

17 September 2020

SUBJECT: Appointment of the President of IFAD

Distinguished Governor,

I have the honour to inform you that, in accordance with article 6, section 8(a) of the Agreement Establishing IFAD, the appointment of the President of IFAD will be considered at the forty-fourth session of the Governing Council, to be held in Rome on 17 and 18 February 2021. Information on relevant procedures and modalities for the appointment of the President was made available on 30 July, and can be found on IFAD's Member States Interactive Platform at <https://webapps.ifad.org/members/gc/GC44/docs/2020-07-30.pdf>.

The duties and responsibilities of the President are mainly set out in IFAD's basic documents. Excerpts from the Agreement Establishing IFAD and the Financial Regulations of IFAD pertaining to the overarching duties of the President are attached hereto as annex II. Further details relative to these duties may also be found in the following documents, available on the IFAD website at: <http://www.ifad.org/pub/basic/index.htm>:

- By-laws for the Conduct of the Business of IFAD;
- Policies and Criteria for IFAD Financing;
- Rules of Procedure of the Governing Council;¹
- Rules of Procedure of the Executive Board;
- IFAD Handbook for Financial Reporting and Auditing of IFAD-financed Projects;
- IFAD Guidelines on Dealing with *De Facto* Governments.

Upon the recommendation of the Governing Council Bureau, subsequent to its review of the Established Practice for the Process Leading to the Appointment of the President of IFAD, the Governing Council decided that the following criteria for candidates running for the presidency would be included in the call for nominations issued by the Secretariat to all Member States:

CRITERIA FOR THE APPOINTMENT OF THE PRESIDENT OF IFAD

- Strategic leadership skills based on knowledge and experience of development issues;
- Strong demonstrated commitment to all the objectives of the Fund;
- Communication and advocacy skills to influence decision makers at the highest level, including ministers and heads of other development agencies;
- Ability to build and maintain a cohesive and effective top management team;
- Experience in managing substantial financial resources.

¹ Amendments are proposed to these rules and will be submitted for approval by the Governing Council through a vote by correspondence.

The procedure for obtaining nominations for the office of the President of IFAD is set out in section 6.2 of the By-laws for the Conduct of the Business of IFAD, as follows:

When the term of office of the President is due to expire, the appointment of a President shall be placed on the agenda of the annual session of the Governing Council immediately preceding the expiry of the term of office; whenever, for other reasons, the office of President becomes vacant or a vacancy is due to occur, the Executive Board shall request that the Governing Council be convened in special session for the purpose of appointing the President. Nominations for the office of President may be submitted to the Secretary of the Fund by Members, along with a curriculum vitae. Except as the Bureau of the Council may decide otherwise, all nominations shall be submitted no less than 60 days before the opening of the session at which the appointment of the President is to be decided. The President shall communicate timely nominations to all Members and the Bureau no less than 40 days prior to the session of the Council.

I wish to inform you that the Governing Council Bureau has confirmed the time frame prescribed in section 6.2 of the By-laws. Therefore, **the deadline for receipt by the Secretary of IFAD of all nominations of candidates by Member States will expire at midnight, Monday, 23 November 2020, Rome time.** Nominations must be submitted by Member State Governors through their designated channel of communication to the Secretary of IFAD using the following e-mail address: elections@ifad.org.

Nominations will be communicated to all Members and the Bureau by the President no later than 15 December 2020.

In accordance with the practice established for the 2017 appointment process and the recommendation of the Governing Council Bureau, the call for nominations is accompanied by a list of questions to which candidates are invited to respond in writing, bearing in mind that both the responses and the nominations must be received by the Secretary of IFAD by midnight, 23 November 2020, Rome time. These questions (together with the corresponding instructions) are attached herewith as annex I. The questions have been prepared by the List Convenors and reviewed by the Governing Council Bureau.

Also at the recommendation of the Bureau, the Governing Council decided that guidelines to regulate the campaigns of candidates for the presidency be included in the call for nominations for the purpose of identifying unethical practices on the part of candidates or their supporting governments during the campaign/appointment processes. These guidelines are attached hereto as annex III.

Should you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact me by telephone on +39 06 5459 2254/2374 or by e-mail at elections@ifad.org.

Accept, Distinguished Governor, the assurances of my highest consideration.



Luis Jiménez-McInnis
Secretary of IFAD

Questions for candidates

The following five questions have been prepared by the Convenors of the Lists of IFAD's Member States, and reviewed by the Governing Council Bureau.

- What is your vision for IFAD and how would you strengthen its role and effectiveness as part of the international architecture, particularly in the context of COVID-19, in contributing to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030, especially the elimination of hunger, malnutrition and poverty?
- As President, how would you ensure IFAD's continued financial sustainability and mobilization of more resources to allow IFAD to fulfil its mission and exert its comparative advantages?
- The mandate of IFAD is to support the development and poverty reduction of smallholder farmers globally. From your perspective, how could IFAD further strengthen its cooperation with low-income, lower-middle-income and upper-middle-income countries?
- How could IFAD strengthen knowledge-sharing and policy exchange, including through increased integration of South-South and Triangular Cooperation in its business model?
- Describe the values that would guide you as the President of IFAD. Describe also your management style and how you would work with your ideal senior management team, including with regard to IFAD's ongoing decentralization process.

Candidates are kindly invited to provide their responses, taking into account that an overall word count of between 1,000 and 3,000 applies for all five answers combined.

Candidates are also reminded that both the responses and the nominations must be received by the Secretary of IFAD by midnight, 23 November 2020, Rome time.

Any queries should be sent to the following e-mail address: elections@ifad.org.

