

Information Note on Procedures and Modalities for the Appointment of the President of IFAD

I. Background

1. Under article 6.8(a) of the Agreement Establishing IFAD, the President of the Fund “shall be appointed for a term of four years and shall be eligible for reappointment for only one further term.” The current President of IFAD, Mr Gilbert F. Hougbo, was appointed at the fortieth session of the Governing Council, on 14 February 2017. His first term of office will end on 31 March 2021.
2. In accordance with section 6.2 of the By-laws for the Conduct of the Business of IFAD (the By-laws), 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 session of the Governing Council immediately preceding the expiry of the term of office. The Governing Council will therefore consider the appointment of the President of IFAD at its forty-fourth session, to be held by virtual means on 17 and 18 February 2021.

II. Nomination procedures

3. In February 2013, by resolution 176/XXXVI, the Governing Council endorsed the established good practice for the process leading to the appointment of the President of IFAD (as described in document [GC 36/L.5](#)) and the proposal contained therein that this practice be reviewed from time to time by the Governing Council Bureau, as appropriate.
4. At its fortieth session in February 2017, the Governing Council, taking into consideration the recommendation made by the Executive Board at its 117th session in April 2016,¹ by resolution 197/XL, tasked the Governing Council Bureau to review the established practice for the process leading to the appointment of the President of IFAD and make proposals in order to enhance such practice for future appointments.
5. In accordance with IFAD’s basic legal texts and in line with established good practice for the process leading to the appointment of the President of IFAD as most recently codified in document [GC 41/L.9](#) and endorsed by the Governing Council in 2018 through resolution 202/XLI, the following timeline – which has been approved by the Governing Council Bureau – sets out the activities relative to the nomination procedures to be followed prior to consideration of the appointment of the President of IFAD at the forty-fourth session of the Governing Council in February 2021:
 - (a) **Call for nominations.** To be sent by the Secretary of IFAD to all Member States on 17 September 2020, subsequent to the Executive Board’s approval of the agenda for the forty-fourth session of the Governing Council. The call for nominations is accompanied by a list of questions – prepared by the List Convenors in consultation with the Governing Council Bureau – which candidates for the IFAD Presidency are invited to answer in writing. The call also makes reference to the following established broad criteria for candidates running for presidency, as well as providing the guidelines (herewith attached as annex I) developed for all candidates for the purpose of identifying unethical practices on the part of candidates or their supporting governments during the campaign/appointment processes.

¹ At the 117th session of the Board, an item on non-binding criteria for the selection and appointment of the President of IFAD was introduced and a proposal was made, which was approved by the Executive Board, that it be recommended to the Governing Council to task the Governing Council Bureau with developing draft terms of reference or selection criteria for consideration by the Governing Council at its forty-first session to be held in 2018.

CRITERIA FOR THE APPOINTMENT OF THE PRESIDENT OF IFAD

- Strategic leadership skills based on knowledge and experience on 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.
- (b) **Receipt of nominations.** In accordance with section 6.2 of the By-laws and as agreed with the Governing Council Bureau, all nominations for the office of the President 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 deadline for receipt of nominations was set as Monday, 23 November 2020.
- (c) **Communication of nominations.** As prescribed by section 6.2 of the By-laws, the nominations so received² are communicated to all Members and to the Governing Council Bureau no less than 40 days prior to the session of the Council.
- (d) **Meeting with Membership.** As per established practice introduced in 2008, implemented and codified in 2013 and reconfirmed in 2018, a Membership meeting with candidates will be organized prior to the 2021 session of the Governing Council. To this end, on behalf of all Member States, the Convenors of the three Lists, in consultation with the Governing Council Bureau, will invite the nominees for the Presidency of IFAD to an open meeting with IFAD's Membership.

