

17 September 2020

**SUBJECT: Appointment of the President of IFAD**

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 next session of the IFAD Governing Council, to be held in Rome on 17 and 18 February 2021.

Nominations of candidates for the Presidency are put forward by IFAD Member States and must be received by the Secretary of IFAD no later than midnight, 23 November 2020, Rome time.

In this regard, I am pleased to attach:

- A copy of the announcement regarding the appointment of the President of IFAD, which has been posted on the IFAD website; and
- A copy of the press release on the same subject, which was issued on 17 September 2020.

This documentation has been made available to all Governors of the Fund and is being circulated for your information and further communication as you consider appropriate.

Additional information on the procedures and modalities for the appointment of the President of IFAD is available on the IFAD website and on the Member States Interactive Platform at <https://webapps.ifad.org/members/president>. Should you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact me by telephone on +39 06 54592254 or by e-mail at [elections@ifad.org](mailto:elections@ifad.org).

Highest consideration.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Luis Jiménez-McInnis', is centered on the page.

Luis Jiménez-McInnis  
Secretary of IFAD

Heads of Organizations  
with Observer Status to IFAD



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## **INTERNATIONAL FUND FOR AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT (IFAD)**

### **FORTHCOMING APPOINTMENT OF THE PRESIDENT OF IFAD, 17-18 FEBRUARY 2021**

#### **IFAD**

1. IFAD is an international financial institution and a specialized agency of the United Nations. It was established in 1977 as a partnership of the member states of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), and other developing countries. Its membership currently comprises 177 countries.
2. IFAD's goal is to enable poor rural people to improve their food and nutrition security, increase their incomes and strengthen their resilience. It provides concessional financing to developing countries and works directly with poor rural people, including youth, women and indigenous peoples. It works in partnership with its Member States and multilateral and bilateral partners in the global effort to achieve global food and nutrition security and sustainable agriculture.
3. IFAD, like other international financial institutions, mobilizes core resources through periodic replenishments from its Member States and by mobilizing additional funding from other sources. Since 1978, it has provided about US\$22.4 billion in grants and low-interest loans to projects that have reached some 512 million people. At the end of 2019, IFAD's portfolio consisted of 203 ongoing programmes in 90 countries.

## **IFAD's President**

4. Under the direction of IFAD's governing bodies, the President of IFAD is responsible for conducting the business of the Fund and for organizing its work. The President is the chairperson of the Executive Board, whose membership consists of representatives of IFAD's Member States.
5. The President of IFAD has the same rank as the elected heads of other major United Nations specialized agencies. S/he is a Member of the United Nations Chief Executives Board, which is chaired by the UN Secretary-General, and which guides the coordination of the work of the UN system as a whole.
6. The President of IFAD is appointed for four years with a two-term limit of eight years. The current President of IFAD is Mr Gilbert F. Hounbo, whose first term ends on 31 March 2021.
7. In accordance with the Agreement Establishing IFAD, the Governing Council of IFAD will appoint a new President at its forthcoming annual meeting on 17-18 February 2021. The elected President will take office on 1 April 2021.
8. Nominations of candidates for the President of IFAD are put forward by Member States of the Fund and must be received by the Secretary of IFAD by midnight, 23 November 2020, Rome time.

*More information on nomination and appointment procedures can be found on the [Member States Platform](#)*



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## PRESS RELEASE

### **Member States to nominate candidates for next IFAD President**

Rome, 17 September 2020 – The [International Fund for Agricultural Development](#) (IFAD) today announced a call to its 177 Member States to nominate candidates for the Fund's next President.

IFAD is a specialized United Nations agency and international financial institution focused on the alleviation of rural poverty and hunger.

The President is IFAD's most senior position with responsibility for leading the organization and chairing its Executive Board. Nominations for President can only be made by IFAD Member States and must be received by the Secretary of IFAD no later than 23 November 2020.

The President will lead IFAD at a crucial time. The COVID-19 pandemic is predicted to leave more than 83 million people hungry by the end of the year, and raise the number of people living in poverty for the first time in decades. Increased investments in rural areas are not only needed to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals of ending poverty and hunger, but also to help people recover from the impact of the pandemic, rebuild more sustainable food systems, and increase the resilience of small-scale farmers to shocks.

Following the nomination process, the appointment of the next President will take place on 17 February 2021 during IFAD's annual Governing Council meeting. The Governing Council is IFAD's principle governing body with full decision-making powers.

The President of IFAD serves a four-year term, renewable once. The newly appointed President will take office on 1 April 2021.

More information on nomination and appointment procedures can be found on the IFAD website at :

<https://webapps.ifad.org/members/president>

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Note to editors:

Past IFAD Presidents:

1. Abdelmuhsin M. Al-Sudeary (Kingdom of Saudia Arabia) - appointed in 1977.
2. Idriss Jazairy (People's Democratic Republic of Algeria) - appointed in 1984.

3. Fawzi Al-Sultan (State of Kuwait) - appointed in 1993
4. Lennart Båge, (Kingdom of Sweden) - appointed in 2001.
5. Kanayo F. Nwanze, (Federal Republic of Nigeria) - appointed in 2009.
6. Gilbert F. Hounbo – appointed in 2017, and will complete his first term of office on 31 March 2021.

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*IFAD invests in rural people, empowering them to reduce poverty, increase food security, improve nutrition and strengthen resilience. Since 1978, we have provided US\$22.4 billion in grants and low-interest loans to projects that have reached an estimated 512 million people. IFAD is an international financial institution and a United Nations specialized agency based in Rome t the United Nations food and agriculture hub.*

*Press release No.: IFAD/41/2020*