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## **Selection of the External Chair of the Consultation on the Fourteenth Replenishment of IFAD's Resources**

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**FOR: APPROVAL**

**Action:** The Executive Board is invited to approve the process for the selection of the External Chair of the Consultation on the Fourteenth Replenishment of IFAD's Resources, including the criteria for the selection and the role of the Chair contained in sections IV and V of this document.

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**Technical questions:**

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# Selection of the External Chair of the Consultation on the Fourteenth Replenishment of IFAD's Resources

## I. Introduction

1. Article 4, section 3, of the Agreement Establishing IFAD requires the Governing Council to periodically review the adequacy of the resources available to IFAD to ensure continuity in the operations of the Fund. To allow for the timely review of resource availability before expiration of the Thirteenth Replenishment of IFAD's Resources (IFAD13), this document is presented to the Executive Board to facilitate discussion and consensus on the process and criteria for the selection of the Chair of the IFAD14 Consultation, and on the role of the Chair.
2. With the agreement of the Executive Board, the selection of the Chair of the IFAD14 Consultation will be undertaken in accordance with the procedure outlined in this document.
3. The draft resolution on the establishment of the IFAD14 Consultation, including the name of the individual proposed as Chair of the IFAD14 Consultation, will be submitted to the Executive Board for approval at its 145<sup>th</sup> session, prior to submission to the Governing Council for consideration at its forty-ninth session.

## II. Background

4. IFAD's first eight replenishment consultations were chaired by the President. IFAD had formally discussed the issue of an external chair for replenishment consultations in the context of IFAD7<sup>1</sup> and IFAD8<sup>2</sup>, but it was not taken forward. After further informal and formal discussions, including through the Convenors and Friends, the proposal to appoint an external chair for the first time for the IFAD9 Consultation was endorsed by the Governing Council in February 2011<sup>3</sup>. The role of the external chair has since been maintained for the IFAD10, IFAD11, IFAD12 and IFAD13 consultations.
5. In 2014, the corporate-level evaluation (CLE) on the achievements of IFAD's replenishments<sup>4</sup> noted that the introduction of an external chair has been one of the most significant changes to date in IFAD's replenishment process. The CLE recognized that there is almost unanimous appreciation for the role of the external chair, who is able to act as an "honest broker". The CLE concluded that the best practice of having an independent external chair should be continued in the future.
6. The CLE also highlighted that early appointment of the external chair allowed him/her to consult in advance with key Member States, helping Management to formulate an appropriate agenda for the consultation and to reflect on related organizational matters to ensure smooth conduct of the entire process.
7. The engagement of an external chair for replenishment negotiations also represents current best practice among international financial institutions and other multilateral organizations that conduct a replenishment exercise.
8. Based on the favourable experiences with an external chair during the consultations for IFAD9 to IFAD13, it is recommended that the practice of appointing an external chair be continued for the IFAD14 Consultation.

<sup>1</sup> Minutes of the eighty-seventh session of the Executive Board. EB/87, para. 57.

<sup>2</sup> Chairmanship of replenishment consultations. EB 2006/88/R.38.

<sup>3</sup> Establishment of the Consultation on the Ninth Replenishment of IFAD's Resources. GC 34/L.4/Rev.1.

<sup>4</sup> EB 2014/111/R.3/Rev.1.

### III. Process for the selection of the External Chair of the IFAD14 Consultation

9. Further to discussions held with Convenors and Friends on 28 January 2025, the table below outlines the proposed process for the selection and appointment of the External Chair for the IFAD14 Consultation.

Table 1

#### Process for the selection of the External Chair

<i>Action</i>	<i>Timing</i>
1. Selection criteria and proposed role and responsibilities for the External Chair submitted to the Executive Board for consideration.	144 <sup>th</sup> session of the Executive Board, 14–15 May 2025
2. A call for expressions of interest opened and published on the IFAD website and the Member States Interactive Platform, where Member States and Management can nominate suitable individuals or encourage them to apply.	By mid-May 2025
3. Management prepares a list of profiles in line with the expressions of interest received.	By mid-June 2025
4. Management and List Convenors identify up to three appointable candidates.	By early July 2025.
5. Taking into consideration the feedback received and any additional information requested, the President selects one candidate to be proposed to the Executive Board, which then makes a recommendation to the Governing Council. The candidate's name is reflected in the resolution establishing the IFAD14 Consultation to be considered by the Executive Board at its 145 <sup>th</sup> session in September 2025.	By mid-July 2025
6. Executive Board approval of submission of the resolution establishing the IFAD14 Consultation, including appointment of the selected candidate as External Chair, for formal adoption by the Governing Council.	145 <sup>th</sup> session of the Executive Board, September 2025
7. Adoption of the relevant resolution and formalization of the appointment of the selected candidate as External Chair of the IFAD14 Consultation.	Forty-ninth session of the Governing Council, February 2026

10. The selected candidate will be engaged by IFAD immediately following the Board's approval, though their confirmation as Chair of the IFAD14 Consultation will be subject to formal approval of the Governing Council. This will allow the selected candidate to consult in advance with Member States, help Management to develop an appropriate agenda for the Consultation, and reflect on organizational matters to ensure the smooth conduct of the entire process.

### IV. Selection criteria

11. The criteria used for selecting the IFAD14 Chair will build on those used previously, while reflecting the evolving role of the chair, as follows:
- (a) Knowledge of multilateral development banks and their processes, including:
    - (i) Knowledge of the replenishment process; and
    - (ii) Ability to understand the technical and development issues discussed during the Consultation sessions, including familiarity with development finance institutions' funding methodologies and with capital markets.
  - (b) Experience in chairing high-level international meetings effectively, including the ability to:
    - (i) Help reconcile varying points of view on complex issues;
    - (ii) Assist with ensuring clarity in the discussion; and
    - (iii) Be impartial.

- (c) Demonstrated leadership and global recognition in areas relevant to IFAD's mandate, including agricultural development and poverty reduction, and the ability to engage with high-level decision makers.
- (d) High level of personal integrity, and absence of any national or international mandates or commitments or conflicts of interest, or capable of demonstrating that any ongoing commitment will not hinder in any way the fulfilment of the role of the Chair.

## **V. Role of the Chair**

12. It is proposed that the Chair will enjoy the status of expert serving on committees of or performing missions for IFAD, pursuant to the Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the Specialized Agencies, Annex XVI. This will ensure that the Chair shall be granted a certain degree of Privileges and Immunities in the performance of their duties.
13. The responsibilities of the IFAD14 Chair would be similar to those of previous IFAD replenishment consultation chairs. Under the authority of the IFAD14 Consultation, the Chair would:
  - (a) Chair formal consultation sessions;
  - (b) Facilitate the consultation meetings, discussions and deliberations, with the support of the Secretariat;
  - (c) Review draft documentation and reports prepared for each consultation session;
  - (d) With the support of the Secretariat, synthesize discussions and prepare the Chair's summary of each meeting concisely and accurately, reflecting the status of negotiations;
  - (e) Lead and facilitate discussions and negotiations among the Membership, as well as between IFAD's leadership and the Membership, to build consensus in order to achieve successful outcomes for the review of the adequacy of the resources of the Fund;
  - (f) Mobilize external support for IFAD, including at the political level within Member States, in collaboration with the respective delegates and IFAD Management.