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## **Appointment of the President of IFAD (Background note on relevant appointment rules, procedures and modalities)**

### **Note to Governors**

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**For: Information**

## **IMPORTANT NOTICE**

### **Step to be taken by Member States before 12 February 2021**

For the appointment of the President and other matters on the agenda of the Governing Council, the total number of votes that each Governor or his/her designated alternate is entitled to cast is calculated on the basis of replenishment payments received by IFAD from the Member State that he/she represents. Accordingly, to allow for timely preparation of the appointment procedures, Member States wishing to make replenishment payments, for which contribution votes will be allocated, are urged to do so promptly, so that their payments are received by IFAD by 5 p.m. (Rome time) on Friday, 12 February 2021.<sup>1</sup>

## **Appointment of the President of IFAD (Background note on relevant appointment rules, procedures and modalities)**

1. This document provides the relevant information and guidance on the appointment rules, procedures and modalities.

### **A. Appointment rules**

2. Article 6.8(a) of the Agreement Establishing IFAD provides that the Governing Council shall appoint the President by a two-thirds majority of the total number of votes (i.e. 3,697.952). Rule 41.1 of the Rules of Procedure of the Governing Council provides that:

"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. unless otherwise decided by the Governing Council after considering a report of the Bureau thereon."

Rule 38.1 specifies that:

"...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."

As indicated in document GC 44/L.4, which is presented to the forty-fourth session of the Governing Council under item 6 of its provisional agenda, IFAD has received one nomination for appointment to the position of President of IFAD, from the Togolese Republic and Canada.

Rule 41.2 provides that:

"The Governing Council shall appoint the President by at least two-thirds of the total number of votes. In the case of only one nominee, the Council may use the method of acclamation to appoint the President. 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. Each Governor casting the votes of the Member he represents shall cast them in favour of a single person."

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<sup>1</sup> The number of votes to which Members are entitled will be posted prior to the session as an addendum to this document. Article 6, section 3(a), of the Agreement Establishing IFAD provides details of Member States' voting rights (see annex II).

## **B. Appointment procedures**

3. The procedures indicated in the following paragraphs apply for vote by secret ballot, should this be called for, when the session is held by virtual means.

### **3.1. Place of voting**

- 3.1.1 Voting would be conducted virtually using the Zoom web-based videoconferencing tool for the plenary session and the online voting portal to cast the votes. The plenary will remain in official session in a private meeting during the voting procedure. Only Governors of Member States or, in their absence, Alternate Governors or, in the absence of both, authorized members of the delegations (hereinafter referred to as "designated voting representatives"), and authorized staff, shall be allowed into the private meeting.

### **3.2. Voting session**

- 3.2.1. The Chairperson will open the private meeting, which shall be attended only by the designated voting representative whose details (name, title and e-mail address) have been previously communicated to the Office of the Secretary, no later than Tuesday, 12 January 2021. The specific procedures to be followed will then be outlined by the Chairperson.

### **3.3. Order of voting**

- 3.3.1. All designated voting representatives will be able to cast the votes of the Member State they represent simultaneously, following instructions provided by the Secretary of IFAD.

### **3.4. Before voting**

- 3.4.1. Designated voting representatives should register their credentials (username and password) on the online voting portal no later than Friday, 12 February 2021. At the start of the voting session, designated voting representatives will be requested to access the online voting portal using their credentials. A randomly generated second-step authentication code will be shared with all designated voting representatives during the voting session itself. This code will need to be inserted in the appropriate field in the online voting portal in order to access the voting event.
- 3.4.2. Once the online voting portal has been accessed, designated voting representatives should check that their voting rights, as displayed on the portal, are up to date. 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). Should there be any inconsistency with the votes displayed on the online voting portal, please inform the Office of the Secretary immediately, by e-mail ([gb@ifad.org](mailto:gb@ifad.org)) or through the Zoom chat function.

### **3.5. How to vote**

- 3.5.1. The Chairperson will inform the designated voting representatives once the voting event is open. Designated voting representatives may then proceed to cast their votes, following instructions provided online.
- 3.5.2. Following the successful casting of votes, the designated voting representative will be able to download his/her voting receipt, which will also be sent to the previously communicated e-mail address. Designated voting representatives may also verify that their votes were cast from the main page of the electoral event on the online voting portal.

### **3.6. Counting of votes**

- 3.6.1. The votes will be counted by the electronic voting system, with the oversight of the tellers, appointed by the Chairperson of the Governing Council Bureau, and the support of designated IFAD staff members, under the

supervision of the Secretary of IFAD. According to standard practice, the Chairperson appoints one teller from each List. Each of the tellers will be given a portion of the electronic secret key<sup>2</sup> required to unlock the counting of votes in the electronic voting system. The votes cast cannot be counted until the segments of the key are entered together into the system. When the counting of the votes is complete, the totals received will be generated by the electronic voting system and displayed on a tally sheet, which will be verified and confirmed by the tellers.

### **3.7. Announcement of the results**

- 3.7.1 The meeting will be called to order by the Chairperson, who will be presented with the tally sheet and will announce the results of the voting. Should the results be final, the meeting will reconvene in open session and the Chairperson will announce the results to the Council.

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<sup>2</sup> The system uses the Shamir key share scheme.

## Rules of Procedure of the Governing Council pertaining to the appointment of the President of IFAD

### 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 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 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 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 the casting of paper ballots<sup>3</sup> or, if available, through an electronic voting system, in such a way as to safeguard the secrecy and integrity of the secret ballot. Each Member shall have access to and the ability to cast, the specific number of votes to which they are entitled.

### 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.

[...]

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<sup>3</sup> In the case of paper ballots, each Governor shall be provided 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.

[...]

**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. unless otherwise decided by the Governing Council after considering a report of the Bureau thereon.
2. The Governing Council shall appoint the President by at least two-thirds of the total number of votes. In the case of only one nominee, the Council may use the method of acclamation to appoint the President. 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. Each Governor casting the votes of the Member he represents shall cast them in favour of a single person.

## 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 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."