

GC58/1
Restricted

2 May 2023

TO: All members of the International Grains Council
FROM: Arnaud Petit, Executive Director
SUBJECT: 58th Council Session: Arrangements and draft Agenda

Date and arrangements for the 58th Council Session and IGC Grains Conference

58th Council Session

The 58th Session of the International Grains Council will be held in person only, on **Wednesday 14th June 2023** at the London Marriott Hotel Canary Wharf, 22 Hertsmere Road, Canary Wharf, London, E14 4ED starting at 10.00h (UK time) and is expected to finish by 17.00h (registration 09.30h -10.00h).

Credentials for the Council Session

Heads of delegations are requested to inform the Secretariat as soon as possible of the names and email addresses of persons accredited as their delegates, alternates and advisers to the session.

IGC Grains Conference

The IGC Grains Conference titled "Achieving food security for importers in volatile world markets" will be held in person only on **Monday 12 - Tuesday 13 June 2023** at etc Venues 155 Bishopsgate, Liverpool Street, London EC2M 3YD.

There will be a **conference reception** on the evening of Monday 12th June, at the conference venue from 18.00h-20.00h.

Designated representatives of Council members are entitled to a special conference rate of £150.00 (\$187.50/€172.50). The fee for non-members is £650.00(\$812.50, €747.50).

Registration for the conference:

IGC Members may register for the conference via the IGC member website or the link below.

<https://eu.eventscloud.com/igc23?categoryid=201907466>

Observers and participants attending the session may register via the link:

<https://eu.eventscloud.com/igc23?categoryid=201907465>

Password: Observer_IGC23

Documents

The attached draft Council Agenda was approved by the Administrative Committee at its meeting on 28th April 2023. Other documents will be circulated before or during the Session, as indicated in the Agenda notes.

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INTERNATIONAL GRAINS COUNCIL

58th Session DRAFT AGENDA⁺

	<i>documents</i>
1. Adoption of the Agenda	GC58/1
2. Grains, rice, oilseeds and pulses market situation and outlook, ocean freight market developments	GMR543
3. Update on the joint IGC-WTO project	
4. National trade-related policy developments	GC58/2
5. Dialogue with international organisations on major policy issues affecting grains trade	
6. Grains Trade Convention, 1995 (GTC)	
(i) Future action: Extension of the GTC	
(ii) Egypt: withdrawal from the GTC	
(iii) Listing of members under Article 12: exporting and importing members	GC58/3
(iv) Votes of members under Articles 11 and 12	GC58/4
(v) Elections for 2023/24	GC58/5
7. Work programme:	GC58/6
(i) Progress report on 2022/23 Programme	
(ii) Proposals for 2023/24	
8. Administrative and financial matters	
(i) Contribution arrears	
(ii) Outstanding member contributions	
(iii) Draft budget for 2023/24	GC58/7
9. Fostering international collaboration in trade through partnership agreements	
(i) Oxford University (Environmental Change Institute)	GC58/8
10. Trade reporting by members under Article 7 of the GTC	GC58/9
11. Efforts to increase IGC membership	
12. IGC Grains Conference 2023	GC58/10
13. Schedule of meetings	GC58/11
14. Credentials Committee report	GC58/12
15. Other business	

⁺ Notes on the agenda items are attached.

58thSESSION

NOTES ON THE DRAFT COUNCIL AGENDA

Item 1. Adoption of the Agenda

The Council will be invited to adopt the agenda as circulated in document GC58/1.

Item 2. Grains, rice, oilseeds and pulses market situation and outlook and ocean freight market developments

The Secretariat's latest supply and demand estimates and forecasts will be available to members in the Grain Market Report issued on 18 May 2023 (GMR 543).

The Secretariat will present visuals on:

- (a) Outlook for grains, rice, oilseeds and pulses supply and demand in 2023/24;
- (b) Recent ocean freight market developments

Members will be invited to share their assessments and make comments on market developments.

Item 3. Update on the joint IGC-WTO project

The Secretariat will update members on the latest developments in its trade flow project with WTO to monitor vessel by vessel wheat shipments.

Item 4. National trade-related policy developments

The Secretariat will update information on national trade-related and other policy developments (document GC58/2).

Members are asked to provide information on policy developments in their countries which may affect grain, rice and oilseed supplies or demand.

Item 5. Dialogue with international organisations on major policy issues affecting grains trade.

IGTC and other participating organisations and observers are invited to make brief statements on recent developments in their organisations which may have a bearing on IGC activities.

Item 6. Grains Trade Convention, 1995 (GTC)

(i) Future action: Extension of the GTC

The GTC will expire on 30 June 2023 unless the Council agrees to extend it under Article 33 (2). The options for an extension are either one year or two years. At the 57th Session, the Council agreed in principle that the GTC should be extended for two years until 30 June 2025, subject to confirmation at the present Session. The Council will be invited to agree to extend the GTC for two years, to 30 June 2025.

