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منظمة
الأغذية والزراعة
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FINANCE COMMITTEE

Hundred and Ninety-eighth Session

Rome, 6-10 November 2023

FAO Oversight Advisory Committee Membership

Queries on the substantive document may be addressed to:

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Documents can be consulted at www.fao.org

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- The membership of the FAO Oversight Advisory Committee consists of five external Members and a Secretary *ex-officio*. All Members are appointed by the Council on recommendation of the Finance Committee following a selection process managed by the Director General. The Terms of Reference of the Oversight Advisory Committee endorsed by the Council at its 170th Session in June 2022 provide that Members may be renewed up to a maximum of six years' service on the Committee.
- The FAO Oversight Advisory Committee currently comprises three men and two women, with representation from four geographical regions. In anticipation of the end of tenure of one Member (male) of the Oversight Advisory Committee in December 2023, this document proposes to fill the resulting vacancy on the Committee.
- In line with Recommendation 5 of the Joint Inspection Unit report *Review of audit and oversight committees in the United Nations system*,¹ the skills and professional expertise of the Oversight Advisory Committee Members should comprise “*a balanced mix of public and private sector experience at the senior level. In addition, a strong understanding of the structure and functioning of the United Nations system and/or intergovernmental and international organizations is desirable.*”
- Following an advertisement for the appointment of Oversight Advisory Committee Members and interviews conducted by a panel composed of FAO senior managers, as well as an external advisory expert, the Director-General is recommending the appointment to this future vacant position of Mr Jorge da Silva (national of Brazil and Canada), for an initial period of three years, renewable thereafter up to a maximum of six years in total.
- The profile of Mr da Silva enhances a balanced mix of the composition of the Committee from a professional expertise and geographical representation point of view. .

GUIDANCE SOUGHT FROM THE FINANCE COMMITTEE

- The Finance Committee is invited to consider the document and make a recommendation to the Council regarding the appointment of a Member of the Oversight Advisory Committee following the selection process managed by the Director-General.

Draft Advice

- **The Committee considered the document in which the Director-General proposed that Mr Jorge da Silva (national of Brazil and Canada) be appointed as a Member of the FAO Oversight Advisory Committee for an initial period of three years. Such an appointment would be made by the Council effective from 9 December 2023.**
- **The Committee supported the Director-General's proposal and agreed to submit the recommendation to the Council.**

¹ JIU/REP/2019/6

INTRODUCTION

1. The Oversight Advisory Committee (OAC) serves as an expert advisory panel to assist the Director-General and the Finance Committee on the internal control arrangements, risk management processes, financial reporting and internal audit, inspection, investigation, and ethics functions of the Organization. The Oversight Advisory Committee advises on these matters taking into consideration the Financial Rules and Regulations, as well as policies and procedures applicable to FAO, and its operating environment. The OAC provides advice and information to the Governing Bodies in these areas, through its annual reports and, as appropriate, updates to the Finance Committee during the interval periods.

2. The Oversight Advisory Committee consists of five external Members, and the Assistant Director-General/Director of the Office of Strategy, Programme and Budget (OSP) is the Secretary *ex-officio*. Members are selected on the basis of their qualifications and relevant experience at senior level in the areas of: oversight including audit, investigation and ethics, financial management, governance, risk and controls. Due regard is paid in their selection to gender and geographic representation in the Committee. The OAC elects its own Chairperson.

3. The Oversight Advisory Committee's Terms of Reference² provide that new Members serve for an initial period of three years renewable up to six years. Mr Gianfranco Cariola, who was a Member of the Committee since December 2017 will end his term in December 2023. The present proposal is made to fill the resulting vacancy on the Committee.

Current Members of the Committee

4. The current Members of the Committee, and their present terms, are as follows:

- Mr Gianfranco Cariola (Italy), Group Chief Audit Executive of Ferrovie dello Stato Italiane spa, former Chief Audit Executive of RAI spa and Senior Vice President - Head of Audit Plans, Methodologies & ICS of ENI spa. Member since December 2017. His current term, which is not renewable, finishes in December 2023.
- Mr Fayezul Choudhury (Bangladesh/United Kingdom/United States of America), former Chief Executive Officer, International Federation of Accountants (IFAC), and former Vice President, Corporate Finance and Risk Management, World Bank. His current term, which is not renewable, finishes in June 2025.
- Mr Honoré Ndoko (Cameroon), Independent international management and oversight expert. His current term, which is renewable, finishes in December 2025.
- Ms Malika Aït-Mohamed Parent (Algeria/France/Switzerland), Independent Anti-Corruption Expert, International Speaker and Investigator. Her current term, which is not renewable, finishes in July 2026.
- Ms Hilary Wild (Ireland/United Kingdom), Independent Finance and Audit Committee Expert. Her current term, which is not renewable, finishes in July 2026.

