

The Member States of IFAD will appoint the organization's President in February 2027. In accordance with the Agreement Establishing IFAD,¹ 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 Alvaro Lario, will conclude his first mandate on 31 March 2027. According to section 6.2 of the By-laws for the Conduct of the Business of IFAD, 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. The Governing Council will therefore consider the appointment of the President of IFAD at its fiftieth session, to be held on 2 and 3 February 2027.

The President shall be appointed by the Governing Council 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. The appointment of the President is governed by IFAD's basic legal texts, in particular, the Agreement Establishing IFAD, the By-laws for the Conduct of the Business of IFAD and the Rules of Procedure of the Governing Council. Detailed procedures for the process leading to the appointment of the President of IFAD are codified in the Governing Council Bureau's reports on: (i) the review of the established practice for the process leading to the appointment of the President of IFAD ([GC 41/L.9](#)); and (ii) the review of the process leading to the appointment of the President of IFAD ([GC 47/L.3](#)).

Frequently asked questions

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Q1. Who is in charge of the appointment process?

- A.** The Office of the Secretary of IFAD manages the process and ensures its integrity. This includes ensuring that all Member States have equal access to comprehensive and transparent information regarding the process. The appointment process is conducted with input from and in close collaboration with the Office of the General

Counsel. The Governing Council Bureau and the List Convenors¹ play an important role throughout the process in providing guidance, approving the timeline and addressing other issues as needed, organizing the meetings of candidates with IFAD Membership, and supervising and validating the voting process itself during the Governing Council session through the tellers² appointed by the Governing Council Chairperson.

Q2. What are the duties and responsibilities of the President of IFAD?

A. The duties and responsibilities of the President are mainly set out in IFAD's basic legal texts, including the Agreement Establishing IFAD, the Financial Regulations of IFAD, and the following documents available on the [IFAD website](#):

- By-laws for the Conduct of the Business of IFAD
- Policies and Criteria for IFAD Financing
- Rules of Procedure of the Governing Council
- Rules of Procedure of the Executive Board

Q3. How is the campaign process conducted?

A. In accordance with the guidelines for the campaign, as approved by the Governing Council in document [GC 41/L.9](#), the campaign leading up to the appointment of the President of IFAD should promote an open, fair, equitable and transparent electoral process among the candidates running for the office of the President of IFAD.

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

- (i) 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;
- (ii) 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.

¹ The Fund's Member States are classified as follows: List A (Member States that are contributors to IFAD resources, declare themselves ineligible for IFAD financing and services, and are not eligible for official development assistance (ODA) according to OECD definitions); List B (Member States that are members of OPEC and are contributors to IFAD resources; some of these may also be eligible for IFAD financing and services); and List C (Member States that are "developing countries" and have not declared themselves ineligible for IFAD financing and services; many of these are also contributors to IFAD resources). List C is further divided into sub-List C1 (countries in Africa); sub-List C2 (countries in Europe, Asia and the Pacific); and sub-List C3 (countries in Latin America and the Caribbean). Convenors (including co-Convenors, if any) of the Lists are the Member States' focal points for liaising with IFAD Management with the primary purposes of enhancing the functioning of the Fund through coordination, transparency and effectiveness; facilitating the work and decisions to be taken by the Executive Board and other governing bodies; improving communications between IFAD Management and the Board; and enhancing consultation.

² Tellers are appointed by the Chairperson of the Governing Council. Following past practice, three representatives of IFAD Member States, one from each List (List A, List B and List C) will be appointed by the Chairperson. Once the voting process at the Governing Council session is concluded, the tellers are responsible for counting the votes. They are supported in their task by IFAD staff members, under the supervision of the Secretary of IFAD. The tellers are given a portion of an electronic secret key required to unlock the counting of votes in the system. Once each segment of the key is entered together, the system will count the votes and the results will be displayed on a tally sheet, which is then verified and confirmed by the tellers.

Q4. How are candidates nominated?

- A.** In accordance with the By-laws for the Conduct of the Business of IFAD and [GC 41/L.9](#), the Secretary of IFAD sends out a call for nominations to the Governors of all Member States. 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 are invited to answer in writing if they so wish. Nominations are then submitted to the Secretary of IFAD by Member States, along with a curriculum vitae and the responses to the questions provided. Unless the Bureau decides 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.

Q5. Can any Member State nominate candidates?

- A.** Yes, any Member State can nominate a candidate.

Q6. Can Member States nominate candidates who are nationals of another country?

- A.** According to the By-laws, nominations for the office of the President may be submitted to the Secretary of IFAD by Members. There is no requirement in the By-laws restricting the nominees to nationals of the Member State making the nomination.

Q7. How do Member States submit their nominations?

- A.** Nominations are submitted by Members through recognized representatives or channels of communication to the Secretary of IFAD using the following e-mail address: elections@ifad.org.

Q8. How is the integrity of the nominations ensured during the nomination process?

- A.** The Office of the Secretary is the sole keeper of all official nominations and implements the required procedures to confirm the nominations and safeguard their confidentiality.

Q9. What is the role of the IFAD workforce in the appointment process?

- A.** All IFAD workforce members (staff, consultants, interns and other persons hired by IFAD under a non-staff contract) are bound by IFAD's Code of Conduct with respect to the disclosure of confidential information and must comply with sections 1.7.7 and 1.7.10, which refer to relations with external parties and involvement in political activities. Staff members must behave impartially with respect to all candidates for the Presidency of IFAD, and neither publicly express their views concerning any candidate nor work in support of any candidacy. The Code of Conduct explicitly guides the workforce on the behaviour expected of them in relation to the appointment process and clearly states that any assistance to a candidate is a case of misconduct: "Staff members shall remain impartial at all times in the performance of their duties and shall avoid providing any direct or indirect assistance in connection with a candidacy (presumptive or actual) for the Presidency of IFAD. Any failure to comply with these obligations may result in the imposition of corrective or disciplinary measures" as stipulated in the Human Resources Framework.

