

177th Session of the FAO Council

Item 11: Report of the 122nd Session of the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters (Rome, 3–5 March 2025)

The Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters (CCLM) held its 122nd Session in person at the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) headquarters from 3 to 5 March 2025.

The Committee was informed that Mr Ousmane Diop Fall would replace Mr Madiagne Tall as representative of Senegal until the end of the term of office, and that Ms Marilyn Giuseppina Di Luca Santaella would replace Ms Haifa Aissami Madah as representative of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela for the remainder of the term of office.

The Committee invites the Council to endorse its considerations and conclusions regarding Recommendation 7 of the Report of the Joint Inspection Unit entitled *Review of the state of the investigation function: progress made in the United Nations system organizations in strengthening the investigation function (JIU/REP/2020/1)*. The Committee examined the document prepared by the Secretariat on this matter. The Committee welcomed the written contributions submitted by Members. It looked forward to continued participation in informal joint working sessions with the Finance Committee. The Committee took note of recent developments in other United Nations Specialized Agencies, encouraged the Secretariat to continue monitoring these developments and recommended that these Agencies' good practices be taken into consideration in the development of procedures. The Committee looked forward to receiving a revised version of the draft procedures for consideration at its autumn 2025 session (i.e. its 123rd Session). It stressed the importance of finalizing the development of appropriate procedures as soon as possible.

The Committee also invited the Council to take note of its reflections on several items:

- With regard to **updated information on the dissemination of Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) signed by FAO**, the Committee also welcomed the mandatory inclusion, since 2021, of a dissemination clause in all MoUs concluded by the Organization. It took note of ongoing efforts to expand the CONNECT Portal with a view to providing a single platform within the Organization for accessing all MoUs signed by FAO. The Committee strongly urged the Secretariat to accelerate the publication of MoUs – in particular, those concluded with academia, research institutes and civil society organizations that already contain the dissemination clause. The Committee requested that any new MoU be made available to Members promptly. It looked forward to receiving updated information at its next session (that is, its 123rd Session).
- With regard to the **Report of the Joint Inspection Unit entitled *Review of management and administration in the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (JIU/REP/2023/5)***, the Committee recalled that several recommendations have, or may have, legal implications. The Committee also referred to the Report of its 121st Session, in which it expressed its readiness to provide further advice on the constitutional and legal aspects of the matter, in accordance with its mandate. The Committee was informed of the current situation regarding recommendations 2, 3 and 10, and that, in the case of recommendation 3, the Administrative Manual was being updated to clearly define the functions, responsibilities and operating procedures of the Regional, Subregional and Country Offices.
- The Committee reviewed the document entitled ***Treaty Event: update on arrangements*** (CCLM 122/4) and commended the FAO Legal Office's efforts in this regard. The Committee encouraged the Legal Office to continue its outreach activities to promote participation in the first Treaty Ceremony. This provided an opportunity to highlight the Organization's normative work

and the commitments undertaken by its Members. The Committee reiterated its recommendation to hold an informal briefing for all Members on its activities and FAO's relevant areas of expertise. It also suggested that the Treaty Ceremony could be featured on that occasion. The Committee welcomed the Secretariat's announcement that a technical note containing additional information on the inaugural Treaty Ceremony would be shared with Members.

- The Committee expressed its appreciation for the presentation on FAOLEX and encouraged the Secretariat to leverage the 30th Anniversary of FAOLEX and the 80th Anniversary of FAO to further promote awareness of this global public good.

In conclusion, as you are likely aware, this is the final session of the CCLM in its current composition. It has been a pleasure working with you all. As Chairperson, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to the Members of the CCLM, Committee Secretary Cristiana, Legal Counsel Donata, and the entire Legal Office team for their dedication, commitment and substantial contributions. I take great pride in the work we have accomplished together over the past two years. Many thanks also to the interpreters and translators who bring multilingualism to life daily, and to the FAO logistics teams.

Ms Céline Jurgensen, Chairperson of the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters