

Access by Permanent Representatives to FAO headquarters' premises

In light of the evolving Covid-19 epidemiological situation, and the paramount need to safeguard the health and safety of employees and visitors, access to FAO headquarters' premises continues to be carefully regulated.

Following the lessons learned over the past 18 months of management of Covid-19 pandemics risks and success of the United Nations Food Systems Pre-Summit held in hybrid modality at FAO headquarters from 26 to 28 July, efforts are being undertaken to enable attendance through limited physical presence of delegates for meetings at Headquarters with priority for meetings of Governing and Statutory Bodies over the coming months, where feasible.

Designated meeting rooms are being upgraded for the hosting of hybrid meetings in this regard. The viability, scope and specific conditions for possibly holding such meetings in hybrid mode will be discussed with the Chairpersons of the concerned Bodies, supported by the respective Secretaries, on a case-by-case basis.

In addition, as of 1 September 2021, physical bilateral meetings of Permanent Representatives with Senior Managers on headquarters' premises may be entertained on a case by case basis. The number of meeting rooms adequately equipped in conformity of health and safety requirements are limited, and thus such bilateral meetings will need to be planned well in advance. Limitations will also apply to the total number of participants in each meeting. The concerned FAO managers will ensure timely arrangements of their bilateral meetings.

Furthermore, Permanent Representatives may wish to organise face-to-face meetings without interpretation facilities amongst themselves, on condition that such meetings are limited in terms of number of participants and subject to availability of appropriate meeting rooms, within overall ceiling of headquarters' presence, as well as being booked in advance with sufficient notice. To this end, requests for these types of meetings should be addressed to the Governing Bodies Servicing division at the following email address: Protocol@fao.org

Access to headquarters' premises for any type of meeting will continue to be subject in every instance to review and approval by the Chairperson of the Crisis Management Team (CMT). Once approval is obtained, the prevailing health and safety protocols for access, entry and circulation should be observed.

All other restrictions on entry to headquarters' premises will continue to remain in place until further notice.