(ii) Egypt: withdrawal from the GTC

Members were informed in document [GEN\(22/23\)4](#) of Egypt's decision to withdraw from the GTC with effect from 30th June 2023. Egypt's has an outstanding contribution to the Council of £146,676 which is payable by 30th June 2023. Under Article 29, any member that withdraws from the GTC is not released from any obligations under the Convention which have not been discharged by the end of the fiscal year. The Executive Director will inform the Council of the latest efforts to encourage Egypt to reconsider its decision as well as his efforts to secure the outstanding contribution payment.

(iii) Listing of members under Article 12: exporting and importing members

Members are listed as either exporting members or as importing members under Article 12(1) of the GTC. The listing is decided by the Council taking into account grain trading patterns and members' own views. Under Article 12(4) the lists are subject to review by the Council, in the light of changing patterns of members' grain trade, whenever the life of the Convention is extended. The listing is also amended when a new member accedes to the Convention. Under Article 12(5) the Council may, at the request of a member, transfer that member at the beginning of any fiscal year from the list of exporting members to the list of importing members, or vice versa, as appropriate (document GC58/3).

(iv) Votes of members under Articles 11 and 12

Assuming that the GTC is further extended, members' votes in 2023/24 under both Articles 11 and 12 of the Convention will be adjusted in accordance with the methods laid down in the Rules of Procedure. For the information of members, document GC58/4, to be circulated before the Session, will show the results of the calculations on the basis of the Council's membership of the GTC and Food Assistance Convention.

(v) Elections for 2023/24

In accordance with the relevant Articles of the GTC and its Rules of Procedure, the Council will be invited to elect its officers and Committees for fiscal 2023/24 (document GC58/5).

Exporting and importing members of the Council will be invited to hold separate meetings to discuss the elections, and to decide on their respective group's representation.

Item 7. Work programme report

(i) Progress report on 2022/23 Programme

The Executive Director will give a progress report on the 2022/23 work programme and update members on the latest situation regarding the multi-year projects.

(ii) Proposals for 2023/24

At its meeting on 28th April 2023, the Administrative Committee reviewed the Executive Director's proposed programme of work for 2023/24 and agreed to recommend it to the Council (document GC58/6). The Council will be invited to approve it.

Item 8. Administrative and financial matters

(i) Contribution arrears

The Executive Director will update the Council on the latest situation regarding the arrears by Cuba, Egypt, Iran, Iraq and Pakistan.

(ii) Outstanding member contributions

Under Article 21 (5) of the Grains Trade Convention, 1995, contributions are payable upon assessment. An update on the outstanding contributions by members will be provided by the Secretariat.

(iii) Draft budget for 2023/24

The draft budget for fiscal 2023/24, as proposed by the Executive Director, was considered by the Budget Committee on 20 April 2023 and the Administrative Committee on 28 April 2023 and approved for submission to the Council. The Council will be invited to approve the draft budget as set out in document GC58/7 and also the assessment of members' financial contributions for fiscal 2023/24.

NB: Pulses trade volumes (exports and imports) are included in the calculation of members' votes as agreed at the 57th Council Session in January 2023.

Item 9: Fostering international collaboration in trade through partnership agreements

(i) Oxford University (Environmental Change Institute)

The Executive Director will inform members of the MOU signed with Oxford University (Environmental Change Institute) as set out in document GC58/8.

Item 10. Trade reporting by members under Article 7 of the GTC

Article 7 of the GTC requires Council members to provide regular reports of all their trade in grains, including for rice and the main oilseeds (soyabeans, rapeseed/canola), oilseed meals (soyameal) and vegetable oils (soya oil) and pulses. Detailed reporting procedures are set out in Rules 4 and 5 of the Rules of Procedure. Members' trade reports provide vital information for the Council's analytical work, and are used in the calculation of votes under Article 11 of the GTC. Document GC58/9 to be circulated before the Session will show the latest situation.

Item 11. Efforts to increase IGC membership

The Executive Director will report on recent initiatives to expand IGC membership.

Item 12. IGC Grains Conference 2023

The Secretariat will provide a debrief on the previous day's IGC Grains conference co-organised with Japan (document GC58/10).

Item 13. Schedule of meetings

The proposed schedule of IGC meetings until June 2024 will be circulated in document GC58/11.

Item 14. Credentials Committee Report

The Credentials Committee consists of the following members: Argentina, Egypt (Arab Republic of), the Russian Federation, Switzerland and the United States of America. The Committee's report on attendance at the Session will be circulated to the Council for its adoption before the end of the meeting as document GC58/12.

Item 15. Other business

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