



# COUNCIL

## Hundred and Seventy-seventh Session

Rome, 7-11 April 2025

## Arrangements for the 44th Session of the Conference (Rome, 28 June-4 July 2025)

### Executive summary

This document outlines the two outstanding dimensions of arrangements for the 44th Session of the Conference requiring guidance from the Council, namely: Officers of the Conference for which candidates need to be nominated; and a proposal for the topic for the General Debate on the State of Food and Agriculture, as well as for the biennial theme for consideration by Governing Bodies in 2026-2027.

### Suggested action by the Council

The Council is requested to make recommendations to the 44th Session of the Conference on:

- a) proposals for candidates for the following Officers of the Conference:
  - Chairperson of the Conference;
  - Chairperson of Commission I;
  - Chairperson of Commission II;
  - three Vice-Chairpersons of the Conference;
  - seven elected Members of the General Committee; and
  - nine Members of the Credentials Committee; and
- b) the topic for the General Debate on the State of Food and Agriculture, and the biennial theme for consideration by Governing Bodies in 2026-2027.

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

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## I. Introduction

1. As decided by the 43rd Session of the Conference (1-7 July 2023), the 44th Session of the Conference will be held in Rome from Saturday, 28 June to Friday, 4 July 2025.<sup>1</sup>
2. Further to the arrangements for the 44th Session of the Conference of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) endorsed by the Council at its 176th Session, this document outlines the two outstanding dimensions of arrangements for which guidance is required by the 177th Session of the Council.

## II. Officers of the Conference

3. In keeping with the practice of regional rotation, the FAO Africa Regional Group is expected to submit to the 177th Session of the Council the name of a representative of the Africa Region as Chairperson of the Conference. Furthermore, the Council is invited to take into consideration the established practice of regional rotation regarding the chairpersonship of the Commissions whereby, in this instance, the Chairperson of Commission I would be from a country belonging to the G77 and China, and the Chairperson of Commission II would be from a country that is not a member of the G77 and China.
4. In accordance with Rule XXIV.5 (b) of the GRO, the Council is requested to nominate candidates for the following positions:
  - Chairperson of the Conference;
  - Chairperson of Commission I;
  - Chairperson of Commission II;
  - three Vice-Chairpersons of the Conference;
  - seven elected Members of the General Committee; and
  - nine members of the Credentials Committee.
5. Following past practice, the nominated members of the Credentials Committee will commence their work in the 15 days leading up to the Conference.
6. Additionally, in line with the recommendation of the 165th Session of the Council<sup>2</sup> and the approval by the 42nd Session of the Conference,<sup>3</sup> the nominated Members of the General Committee may meet informally ahead of the opening of the Conference session in order to undertake preparatory work, noting that such work would not constitute formal decisions of the Committee until its membership is elected by the Conference.

## III. Topic for the General Debate and biennial theme for consideration by Governing Bodies in 2026-2027

7. At its 176th Session, in December 2024, the Council reviewed “Four Betters United One Renaissance FAO for a better future” as the topic for the General Debate at the 44th Session of the

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<sup>1</sup> C 2023/REP, para. 74.

<sup>2</sup> CL 165/REP, para. 33 (d).

<sup>3</sup> C 2021/REP, para. 10.

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Conference, as well as for the biennial theme for Governing Bodies in 2026-2027. The Council decided to review further the proposal and revisit the matter at its next session.

8. Accordingly, the Council is invited to make a recommendation to the Conference on the topic for the General Debate at its 44th Session, as well as for the 2026-27 biennial theme.