



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

**172nd session of the FAO Council**

**(24-28 April 2023)**

**Item 16: Code of Conduct for Voting**

Mr Chair,

1. I am honoured to speak on behalf of the European Union and its 27 Member States.
2. The following FAO Members align themselves with this statement: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Iceland, Moldova, Montenegro, the Republic of North Macedonia, San Marino, Serbia, Türkiye and Ukraine.
3. We would like to commend you for your continued efforts in facilitating the informal consultations with all Members.
4. We appreciate that consensus was reached and that the Code of Conduct for Voting process was concluded at the Informal Consultation on 9 February 2023.
5. The EU and its Member States remain fully committed to an open, fair, ethical, equitable and transparent election process, adding value to the Basic Texts and to already existing FAO practice for secret elections. In that respect, we regret that the Code of Conduct on Voting does not extend to all elections at FAO.
6. We nevertheless consider the Voluntary Code of Conduct for Voting a good basis to further strengthen alignment of FAO with the best practices and standards in the UN system, for the benefit of all FAO members, ensuring the integrity and complete secrecy of voting by secret ballot.

Thank you, Mr Chair.

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