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Appointment of the President of IFAD (Background note on relevant voting procedures and modalities)

Governing Council — Thirty-Second Session
Rome, 18-19 February 2009

For: **Information**

Note to Governors

This document is submitted for the information of the Governing Council.

To make the best use of time available at Governing Council sessions, Governors are invited to contact the following focal point with any technical questions about this document before the session:

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Appointment of the President of IFAD (Background note on relevant voting procedures and modalities)

1. This document provides the relevant information and guidance on the voting procedures and modalities.

A. Secret ballot

2. The Rules of Procedure of the Governing Council provide, *inter alia*, that the appointment of the President of IFAD is to be considered by the Governing Council at a private meeting and voting shall be held by secret ballot unless the Governing Council decides otherwise (rules 41 and 38.1, see annex I). As indicated in document GC 32/L.3, which is presented to the thirty-second session of the Governing Council under item 5 of its provisional agenda, IFAD has received six nominations for appointment to the position of President of IFAD.

B. Place of voting

3. The voting shall be conducted in the Aula Magna where booths will be set up for Member States to cast their votes in complete privacy. The plenary will remain in official session in a private meeting during the voting procedure in the Aula Magna. Only Governors of Member States or, in their absence, Alternate Governors or, in the absence of both, authorized members of the delegations, as well as the staff designated by the President, shall be allowed in the Aula Magna.

C. Voting session

4. The Chairperson will open the private meeting to which only the Governors, or Alternate Governors or members of the delegations designated to vote on behalf of their country will be admitted on display of appropriate identification, which will be provided by the Secretariat. The specific procedures to be followed will then be outlined.

Order of voting

5. The names of Members States will be called in their English alphabetical order.

Number of votes

6. Members will receive an envelope containing one or more ballot papers with a number of votes indicated thereon equal to the total number of votes to which the Member concerned is entitled. As the allocation of contribution votes will be calculated on the basis of replenishment payments received by IFAD, Member States are urged to honour their pledges of contributions by 5 p.m. (Rome time) on Friday, 13 February 2009, in order to provide for timely preparation of the ballots.¹

Before voting

7. The representative of the Member State is requested to check the ballot papers immediately upon receipt and sign for them accordingly; if the ballot papers do not tally with the number of votes indicated on the envelope, the representative of the Member should inform the officials immediately of such discrepancy **before** signing.

How to vote

8. The Governor, or other individual representing the Member who is to cast that Member's ballot, should then proceed to one of the voting booths.
9. Governors and delegates authorized to cast the votes of the Member that they represent are requested to remain in the Aula Magna prior to casting their votes.

¹ Annex IV, providing the number of votes to which Members are entitled, will be tabled at the session. For Member States' voting rights see annex II.

10. The representative shall indicate the surname of the nominee of his/her choice in the box space provided in each of the ballots papers (see attached sample in annex III) by using one of the stamps duly provided. In accordance with rule 41.2 of the Rules of Procedure of the Governing Council, "Each Governor casting the votes of the Member he represents shall cast them in favour of a single person." After completion, ballots should be placed in the ballot box. Ballots indicating more than one candidate or a candidate not participating will be considered null and void.

D. Ballot counting

11. The ballots will be counted, in a special room designated for that purpose, by the tellers appointed by the Chairperson, assisted by the IFAD staff members designated for that purpose by the President. According to standard practice, the Chairperson appoints one teller from each list. When the counting of votes is complete, the totals received by each nominee will be entered on a tally sheet that will be signed by each teller.

E. Announcement of the results

12. Governors, Alternate Governors and members of delegations are requested to take their places quickly in the Salone della Cultura when the meeting is called to order by the Chairperson. The Chairperson will be subsequently presented with the signed tally sheet and will announce the results of the voting.

F. How to proceed if the quorum of votes is not reached

13. As provided in rule 41.2 of the Rules of Procedure of the Governing Council, if no nominee receives the required number of votes (two thirds of the total number of votes, i.e. 2,003.797) on the first ballot, a second ballot will be taken in which the nominee who received the fewest votes shall not participate.
14. The procedure outlined above will be repeated until one nominee receives at least two thirds of the total number of votes or the Council decides that such balloting should be discontinued and a decision taken on another date (rule 41.2).
15. However, as has happened in the past, when only one nominee remains, the Chairperson may seek an appointment by acclamation.

Rules of Procedure of the Governing Council pertaining to the appointment of the President of IFAD¹

Rule 26: Quorum

1. A quorum for any meeting of the Governing Council shall be constituted by Governors exercising two-thirds of the total number of votes.
[...]

Rule 34: Majority Required

1. The following decisions of the Governing Council shall require at least two-thirds of the total number of votes:
[...]
(c) Appointment or termination of the appointment of the President;
[...]

Rule 41: President

1. The appointment of the President shall be considered by the Governing Council at a private meeting, and voting shall be in accordance with Rule 38.1.
2. The Governing Council shall appoint the President by at least two-thirds of the total number of votes. In the case of more than one nominee, if no nominee receives the required number of votes on the first ballot, a second ballot shall be taken in which the nominee who received the fewest votes shall not participate. This procedure shall be repeated until one nominee receives at least two-thirds of the total number of votes or the Council decides that such balloting be discontinued and decision be taken on another date [However, see Rule 35.1 below]. Each Governor casting the votes of the Member he represents shall cast them in favour of a single person.