III. Appointment procedures

6. This section provides the statutory background and details of the appointment procedures.
7. In light of the continued impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the ability to hold IFAD's governing body meetings at the seat of the Fund, in October 2020, the Governing Council approved amendments to its Rules of Procedure through a vote by correspondence. These amendments address, inter alia, the possibility of conducting the election of the President by electronic means, the possibility of holding sessions by virtual means, and the codification of a vote by acclamation, as a potential method of appointment, in the case of only one nominee for the position of President of IFAD; and, in general, mitigate risks and ensure business continuity and flexibility for the future.
8. Rule 41.1 of the Rules of Procedure of the Governing Council provides that the appointment of the President of IFAD is to be considered by the Governing Council at a private meeting and the voting shall be in accordance with rule 38.1, unless otherwise decided by the Governing Council after considering a report of the Governing Council Bureau thereon. Rule 38.1 reads as follows:

"Except as provided otherwise in respect of elections pursuant to Rule 40, 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."

² The communication will include letters of nomination and curricula vitae submitted by governments of IFAD's Member States, together with any written replies to the questions.

9. As per rule 41.2, in the case of only one nominee, the Governing Council may decide to appoint the President by acclamation.
10. The relevant modalities of the appointment procedure by secret ballot, taking into account that the Council session will be held virtually, are described in paragraphs 11 to 18 below.
11. Member States will be formally advised of their vote allocations on the first day of the forty-fourth session of the Governing Council (Wednesday, 17 February 2021). In order to allow for timely preparation of the appointment procedures, Member States will be invited to make replenishment payments, for which contribution votes will be allocated, in advance of the Governing Council session and not later than 5 p.m. (Rome time) on Friday, 12 February 2021.
12. Governors or, in their absence, Alternate Governors or, in the absence of both, members of delegations (hereinafter referred to as "voting representative") may cast their votes by electronic means in complete privacy, subject to the Executive Board's review and approval to submit the Proposal for the Implementation of an Automated Voting System at IFAD (EB 2020/131(R)/R.29) to the Governing Council in February 2021, and, subsequently, the Council's approval and adoption of the same.
13. In the event of a secret ballot, the Chairperson will outline specific procedures to be followed. Voting representatives will be granted access to and the ability to cast, by electronic means, the votes to which they are entitled. The calculation of Members' voting rights is explained in annex III hereto. Voting representatives are requested to verify the correctness of the total number of votes that she/he has been provided with on the automated voting portal and to inform the Office of the Secretary immediately in the event of a discrepancy.
14. Voting representatives should cast the votes of the Member they represent in favour of a single person (rule 41.2 of the Rules of Procedure of the Governing Council).
15. The Governing Council will remain in official session during the voting procedure. Voting representatives are requested to remain in the private virtual voting session throughout the voting procedure. No results are released outside the private meeting except the final outcome of the appointment process.
16. Three tellers, one from each List, as appointed by the Chairperson of the Governing Council with the support of designated IFAD staff members, under the supervision of the Secretary of IFAD, will oversee the counting of the votes cast. Each of the tellers will be given a portion of the electronic secret key³ required to unlock the counting of votes in the automated voting system. The votes cast will only be able to be counted once the segments of the key are entered together into the system. When the counting of the votes is complete, the totals received by each nominee are generated by the automated voting system and displayed on a tally sheet, which is verified and confirmed by the tellers. The tellers give the tally sheet to the Chairperson, who will announce the results of the vote. Should the results be final, the meeting will reconvene in open session and the Chairperson will announce the results to the Council.
17. As provided for 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) on the first ballot, a second ballot will be taken in which the nominee who received the fewest votes will not participate.
18. The procedures outlined above will be repeated until one nominee receives at least two thirds of the total number of votes or the Council decides that the balloting should be discontinued and a decision taken on another date (rule 41.2).

³ The system uses the Shamir key share scheme.

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.

