



COUNCIL

Hundred and Seventy-third Session

Rome, 10 July 2023

Methods of Work for the 173rd Session of the Council

Executive summary

This document outlines the working methods in place for the 173rd Session of the Council to be held on 10 July 2023. The 173rd Session of the Council will be held in hybrid physical-virtual modality. Members of the Council will be invited to endorse these working methods under Item 1 of the Provisional Agenda of the 173rd 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. Conduct of Debate

1. All meetings of the 173rd Session of the Council will be conducted in hybrid modality with both physical presence in FAO headquarters and participation through the Zoom videoconferencing platform. The Zoom meeting will be broadcast inside the meeting room so that participants attending the Session physically will be able to see the participants attending the meeting virtually, and vice versa.
2. The 173rd Session of the Council will be hosted on a virtual environment to provide Members with an interactive meeting experience. All participants will have access to the Zoom meeting rooms through this virtual environment.
3. Members and Observers of the Council attending the meeting virtually will be granted equal accessibility and capability inside the Zoom meeting platform.

II. Reports and Records

4. The draft Report of the 173rd Session of the Council will be presented for adoption by the Council during a plenary meeting. The draft Report of the 173rd Session of the Council will be shared on screen following the conclusion of all items on its Agenda. The Council may make adjustments to the draft Report at this time.
5. The Report of the 173rd Session of the Council will be communicated in accordance with Rule VI.2 of the Rules of Procedure of the Council.
6. The Report of the 173rd Session of the Council will record the Council's consensus on the working methods for the Session outlined in this document.
7. The Report of the 173rd Session of the Council will record the Council's agreement that participation by virtual means constituted attendance at the Session, which is convened at the seat of the Organization in accordance with Rule II.3 of the Rules of Procedure of the Council.
8. The verbatim records of the 173rd Session of the Council shall be made available in line with Rule VI.1 of the Rules of the Procedure of the Council.

III. Elections

9. The Chairpersons and Members of the Council Committees are elected by secret ballot, except that in the case in which there are not more candidates than vacancies, the Chairperson may submit to the Council that the appointment be decided by clear general consent.¹
10. Should a secret ballot election be held, this will be conducted in person in FAO headquarters, in accordance with the rules and regulations of the Organization, specifically Rule XII of the General Rules of the Organization.

IV. Other Matters

11. All documents for the Session are prepared and disseminated by the Secretariat, as per established practice, in all six languages of the Organization.
12. The time zone applicable to the Council's 173rd Session will be Central European Summer Time (UTC +2). This is the time zone of the headquarters of the Organization, and the location of the meeting as if it were held as a physical meeting.
13. The meetings of the 173rd Session of the Council will be scheduled from 9.30 to 12.00 in the morning, from 14.00 to 16.30 in the afternoon, and from 17.00 to 19.30 in the evening.
14. Simultaneous interpretation in all six languages of the Organization will be provided for all Plenary meetings of the 173rd Session of the Council.

¹ Rule XII.10(a) of the General Rules of the Organization

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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 173rd Session of the Council will be made available and will communicate any changes to the schedule of items for discussion.