

**51<sup>st</sup> SESSION OF THE COMMITTEE ON WORLD FOOD SECURITY (CFS)**  
**INFORMATION NOTE ON THE ELECTION OF CFS BUREAU ALTERNATE MEMBERS**

**I. INTRODUCTION**

The 51<sup>st</sup> Session of the Committee on World Food Security (CFS), taking place in Rome from 23 to 27 October 2023, will elect the Members of its Bureau and their Alternates for a period of two years (CFS Rules of Procedure, Rule II, paragraph 3).

The Committee shall elect 12 Members which collectively shall constitute the Bureau of the Committee. The Committee shall also elect 12 Alternate Members. The 12 Members of the Bureau shall be elected from the following regions: two Members each from Africa, Asia, Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean and Near East, respectively; one Member each from North America and Southwest Pacific. The 12 Alternate Members shall be elected as follows: two Members each from Africa, Asia, Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean and Near East, respectively; one Member each from North America and Southwest Pacific.

Prior to the opening of the Session, the CFS Secretariat has received more candidates than vacancies for the two positions of Alternate Members from the European Regional Group.

In the event that there are more candidates than vacancies, secret ballot elections will be held. A secret ballot election would be held in person at FAO headquarters, and in full compliance with the Basic Texts of FAO.

A secret ballot vote is tentatively scheduled for Wednesday 25 October 2023 at 15.00.

**II. ELECTION OF CFS ALTERNATE MEMBERS**

The election of the two Alternate Members from the European Regional Group will be held in one election to fill all two vacancies simultaneously, as prescribed in the Rules of Procedure of the Committee and the General Rules of the Organization<sup>1</sup>. The specific procedure for an election to fill multiple vacancies at the same time is reflected in General Rule XII, paragraph 12.

The two vacancies will be filled using one single ballot paper, which lists the four candidates in alphabetical order of their country. As there are two vacancies to be filled, voting delegates must mark two candidates of their choice. It is important that voting delegates mark two candidates since ballot papers that show less or more than two votes shall be invalid<sup>2</sup>. It is therefore not possible to select only one, or three or four candidates of preference, as two votes must be cast out of the four candidates for a ballot paper to be valid.

If a voting delegate wishes to abstain in the vote, the ballot paper should be left blank entirely.

The ballot paper will clearly reflect the number of vacancies that need to be filled.

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<sup>1</sup> Rules of Procedure of the Committee on World Food Security, Rule II, paragraph 1, and General Rules of the Organization, Rule XXII, paragraph 10 (g).

<sup>2</sup> General Rule of the Organization, Rule XII, paragraph 12 (b).

### **III. PARTICIPATION IN THE ELECTION BY NON-ROME BASED MEMBERS OF CFS**

Members may include in their delegations any alternates and advisors that they deem fit, and this could also include persons, for example, persons from their country who are not based in Rome, but who could travel to Rome for the purpose of a secret ballot. A delegation could also include persons who are nationals, or representatives, from other countries.

One important limitation applies in connection with the above, which is that no delegate may represent more than one Member. Members may still include any persons in their delegations to the CFS Session who could cast a vote, and including, for example, representatives of other countries who have a mission in Rome, but provided that such persons are not also registered as delegates to the 51<sup>st</sup> CFS Session of another Member.

A Member could identify any Member of its delegation to the CFS session as a voting delegate or alternate voting delegate; a voting delegate does not have to be the head of delegation, as long as the voting delegate is a registered Member of the delegation of a CFS Member. The identification of voting delegates and alternates are entirely a matter for the delegation; a voting delegate who presents themselves to the voting area will be assumed to be authorized to vote on behalf of the Member he or she represents.

### **IV. VOTING PROCEDURE**

Voting procedures will be explained from the podium prior to a secret ballot vote. Voting delegates will be called up one by one in alphabetical order to proceed to the voting area in the Plenary Hall. Voting delegates must bring their registration pass for the 51st Session of the CFS to the voting area.

The Chairperson of CFS will appoint two tellers from among the delegates who are not directly interested in the election. The role of the tellers is to supervise the balloting procedure, count the ballot papers, decide on the validity of the ballot paper and certify the result of each ballot. (GRO XII.10 (c) (i-ii)).

Before entry into the voting area, voting delegates will be asked to hand over electronic recording or communication appliances, such as mobile telephones and tablets. Such devices are not allowed within the voting area. A security guard will take custody of the device and deliver the mobile phone at the exit of the voting area.

Ballot papers “shall carry no other notation or mark than those required for the purpose of indicating the vote.” (Rule XII-4 (c) iii). Such additional marks would invalidate the ballot paper. Also, in order for a ballot paper to be valid, it must have the number of votes as there are vacancies; in the case of an election for alternate members of the Bureau from the Europe region, there are two vacancies. The only alternative is not to cast any votes at all, in case a delegates wishes to abstain in the election.

A delegate who has invalidated their ballot paper or otherwise made a mistake may, before leaving the voting area, request a new blank ballot paper from the Elections Officer. Upon receipt of the blank ballot paper, the invalidated ballot paper must be surrendered to the Elections Officer and shall remain in his custody (GRO XII.10 (f)).

Once all voting delegates have completed their voting, the tellers will take their leave from the voting area and proceed to the vote counting room. Once the votes are counted by the tellers, the Chairperson will announce the result of the ballot as soon as possible.