Voting rights of Member States at 7 December 2020

The total number of votes in the Governing Council is currently 5546.927. The table below shows the distribution of voting rights as at 7 December 2020. As explained in annex III, contribution votes are distributed on the basis of contributions⁴ actually paid and therefore will change as payments are received from Member States. The voting rights table shown below is therefore valid as at 7 December 2020 but will be adjusted according to the contributions received between 8 December 2020 and 12 February 2021 when the final voting shares for the appointment of the President will be determined (see section III, paragraph 11 of the present document).

⁴ Complementary contributions shall not entitle contributing Members to receive contribution votes.

Voting rights of IFAD Member States as at 7 December 2020

Country	Total Votes	% of total votes
Afghanistan	13.420	0.24%
Albania	13.441	0.24%
Algeria	42.789	0.77%
Angola	17.578	0.32%
Antigua and Barbuda	13.420	0.24%
Argentina	24.264	0.44%
Armenia	13.446	0.24%
Austria	60.005	1.08%
Azerbaijan	13.527	0.24%
Bahamas (The)	13.420	0.24%
Bangladesh	16.264	0.29%
Barbados	13.423	0.24%
Belgium	68.307	1.23%
Belize	13.495	0.24%
Benin	13.633	0.25%
Bhutan	13.511	0.24%
Bolivia (Plurinational State of)	14.008	0.25%
Bosnia and Herzegovina	13.548	0.24%
Botswana	13.745	0.25%
Brazil	45.544	0.82%
Burkina Faso	13.683	0.25%
Burundi	13.468	0.24%
Cabo Verde	13.447	0.24%
Cambodia	14.129	0.25%
Cameroon	14.979	0.27%
Canada	185.121	3.34%
Central African Republic	13.428	0.24%
Chad	13.569	0.24%
Chile	13.733	0.25%
China	99.500	1.79%
Colombia	13.795	0.25%
Comoros	13.427	0.24%
Congo	13.737	0.25%
Cook Islands	13.422	0.24%
Costa Rica	13.420	0.24%
Côte d'Ivoire	14.064	0.25%
Croatia	13.420	0.24%
Cuba	13.443	0.24%
Cyprus	13.573	0.24%
Democratic People's Republic of Korea	13.495	0.24%
Democratic Republic of the Congo	13.429	0.24%
Denmark	68.002	1.23%
Djibouti	13.433	0.24%
Dominica	13.439	0.24%
Dominican Republic	13.836	0.25%

Annex II

Country	Total Votes	% of total votes
Ecuador	13.868	0.25%
Egypt	24.245	0.44%
El Salvador	13.501	0.24%
Equatorial Guinea	13.420	0.24%
Eritrea	13.475	0.24%
Estonia	13.420	0.24%
Eswatini*	13.546	0.24%
Ethiopia	13.558	0.24%
Fiji	13.565	0.24%
Finland	61.204	1.10%
France	176.993	3.19%
Gabon	14.778	0.27%
Gambia (The)	13.463	0.24%
Georgia	13.431	0.24%
Germany	228.574	4.12%
Ghana	14.685	0.26%
Greece	14.943	0.27%
Grenada	13.447	0.24%
Guatemala	13.992	0.25%
Guinea	13.666	0.25%
Guinea-Bissau	13.430	0.24%
Guyana	14.580	0.26%
Haiti	13.489	0.24%
Honduras	13.711	0.25%
Hungary	13.456	0.24%
Iceland	13.551	0.24%
India	87.228	1.57%
Indonesia	41.078	0.74%
Iran (Islamic Republic of)	18.241	0.33%
Iraq	18.479	0.33%
Ireland	29.483	0.53%
Israel	13.598	0.25%
Italy	204.015	3.68%
Jamaica	13.537	0.24%
Japan	221.720	4.00%
Jordan	13.881	0.25%
Kazakhstan	13.453	0.24%
Kenya	15.580	0.28%
Kiribati	13.430	0.24%
Kuwait	92.738	1.67%
Kyrgyzstan	13.420	0.24%
Lao People's Democratic Republic	13.600	0.25%
Lebanon	13.596	0.25%
Lesotho	13.720	0.25%
Liberia	13.465	0.24%
Libya	29.799	0.54%
Luxembourg	18.093	0.33%

