

## 172nd Session of the FAO Council

### **Item 15: Restoration by the Conference of the voting rights of Member Nations in arrears in the payment of their financial contributions to the Organization**

The 42nd Session of the Conference “requested the conduct of a comprehensive review on the process for reinstating voting rights for Member Nations in arrears for consideration by the relevant Governing Bodies, including the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters (CCLM), supported by a process of informal consultations led by the Independent Chairperson of the Council (ICC) with the Chairpersons and Vice-Chairpersons of the Regional Groups”.<sup>1</sup> The 167th Session of the Council reiterated this request,<sup>2</sup> and the matter has since gone through a process of both formal consideration by relevant Governing Bodies as well as informal consultations led by the ICC.

The matter has been considered at the 113th, 115th, 116th and 117th Sessions of the CCLM, the 188th and 191st Sessions of the Finance Committee and the 168th and 170th Sessions of the Council.

The 113th Session of the CCLM noted the practice developed by FAO was consistent with the approach taken by most other UN system organizations and was of the view that a blanket waiver of the rules regarding voting rights established by the Basic Texts should be avoided.

The 168th Session of the Council considered the Report of the 113th Session of the CCLM and encouraged the ICC to hold consultations with Members taking into account existing rules, the CCLM’s findings, and relevant United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) resolutions.

Subsequently, transparent and inclusive consultations open to the full Membership took place on 4 March and 20 April 2022, through which a draft Conference Resolution was developed containing procedures and criteria related to the restoration of voting rights for Member Nations in arrears. This Resolution was submitted to the 116th Session of the CCLM on 8 June 2022, ahead of the 170th Session of the Council (13-17 June 2022).

The 116th Session of the CCLM recommended amendments to the draft Resolution in order to align it with the Report of the 191st Session of the Finance Committee, and with these adjustments considered the draft Resolution consistent with the Basic Texts of the Organization.

The Council at its 170th Session considered the draft Resolution and requested that the ICC continue the informal consultations to achieve consensus before submitting a revised version for review by the Council, through the CCLM and the Finance Committee, with a view for submission to the Conference at its 43rd Session.<sup>3</sup>

Accordingly, further informal consultations with the Membership took place during which consensus on the draft Resolution was reached. That text was presented to the Council at its 171st Session in December 2022, through document CL 171/19, *Restoration by the Conference of the voting rights of Member Nations in arrears in the payment of their financial contributions to the Organization*. The Council considered the document and looked forward to reviewing the draft Conference Resolution at its next Session, in April 2023, following review by the CCLM and the Finance Committee, with a view to submitting it to the 43rd Session of the Conference for approval.<sup>4</sup>

---

<sup>1</sup> C 2021/REP, para 25

<sup>2</sup> CL 167/REP, para 11(a)

<sup>3</sup> CL 170/REP, para 41 (b)

<sup>4</sup> CL 171/REP, para 45 (b)

The draft Conference Resolution was subsequently presented to the 118th Session of the CCLM, which made a number of technical adjustments to the text and confirmed that the revised text was consistent with the Basic Texts and ready for the consideration of the Finance Committee and that of the Council, before eventual submission to the Conference for decision.<sup>5</sup>

The revised version of the draft Resolution was further reviewed by the Finance Committee, at its 195th Session, which agreed to submit the draft, as amended by the CCLM, to the Council for consideration, adoption and eventual forwarding to Conference.

The draft Resolution is presented in document CL 172/14 for the consideration of the Council.

*Mr Hans Hoogeveen, Independent Chairperson of the Council*

---

<sup>5</sup> CL 172/10, paras 9 and 10