Relevant provisions of the Agreement Establishing the International Fund for Agricultural Development²

ARTICLE 6 – ORGANIZATION AND MANAGEMENT

Section 1 - Structure of the Fund

The Fund shall have:

- (a) a Governing Council;
- (b) an Executive Board;
- (c) a President and such staff as shall be necessary for the Fund to carry out its functions.

Section 7 - Chairman of the Executive Board

The President of the Fund shall be the Chairman of the Executive Board and shall participate in its meetings without the right to vote.

Section 8 - President and Staff

- (a) The Governing Council shall appoint the President by a two-thirds majority of the total number of votes. He shall be appointed for a term of four years and shall be eligible for reappointment for only one further term. The appointment of the President may be terminated by the Governing Council by a two-thirds majority of the total number of votes.
- (b) Notwithstanding the restriction on the term of office of the President of four years, contained in paragraph (a) of this Section, the Governing Council may, under special circumstances, on the recommendation of the Executive Board, extend the term of office of the President beyond the duration prescribed in paragraph (a) above. Any such extension shall be for no more than six months.
- (c) The President may appoint a Vice-President, who shall perform such duties as shall be assigned to him by the President.
- (d) The President shall head the staff and, under the control and direction of the Governing Council and the Executive Board, shall be responsible for conducting the business of the Fund. The President shall organize the staff and shall appoint and dismiss members of the staff in accordance with regulations adopted by the Executive Board.

[...]

- (f) The President and the staff, in the discharge of their functions, owe their duty exclusively to the Fund and shall neither seek nor receive instructions in regard to the discharge thereof from any authority external to the Fund. Each Member of the Fund shall respect the international character of this duty and shall refrain from any attempt to influence them in the discharge of their duties.
- (g) The President and the staff shall not interfere in the political affairs of any Member. Only development policy considerations shall be relevant to their decisions and these considerations shall be weighed impartially in order to achieve the objective for which the Fund was established.

² For further information, please also see the Rules of Procedure of the Executive Board.

- (h) The President shall be the legal representative of the Fund.
- (i) The President, or a representative designated by him, may participate, without the right to vote, in all meetings of the Governing Council.

Section 10 - Administrative Budget

The President shall prepare an annual administrative budget which he shall submit to the Executive Board for transmission to the Governing Council for approval by a two-thirds majority of the total number of votes.

ARTICLE 7 – OPERATIONS

Section 2 - Forms and Terms of Financing

- (c) The President shall submit projects and programmes to the Executive Board for consideration and approval.

Relevant provisions of the Financial Regulations of IFAD

REGULATION VI – ADMINISTRATIVE BUDGET

1. The President shall submit an annual administrative budget estimate to the Executive Board for transmission to the Governing Council for approval by a two-thirds majority of the total number of votes.

[...]

3. To meet the Fund's requirements the President may, with the approval of the Executive Board, reallocate funds between categories of the administrative budget.

REGULATION VII – BUDGETARY PROJECTIONS

As part of the annual budgetary process, the President shall prepare for consideration by the Executive Board medium-term budgetary projections on the basis of projected income flows to the Fund from all sources and projected operational plans and disbursements covering the same period. The assumptions underlying the projections shall reflect principles of sound financial planning.

REGULATION VIII – INVESTMENT OF FUNDS

1. The President may place or invest cash funds, not needed immediately for the Fund's operations or administrative expenditures.

REGULATION IX – PROCUREMENT AND CONTROL OF EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES

Equipment, supplies and other requirements for servicing the Fund shall be procured and, when necessary, disposed of in accordance with rules prescribed by the President.

REGULATION X – INTERNAL CONTROL

1. Consistent with well-recognized international standards of financial management and accountancy, the President shall:
 - (a) Establish detailed financial rules and procedures in order to ensure:
 - (i) Effective financial administration and the exercise of economy;
 - (ii) Effective custody of the physical assets of the Fund; and
 - (iii) That all payments are made on the basis of relevant supporting evidence;
 - (b) Designate the officers who may receive moneys, incur commitments or obligations and make payments on behalf of the Fund;
 - (c) Establish and maintain appropriate internal financial control and audit systems.
2. Commitments or obligations shall not be incurred and payments shall not be made unless an appropriate authorization has been made in writing under the authority of the President.

REGULATION XI - ACCOUNTS

1. The President shall cause such annual accounts to be maintained as shall be necessary to show properly the Fund's: (i) income and expenditures; (ii) utilization of budgetary allocations; (iii) operations; and (iv) financial position.
2. The accounting records may be kept in such currency or currencies as the President may determine, and in the SDR to the extent necessary.

REGULATION XII – EXTERNAL AUDIT

5. The President shall provide the external auditor with the facilities required in the performance of the audit.

REGULATION XIV – GENERAL PROVISIONS

To ensure effective financial administration of the Fund, the President shall from time to time prescribe such rules, procedures and guidelines as may be necessary to implement these Regulations.

Guidelines for the Campaign

These guidelines relate only to the campaign leading up to the appointment of the President of IFAD. Their aim is to promote an open, fair, equitable and transparent electoral process among candidates who are running for the office of President of IFAD.

From the date on which nominations are announced and during the entire campaign process, Member States and candidates should:

- (a) Act in good faith and with mutual respect towards one another, bearing in mind the shared objectives of promoting equity, openness, transparency and fairness throughout the appointment process;
- (b) Refrain from:
 - disrupting or impeding the campaign activities of other candidates and generally campaigning in an improper manner against other candidates;
 - making any oral or written statement or other representation that could be deemed slanderous or libellous;
 - making promises or commitments (other than as considered generally acceptable in diplomatic and international negotiations) that could undermine, or be perceived as undermining, the integrity of the appointment process or the governance of IFAD;
 - attempting to influence the appointment process in an improper manner.