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Food and Agriculture
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Продовольственная и
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Объединенных Наций

Organización de las
Naciones Unidas para la
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منظمة
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COUNCIL

Hundred and Seventy-fourth Session

Rome, 4-8 December 2023

Methods of Work for the 174th Session of the Council

Executive summary

This document summarises the working methods for the 174th Session of the Council, due to be held on 4-8 December 2023 in hybrid physical-virtual modality.

Measures to enhance the efficiency in the conduct of the Session, *inter alia* to streamline the conduct of proceedings include a Written Correspondence Procedure for six agenda items, as well as time limits for interventions, and advance circulation of introductory presentations.

Members of the Council will be invited to endorse these procedures under Item 1 of the Provisional Agenda of the 174th Session of the Council. The Report of the Session will record the Council's endorsement of these procedures in order to ensure the integrity of the Report of the Session and all recommendations and decisions contained therein.

Queries on the substantive content of this document may be addressed to:

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I. Introduction

1. Members of the Council will be invited to endorse procedures outlined in this document for enhanced working methods of its 174th Session under Item 1 of the Provisional Agenda.
2. The adoption of these procedures shall not create a precedent for the working methods of the Council for its future Sessions. The Report of the 174th Session of the Council will record the Council's consensus on the modalities for the Session outlined in this document.

II. Conduct of Debate

3. All meetings of the 174th Session of the Council will be conducted in hybrid modality with both physical presence in FAO headquarters and attendance through the Zoom videoconferencing platform, ensuring participation of all Members on equal footing.

III. Written Correspondence Procedure

4. The following items on the Agenda of the 174th Session of the Council shall be addressed through a Written Correspondence Procedure:
 - **Item 6** – Update on the Hand-in-Hand Initiative
 - **Item 12** – Update on FAO's collaboration with other UN system entities
 - **Item 15** – Status of implementation of decisions taken at the 172nd Session of the Council (Rome, 24-28 April 2023)
 - **Item 16** – World Food Programme:
 - 16.2 – Annual Report of the WFP Executive Board on its activities in 2022
 - **Item 17** – Developments in fora of importance for the mandate of FAO
 - **Item 18** – Calendar of FAO Governing Bodies and other main sessions 2023-2025
5. The Written Correspondence Procedure aims to allow more time during the discussions of the Council in Plenary and to allow the Council to address all items on its Agenda in a timely manner.
6. Under this procedure, Members will be asked to submit any comments and questions in writing to the Secretariat, and will be provided with written responses where applicable.
7. Members are invited to submit written inputs by Wednesday 15 November 2023, to FAO-Council@fao.org. All inputs received will be published on the website of the 174th Session of the Council. The Secretariat will provide written responses, where necessary, which will be made available ahead of the Council's discussion in Plenary.
8. The Independent Chairperson of the Council will draft summary conclusions for the agenda items considered through the Written Correspondence Procedure on the basis of this written exchange. The Council will address these draft conclusions at a Plenary meeting of the Council as indicated in the Timetable. As per established practice of the Written Correspondence Procedure, the sovereign right of Members to discuss agenda items in Plenary meetings is not strained.
9. The Council will be invited to endorse this procedure under Item 1 of the Provisional Agenda of the 174th Session of the Council.

IV. Other Matters

10. All documents for the Session are prepared and disseminated by the Secretariat, as per established practice, in all six languages of the Organization. An Order of the Day will be circulated, in all languages of the Organization.
11. In order to streamline the proceedings of the 174th Session of the Council, introductions to agenda items are circulated in writing in advance of the Session.
12. Interventions by Members will be limited to a maximum of three minutes and multi-Member statements will be limited to a maximum of five minutes. The Independent Chairperson of the Council will enforce such time management.

13. The time zone applicable to the Council's 174th Session Timetable will be Central European Time (UTC +1). The meetings of the 174th Session of the Council will be scheduled from 9.30 to 12.00 hours in the morning, from 14.00 to 16.30 hours in the afternoon, and from 17.00 to 19.30 hours in the evening.
14. Simultaneous interpretation in all six languages of the Organization will be provided for all Plenary meetings of the 174th Session of the Council.
15. Sessions of the Council are public (Rule XXV.8(a) of the General Rules of the Organization) and can be followed through the Webcast available on the FAO website.
16. A mobile application for the 174th Session of the Council will be made available and will communicate any changes to the schedule of items for discussion.