

168th Session of the Council

Item 15: Selection and Appointment of Secretaries of Article XIV Bodies

The 166th Session of the Council welcomed the positive developments and spirit of compromise demonstrated by all parties to these consultations on defining long-term procedures for the selection and appointment of Secretaries of Article XIV Bodies. The Council also reiterated the need to balance the functional autonomy of the relevant Article XIV Bodies with the legal and administrative responsibilities borne by the Organization as well as the accountability of the Director-General for the Secretaries of such bodies. Finally, the Council also encouraged me to continue the consultations held under my predecessor towards a mutually agreeable solution to the matter, and looked forward to a timely solution to the matter.

I am pleased to inform the 168th Session of the Council that progress has been made since the 166th Session of the Council in April this year. Following my election, I held a number of bilateral consultations with all three concerned Article XIV Bodies; the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC); the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM); and the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (ITPGRFA).

As explained in the relevant Council document CL 168/17, the proposed procedure for the selection and appointment of Secretaries of Article XIV Bodies presented to Council at its 166th Session has been further adjusted following the consultations held in July and September 2021 with the three concerned Article XIV Bodies. Details on the specific adjustments and additions to the procedure are outlined in the relevant Council document under Section III.

On 28 September 2021, I submitted the revised proposed procedure as a harmonized text taking into consideration those proposals by the concerned Bodies, which had been considered as accepted by FAO Management. This revised proposed procedure is contained in *Annex 1* of Council document CL 168/17.

The Council is invited to endorse the proposed procedure included in *Annex 1*, CL 168/17, for the selection and appointment of Secretaries of the concerned Article XIV Bodies.

Mr Hans Hoogeveen, Independent Chairperson of the Council