Selected IFAD workforce members are involved in the appointment process under the supervision of the Secretary of IFAD. In accordance with IFAD's Code of Conduct, all staff who become aware of confidential aspects of the appointment process (such as the identity of the candidates prior to their official public disclosure) are responsible for ensuring that such information is not disclosed. Others may be directly involved in the process by participating in specific tasks related to logistical and administrative arrangements necessary for the voting process, and/or assigned to provide support to the tellers appointed by the Governing Council Chairperson to oversee the tallying of votes cast during each

round of voting. The Office of the Secretary will take the necessary steps to establish such task forces. These tasks or functions are supervised by the Office of the Secretary and are not considered "assistance" under the above-mentioned provisions of the Code of Conduct.

Q10. Can an IFAD staff member be nominated as a candidate?

- A.** In the event that a staff member is nominated by a Member State as a candidate, the staff member is expected to take special leave without pay as soon as they receive confirmation that they will be nominated by a Member State until the date on which the Governing Council appoints the President. This is meant to ensure that the candidate in question clearly separates their candidacy from their duties as a staff member, and that their conduct is governed solely by the interests of the Fund. No IFAD resources shall be used in furthering the candidacy of a staff member and, more generally, candidates may not take, or attempt to take, advantage of their position as staff members to advance their candidacy.

Q11. When are the nominations communicated?

- A.** The name, nationality(ies) and nominating Member State for each nomination should be communicated immediately after the deadline for the receipt of nominations, in the four official languages of IFAD. Full documentation, including letters of nomination, curricula vitae and answers to the pre-advised questions should be posted in the four official languages as soon as possible thereafter, and no less than 40 days prior to the Governing Council session, in accordance with section 6.2 of the By-laws for the Conduct of the Business of IFAD.

Q12. Who is allowed to attend the meeting for the appointment of the President of IFAD?

- A.** 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. As such, only one representative per Member State, namely those representatives entitled to cast the votes of the Member State they represent, shall be granted access to the private meeting. In accordance with [GC 47/L.3](#) the proceedings shall be webcast to a *salle d'écoute* for additional delegates from Member States and authorized staff.

Q13. Who votes for the President?

- A.** All Member States are entitled to vote and may cast the number of votes they have been allocated in membership votes and contribution votes. Updated information on Member States voting rights is posted regularly on the public IFAD website at <https://www.ifad.org/en/governance>, and on the public IFAD Member States Interactive Platform at <https://webapps.ifad.org/members>.

Information on the voting rights, including the updated vote allocations, will be shared with Governors prior to the relevant session of the Governing Council. In this respect and to allow for timely preparation of the appointment procedures, the Governing Council approved, at its forty-seventh session, the recommendation of the Bureau that a cut-off limit of 3 working days be implemented for the receipt of replenishment payments for which contribution votes will be allocated. For the fiftieth session of the Governing Council, the cut-off date will be midnight (Rome time), Friday, 22 January 2027.

Q14. Must a Member State cast all its votes for a single candidate?

- A.** Yes. Governors or, in their absence, Alternate Governors or, in the absence of both, a designated delegation member shall cast the votes of the Member they represent in favour of a single person, in accordance with rule 41(2) of the Rules of Procedure of the Governing Council.

Q15. How is a decision made on the appointment of the President of IFAD?

A. The election of the President of IFAD is conducted in accordance with the Rules of Procedure of the Governing Council, including rules 35.3, 38.1 and 41.³

(i) By secret ballot

Voting takes place by secret ballot, unless otherwise decided by the Governing Council after considering a report of the Bureau thereon. As resolved by the Governing Council at its forty-ninth session in resolution [244/XLIX](#), the voting modality to be adopted for the appointment of the President shall be an in-presence and closed voting system. Voting will be carried out in such a way as to protect the integrity and secrecy of the process. Three tellers – one from each List and appointed by the Governing Council Chairperson – are responsible for overseeing the process and the counting of votes.

Given the use of an electronic voting system, ballot counting will take place in the plenary hall. The counting process will be overseen by the three tellers, one from each List, as appointed by the Chairperson of the Governing Council, with one representative for each candidate in the running. The three tellers will be supported in their task by IFAD staff members, under the supervision of the Secretary of IFAD. The tellers are given a portion of an electronic secret key required to unlock the counting of votes in the system. Once each segment of the key is entered together, the system will count the votes and the results will be displayed on a tally sheet, which is then verified and confirmed by the tellers.

The announcement of the results of the voting will be made by the Chairperson once the plenary has been called to order and the Chairperson has been presented with the signed tally sheet.

Should the results be final, the Chairperson will announce the results to the Council in open session.

As provided for in rule 41.2, 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.

The procedures outlined above will be repeated until one nominee receives at least two thirds of the total number of votes, through the casting of ballots or

³ **Rule 35 Method of Taking Decisions, subparagraph 3:** “Secret ballots shall be taken by the casting of paper ballots” 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.

^{*} 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, subparagraph 1: “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.”

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.”

by acclamation, or the Council decides that the balloting should be discontinued and a decision taken on another date (rule 41.2).

(ii) By acclamation

In accordance with rule 41.2, "In the case of only one nominee, the Council may use the method of acclamation to appoint the President."

Q16. When will the President-elect take office?

A. The President-elect will take office on 1 April 2027.

Comprehensive and updated information on the appointment process will be made available in due course at the following websites:

- The [dedicated page](#) on the Member States Interactive Platform;
- The IFAD [website](#).