Rule 35: Method of Taking Decisions

1. At any meeting of the Governing Council, the Chairman should attempt to secure a consensus on a proposal, in lieu of taking a vote thereon. However, the Council shall take decisions by vote at the request of any Governor.
[...]
3. Secret ballots shall be taken by providing each Governor with one or more ballot papers, each indicating a specific number of votes, which shall be so distributed that: (i) papers specifying any particular number of votes shall be received by at least four Governors, and (ii) the total number of votes specified on the papers received by any Governor shall equal the number of votes he is entitled to cast; each Governor may indicate his vote on all the papers he receives and deposit them in ballot boxes from which they shall be taken and counted by tellers appointed by the Chairman.

Rule 38: Elections

1. [...] all elections shall be held by secret ballot unless the Governing Council decides otherwise in an election where the number of candidates does not exceed the number of elective places to be filled.
[...]

¹ The rules are presented in a sequence to facilitate understanding of the specific conditions pertaining to the appointment of the President.

Rule 33: Voting Rights

1. Each Member shall have the number of votes distributed to it in accordance with the formulae set out in Section 3(a) of Article 6 of the Agreement [Establishing the International Fund for Agricultural Development] and in the decisions that the Governing Council shall take, from time to time, in accordance therewith.
2. Each Governor shall be entitled to cast the votes of the Member he represents. In his absence, the alternate appointed by that Member or, in the absence of both, a member of their delegation shall be entitled to cast these votes.

Rule 36: Conduct Relating to Voting

1. The Chairman shall announce the commencement of voting, after which no one shall be permitted to intervene until the results of the vote have been announced except on a point of order in connection with the process of voting.

[...]

Voting rights of Member States in the Governing Council

Under article 6, section 3(a), of the Agreement Establishing the International Fund for Agricultural Development, Voting in the Governing Council:

“The total number of votes in the Governing Council shall be comprised of Original Votes and Replenishment Votes. All Members shall have equal access to those votes on the following basis:

- (i) Original Votes shall consist of a total of one thousand eight hundred (1 800) votes made up of membership votes and contribution votes:
 - (A) membership votes** shall be distributed equally among all Members; and
 - (B) contribution votes** shall be distributed among all Members in the proportion that each Member’s cumulative paid contribution to the resources of the Fund, authorized by the Governing Council prior to 26 January 1995 and made by Members in accordance with Sections 2, 3 and 4 of Article 4 of this Agreement, bear to the aggregate of the total of the said contributions paid by all Members;
- (ii) Replenishment Votes shall be made up of membership votes and contribution votes in a total amount of votes to be decided by the Governing Council upon each occasion that it calls for additional contributions under Section 3 of Article 4 of this Agreement (a “replenishment”) commencing with the fourth such replenishment. Except as the Governing Council shall by a two-thirds majority of the total number of votes otherwise decide, the votes for each replenishment shall be established in the ration of one hundred (100) votes for the equivalent of each one hundred and fifty eight million United States dollars (USD 158 000 000) contributed to the total amount of that replenishment, or a fraction thereof:
 - (A) membership votes** shall be distributed equally among all Members on the same basis as that set forth in provision (i)(A) above; and
 - (B) contribution votes** shall be distributed among all Members in the proportion that each Member’s paid contribution to the resources contributed to the Fund by Members for each replenishment bears to the aggregate of the total contributions paid by all Members to the said replenishment; and
- (iii) The Governing Council shall decide the total number of votes to be allocated as membership votes and contribution votes under paragraphs (i) and (ii) of this Section. Upon any change in the number of Members of the Fund, the membership votes and contribution votes distributed under paragraphs (i) and (ii) of this Section shall be redistributed in accordance with the principles laid down in the said paragraphs. In the allocation of votes, the Governing Council shall ensure that those Members classified as Members of Category III before 26 January 1995 receive one-third of the total votes as membership votes”

Sample Ballot Paper

INTERNATIONAL FUND FOR AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT		
XXX Votes		XXX Votes
Governing Council		
<p>This ballot is for use within the Governing Council during secret balloting. Please indicate the surname of the participating candidate of your choice in the box above. After completion, this ballot should be placed in the ballot box. Ballots indicating more than one candidate or a candidate not participating will be considered null and void.</p> <p>Bulletin pour les scrutins secrets du Conseil des gouverneurs. Prière d'inscrire le nom du candidat de votre choix dans la case ci-dessus. Ensuite, déposer le bulletin dans l'urne prévue. Les bulletins sur lesquels figureront plus d'un nom ou celui d'un candidat ne faisant pas partie de la liste officielle seront considérés nuls.</p> <p>Esta papeleta se utilizará para la votación secreta que celebrará el Consejo de Gobernadores. Sírvase indicar el apellido del candidato de su elección en el recuadro que figura más arriba. Una vez rellena, la papeleta se depositará en la urna instalada al efecto. Las papeletas en las que se indiquen varios candidatos, o un candidato que no participa, se considerarán nulas.</p>		

