



Statement on behalf of the European Union and its 27 Member States

171st Session of the Council of the FAO

(5-9 December 2022)

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

Mr. Chair,

- 1. I am honoured to speak on behalf of the European Union and its 27 Member States.**
- 2. Montenegro and the Republic of North Macedonia align themselves with this statement.**
- 3. First, we would like to thank the Independent Chair of the Council for holding informal consultations with Members on this important matter. We would also thank all Members for their constructive approach in these consultations, which resulted in reaching an informal consensus on the draft of a Conference Resolution.**
- 4. The EU and its Member States attach great importance to the financial health of the FAO and to the full payment of assessed contributions. While mindful that there can be conditions hindering Members' ability to meet their financial obligations, we urge all Members to pay their assessed contributions on time, in full and without condition.**

5. **The restoration of voting rights for member in arrears is thus a crucial issue that requires robust procedures. In this regard, the UN General Assembly provides an important benchmark.**
6. **The EU and its Member states are convinced that this Conference Resolution will provide valuable and practical guidance for Member Nations in arrears to validly request the restoration of their voting rights at FAO Conferences. We strongly encourage all the Member Nations concerned to make full use of this Conference Resolution.**
7. **We underline the importance to maintain an enhanced publicly accessible, exhaustive and up-to-date information section on the FAO website, following best practice of the UN system.**
8. **We appreciate the thorough consideration of the draft Resolution by the CCLM and we note that the text is consistent with the Basic Texts. We support the technical adjustments made by the CCLM. We would, nonetheless, have liked to see the established UNGA criteria regarding the deadline for making requests for restoration of voting rights better reflected in the draft Resolution.**
9. **Finally, we would like to stress the importance of consistency of all language versions of the draft Resolution with the English version.**

10. **With these comments, Mr. Chair, we support the recommendation of the CCLM and the Finance Committee to submit the draft Resolution for consideration and decision of the Conference.**

Thank you, Mr Chair.
