Annex 2****Criteria for Conference Resolutions**

Resolutions should be confined 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 Chairperson of the Council; and
- ix) tributes and commemorations of special importance to FAO.