

15 September 2026

SUBJECT: Appointment of the President of IFAD

Distinguished Observers,

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 2 and 3 February 2027.

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, Tuesday, 24 November 2026, Rome time.

In this regard, I am pleased to attach:

- (a) A copy of the announcement regarding the appointment of the President, which has been posted on the IFAD website; and
- (b) A copy of the press release on the same subject, which was issued on 15 September 2026.

The 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](#). Should you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact me by telephone on +39 06 5459 2254, by mobile on +39 3665706298 or by e-mail at elections@ifad.org.

Highest consideration.



Claudia ten Have
Secretary of IFAD

Heads of Organizations
with Observer Status to IFAD

Member States to nominate candidates for next IFAD President

1. 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.
2. The President of IFAD has the same rank, namely Under-Secretary-General, 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 United Nations Secretary-General, and which guides the coordination of the work of the United Nations system as a whole.
3. The President of IFAD is appointed for four years with a two-term limit of eight years. The current President of IFAD is Mr Alvaro Lario.
4. In accordance with the Agreement Establishing IFAD, the Governing Council of IFAD will appoint a President at the fiftieth session, on 2 February 2027. The President must be elected by a two-thirds majority of the total number of votes. The elected President will take office on 1 April 2027.
5. 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, 24 November 2026, Rome time.
6. Candidates for the position should meet the following criteria:
 - 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
7. IFAD promotes an open, fair, equitable and transparent electoral process.

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

Member States to nominate candidates for IFAD President

Rome, 15 September 2026. The [International Fund for Agricultural Development](#) (IFAD) today announced a call to its 180 Member States to nominate candidates for the Fund's next President. IFAD was established by the United Nations General Assembly in 1977 and is the only international financial institution exclusively focused on transforming rural economies. The President is IFAD's most senior position with responsibility for leading the organization, organizing its work 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 24 November 2026. Candidates for the position should meet the following criteria:

- 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

The election and appointment of the President will take place on 2 February 2027 during the fiftieth session of IFAD's Governing Council. The Governing Council is the Fund's principal 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 2027.

The President will lead IFAD at an urgent time for global development. Compounding challenges, including food insecurity, climate change, youth unemployment, and protracted conflict and economic shocks, are exposing the vulnerability of food systems worldwide and underscoring the urgent need for sustained investment in rural transformation. Strong leadership in development finance is critical at this moment to mobilize resources at scale, strengthen partnerships for innovative financial solutions and impactful cofinancing, and advance resilient and inclusive rural growth.

Note to editors:

More information on nomination and appointment procedures can be found on the IFAD website at: <https://webapps.ifad.org/members/governance/AppointmentofthePresident>

Past and current IFAD Presidents:

1. Abdelmuhsin M. Al-Sudeary (Kingdom of Saudi Arabia) - appointed in 1977, re-appointed 1980
2. Idriss Jazairy (People's Democratic Republic of Algeria) - appointed in 1984, re-appointed 1989
3. Fawzi Al-Sultan (State of Kuwait) - appointed in 1993, re-appointed 1997
4. Lennart Båge (Kingdom of Sweden) - appointed in 2001, re-appointed 2005
5. Kanayo F. Nwanze (Federal Republic of Nigeria) - appointed in 2009, re-appointed 2013
6. Gilbert F. Houngbo (Togolese Republic) – appointed in 2017, re-appointed 2021
7. Alvaro Lario (Kingdom of Spain) – appointed in 2022

PRESS RELEASE

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No.: IFAD/55/2026

The International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) is the only international financial institution exclusively focused on transforming rural economies. IFAD invests in rural people and their communities, strengthening agri-food value chains and building food security, shared prosperity and stability. Today, IFAD and its partners have nearly US\$23 billion invested in ongoing projects that are transforming rural economies.

A wide range of photographs and broadcast-quality video content of IFAD's work in rural communities are available for download from our [Digi Hub](#).