



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 13: Arrangements for the 172nd Session of the Council (24–28 April 2023) and 43rd Session of the Conference (1–7 July 2023)

Madam/Mr Chair,

1. I am honoured to write to you on behalf of the European Union and its 27 Member States regarding the above-mentioned agenda item for the 171st Session of the FAO Council.
2. We welcome the proposal to have ‘water resources management’ as the topic for the general debate at the 43rd Session of the Conference. Indeed, addressing water-related challenges is at the heart of the 2030 Agenda and concerns directly or indirectly a whole range of SDGs.
3. The sustainable, integrated and efficient management of water resources is critical in the context of climate change and the transformation of food systems. It also has a fundamental role to play in addressing the increasing problem of severe drought episodes. Moreover, sustainable integrated water resources management, based on an inclusive, territorial and systemic vision of rural development, can make a significant contribution to fighting global poverty.
4. It is critically important to ensure that FAO’s work on water resources management is duly aligned with ongoing UN initiatives in this area and that FAO works in close cooperation with other UN agencies and international fora dealing with water-related issues.
5. With these observations, we support ‘water resources management’ both as the topic for the general debate at the 43rd FAO Conference and as the theme for the 2024–2025 biennium.

Thank you, Madam/ Mr Chair.