Annex II

Country	Total Votes	% of total votes
Madagascar	13.709	0.25%
Malawi	13.463	0.24%
Malaysia	13.852	0.25%
Maldives	13.458	0.24%
Mali	13.668	0.25%
Malta	13.440	0.24%
Marshall Islands	13.420	0.24%
Mauritania	13.488	0.24%
Mauritius	13.524	0.24%
Mexico	28.782	0.52%
Micronesia (Federated States of)	13.421	0.24%
Mongolia	13.461	0.24%
Montenegro	13.420	0.24%
Morocco	16.800	0.30%
Mozambique	13.658	0.25%
Myanmar	13.514	0.24%
Namibia	13.553	0.24%
Nauru	13.420	0.24%
Nepal	13.580	0.24%
Netherlands	203.192	3.66%
New Zealand	20.638	0.37%
Nicaragua	13.639	0.25%
Niger	13.648	0.25%
Nigeria	59.966	1.08%
Niue	13.420	0.24%
North Macedonia	13.420	0.24%
Norway	144.940	2.61%
Oman	13.543	0.24%
Pakistan	28.419	0.51%
Palau	13.420	0.24%
Panama	13.602	0.25%
Papua New Guinea	13.479	0.24%
Paraguay	13.989	0.25%
Peru	14.323	0.26%
Philippines	14.452	0.26%
Poland	13.420	0.24%
Portugal	14.973	0.27%
Qatar	27.348	0.49%
Republic of Korea	29.346	0.53%
Republic of Moldova	13.458	0.24%
Romania	13.611	0.25%
Russian Federation	20.708	0.37%
Rwanda	13.582	0.24%
Saint Kitts and Nevis	13.427	0.24%
Saint Lucia	13.428	0.24%
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	13.420	0.24%
Samoa	13.447	0.24%

Annex II

Country	Total Votes	% of total votes
Sao Tome and Principe	13.423	0.24%
Saudi Arabia	185.670	3.35%
Senegal	13.719	0.25%
Seychelles	13.500	0.24%
Sierra Leone	13.426	0.24%
Solomon Islands	13.423	0.24%
Somalia	13.423	0.24%
South Africa	14.111	0.25%
South Sudan	13.424	0.24%
Spain	48.926	0.88%
Sri Lanka	17.553	0.32%
Sudan	14.080	0.25%
Suriname	13.420	0.24%
Sweden	177.613	3.20%
Switzerland	99.157	1.79%
Syrian Arab Republic	13.977	0.25%
Tajikistan	13.421	0.24%
Thailand	14.210	0.26%
Timor-Leste	13.459	0.24%
Togo	13.529	0.24%
Tonga	13.440	0.24%
Trinidad and Tobago	13.420	0.24%
Tunisia	15.557	0.28%
Turkey	22.643	0.41%
Tuvalu	13.420	0.24%
Uganda	13.769	0.25%
United Arab Emirates	34.495	0.62%
United Kingdom	212.553	3.83%
United Republic of Tanzania	13.726	0.25%
United States	386.036	6.96%
Uruguay	13.850	0.25%
Uzbekistan	13.437	0.24%
Vanuatu	13.420	0.24%
Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)	82.162	1.48%
Viet Nam	14.721	0.27%
Yemen	14.979	0.27%
Zambia	13.744	0.25%
Zimbabwe	14.283	0.26%
Grand TOTAL	5 546.927	100.00%

Any discrepancy in totals is due to rounding.

* Effective 19 April 2018, the Kingdom of Swaziland has been renamed the Kingdom of Eswatini.

Voting rights of Member States in the Governing Council

Under article 6, section 3(a), of the Agreement Establishing IFAD, "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 contributions 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 ratio 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."