

DATES OF FUTURE CFS PLENARY SESSIONS

Following the request made by the CFS Bureau on 19 December 2023, an information note (BurAG/2024/01/25/04) was prepared by the Secretariat to inform a discussion on potential alternative dates for future CFS plenary sessions between the Bureau and its Advisory Group meeting that took place on 25 January 2024.

During the Bureau and Advisory Group meeting, *“the majority of reactions were in favor of keeping the CFS plenary session in October”*, and Bureau members reiterated this overall preference during its meeting. At the same time, *“it was asked if anticipating it to the week before the World Food Day (WFD) could be considered as a feasible option”*.

There was also a request to consider spring as a potential option. In this regard, it is noted that the RBAs calendar in March, April, May and June is busy with several meetings of their governing bodies and technical committees which makes difficult for the CFS Plenary to take place in that period.

On 25 January, the Bureau *“agreed that this matter be further discussed at the next Bureau meeting in March, bearing in mind the provisions included in the FAO Basic Texts¹ and the CFS Rules of Procedure (rule VII, paragraphs 1² and 3³)”*.

Possible follow-up action

At its meeting on 13 March, the Bureau might consider, after discussing this matter with its Advisory Group, to request the CFS Chair to explore the possibility, in line with existing rules and regulations, to anticipate the CFS Plenary Session before the World Food Day week, from 2025 onwards.

¹ FAO General Rules of the Organization, Rule XXXIII, paragraph 6: *“The Committee shall normally hold two sessions during each biennium. Sessions shall be convened by the Director-General and the Chairperson, taking into account any decision made by the Committee”*; and paragraph 7: *“The Committee may meet in extraordinary (or special) session: (a) if at any regular session the Committee so decides; (b) if the Bureau so requests; or (c) if at least a majority of the Member Nations which are Members of the Committee so request”*.

² *“The Committee shall hold sessions as provided in Rule XXXIII, paragraphs 6 and 7 of the General Rules of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, and shall propose the date and place of its sessions”*.

³ *“Notice of the date and place of each session shall be communicated by the Director General and the Chairperson of the Committee, in consultation with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the International Fund for Agricultural Development and the World Food Programme, at least two months in advance of the session to all Members of the Committee, as well as to all such organizations as may have been invited to participate or to send observers to the session [...]”*.