I. Introduction

1. The 43rd Session of the Conference will address the Election of Council Members under Item 8 of the Agenda of the Session, which is scheduled for Thursday, 6 July 2023 at 17:00 hours in the Plenary Hall.

2. The General Committee of the Conference has reviewed the nominations, and has confirmed the submission to the Conference of the nominations for the vacancies that have occurred (document C 2023/LIM/15, Section A). The Committee also noted that in the Europe Region for the term of office from 1 July 2024 until the end of the 45th Session of the Conference there are four candidates for three vacancies, and, unless one candidate withdraws, a secret ballot will be held to determine which countries are to be elected.

3. The four candidates for Council membership for the term of office from 1 July 2024 until the end of the 45th Session of the Conference are:
   1) Croatia
   2) Iceland
   3) Netherlands
   4) Russian Federation

4. This Information Note sets out how such an election would proceed.

II. Election of Council Members

5. The election of Council Members will be held in one election to fill all three vacancies simultaneously, as prescribed in the General Rules of the Organization\(^1\). The specific procedure for an election to fill multiple vacancies at the same time is reflected in General Rule XII paragraph 12.

6. The procedures for the secret ballot will be the same as for any other secret ballot vote in FAO, most recently for the appointment of the Director-General on Sunday 2 July 2023, and in full accordance with the Basic Texts of FAO and established practice. The voting procedure will be supervised by two tellers, who are appointed by the Chairperson. The tellers will count the votes, take decisions on the validity of ballot papers in case of any doubt, and certify the result. The candidates

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\(^1\) General Rules of the Organization, Rule XXII paragraph 10 (g).

Documents can be consulted at www.fao.org
may appoint scrutineers to be present at the vote count. The process is supported by the Elections Officer and his staff.

7. Following a check of the quorum, Members will be called up in alphabetical order starting with the letter “A” to proceed to the voting area in the Plenary Hall, where they will receive a ballot paper to cast their votes.

8. The three vacancies will be filled using one single ballot paper, which lists the four candidates in alphabetical order. As there are three vacancies to be filled, voting delegates must mark three candidates of their choice. **It is important that voting delegates mark three candidates since ballot papers that show less or more than three votes shall be invalid**\(^2\). It is therefore not possible to select only one, or two or four candidates of preference, as three votes must be cast out of the four candidates for a ballot paper to be valid.

9. If a voting delegate wishes to abstain in the vote, the ballot paper should be left blank entirely.

10. The ballot paper will clearly reflect the number of vacancies that need to be filled. A sample ballot paper is attached in Annex.

### III. Majority requirement and result of the election

11. Candidates who receive the largest number of votes will be elected as members of the Council, provided they also reach the required majority of more than half of members casting valid votes. As with other votes, this number does not include abstentions or defective ballots.

12. If only some vacancies are filled, a further ballot would be held to elect a candidate or candidates from among the remaining candidates. Only if no candidate achieves the required majority, the candidate receiving the lowest number of votes would be eliminated.

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\(^2\) General Rules of the Organization, Rule XII paragraph 12(b).
Annex

Sample ballot paper

- **ورقة اقتراع**
- **Ballot paper**
- **Bulletin de vote**
- **Бюллетень для голосования**
- **Papeleta de votación**

### ELECTION OF COUNCIL MEMBERS

**EUROPE REGION** (from 1 July 2024 to the end of the 45th Conference)

**ÉLECTION DES MEMBRES DU CONSEIL**

**RÉGION EUROPE** (du 1er juillet 2024 jusqu'à la fin de la 45e Conférence)

**ВЫБОРЫ ЧЛЕННЫХ СОВЕТА ЕВРОПЕЙСКИЙ РЕГИОН** (на срок с 1 июля 2024 года по окончание 45-й сессии Конференции)

**ELECCIÓN DE LOS MIEMBROS DEL CONSEJO**

**REGIÓN DE EUROPA** (desde 1 de julio de 2024 hasta el final de la 45.ª Conferencia)

### المقاعد المطلوب شغلها

**SEATS TO BE FILLED:**

**SIÈGES À POURVOIR:**

**ЧИСЛО МЕСТ, ПОДЛЕЖАЩИХ ЗАПОЛНЕНИЮ:**

**PUESTOS QUE HAY QUE CUBIR:**

### الرجاء وضع علامة “X” في الخانة الخاصة بالمرشحين الثلاثة الذين تودون انتخابهم

**Place an “X” in the boxes corresponding to the 3 candidates you wish to elect**

**Mettez un “X” dans les cases correspondant aux 3 candidats que vous désirez éle**

**Поставьте “X” напротив трех кандидатов, за которых вы хотите отдать свой голос**

**Marque con una “X” los recuadros correspondientes a los tres candidatos que desee elegir**

**- كرواتيا/Croatia/Croatia/Хорватия/Croatia**

**- آيسلندا/Iceland/Islândia/Исландия**

**- هولندا/Netherlands/Pays-Bas/Нидерланды/Países Bajos**

**- روسيا/Российская Федерация/Fédération de Russie/Российская Федерация/Federación de Rusia**

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1. **Note:** The empty spaces remain blank.
2. **Note:** Any ballot paper left blank shall be considered an abstention.
3. **Note:** Any ballot paper carrying votes for more or less candidates than seats to be filled shall be considered defective.
4. **Note:** Each ballot paper cast constitutes a vote.
5. **Note:** Please use the ballot paper provided.
6. **Note:** Any ballot paper cast constitutes a vote.