² CL 170/REP paragraph 29.c); FC 191/8 Annex 2

Actions on Appointment

5. In July 2023, the Organization advertised online a call for the appointment of a Member of the FAO Oversight Advisory Committee. The deadline for applications was set to 1 September 2023. Based on the applications received, Senior Management established a short list of five candidates to be interviewed, taking into consideration qualifications and relevant experience at senior level in the areas of: oversight including audit, investigation and ethics, financial management, governance, risk and controls, as well as experience in the private sector. A selection panel chaired by Ms Beth Bechdol, Deputy Director-General, and comprised of Director of Cabinet, ADG/Director OSP, Legal Counsel, Director CSH, and, as external member of the panel, a former FAO Inspector General and an HR Officer serving as Secretary to the Panel, interviewed the candidates on 13 October 2023. Based on the Panel's report, the Director-General, in consideration of the candidate's experience in audit and oversight, is recommending the appointment of:

- Mr Jorge da Silva (Brazil/Canada) - Independent audit and oversight international consultant.

6. A summary curriculum vitae of Mr Jorge da Silva is provided.

SUMMARY CURRICULUM VITAE

Mr Jorge da Silva

Summary profile

Senior executive with over 35 years of experience in the government and private sectors, including development organizations and multilateral institutions, in Canada, United States and Latin America, and the experience as member of audit and oversight committees in the UN system.

Professional experience

- Since 2022: Independent consultant on key governance, risk management and internal control related topics, including effective engagement with Board and Audit Committee members, brand development, preparation and delivery of effective risk-based audit planning, human capital strategies, establishment of robust quality assurance mechanisms and impactful report writing (World Bank Group, Development Bank for Latin America and the Caribbean, Interamerican Development Bank, FAO).
- 2012-2022: Executive Auditor (Auditor General) Interamerican Development Bank Group, Washington, D.C. Management of the internal audit practices of the Office of the Executive Auditor. Promoted effective communications with the entire organization, enhanced quality assurance practices. Championed the advancement of innovative practices, such as the enhancement of data and predictive analytics, machine-learning and artificial intelligence, and the introduction of strategic risk-based audit plans for the entire IDB Group.
- 1999-2012: Chief Audit Executive, Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA). Led the implementation of the Treasury Board Internal Audit Policy at the Agency, and coordinated the establishment of CIDA's first independent audit committee. Led the turnaround of the internal audit function at the Agency. Revamped the overall format and content of audit reports, streamlined and clarified audit processes. Introduced "red flags" fraud awareness training sessions to staff to be deployed overseas.
- 2005-2009: Government of Canada Executive Exchange Program - Canadian Food Inspection Agency, Ottawa, Canada / Indian and Northern Affairs Canada, Gatineau, Quebec, Canada. Provided leadership and introduced innovative comptrollership/audit practices at both Indian and Northern Affairs Canada and the Canadian Food Inspection Agency. Chaired a multi-disciplinary working group set up by Treasury Board Secretariat/Office of the Comptroller General of Canada to lead the introduction of key components of the 2006 Treasury Board Internal Audit Policy across the federal government.
- 1999-2005: Director, Finance and Administration, International Development Research Centre (IDRC), Ottawa, Canada. Accountable for the sound financial management of the Centre's operations and for the provision of efficient, cost-effective and value-added administrative/compliance related services to headquarters and regional offices. Simplified and enhanced the overall quality of the financial information provided to senior management, Finance and Audit Committee and Board of Governors, facilitating their understanding of the Centre's financial position and improving the decision-making process.
- Director, Audit Services. Led the turnaround of the audit function at IDRC, making it a highly respected and sought-after resource of reliable and timely information to senior management. Introduced the concept of risk management to the practices of the internal audit function, resulting in the development of short and long-term plans closely tied to key operational and strategic objectives of the organization.
- 1983-1999: Positions with the World Bank and Consulting and Audit Canada. Brazilian representative in the Fellowship program sponsored by the Canadian Audit and Accountability Foundation (CAAF) and the Canadian International Development Agency.

Education

Harvard Business School, Corporate Director Program (ongoing)

2014: Chartered Professional Accountant (CPA) designation - CPA Canada

2000: Certified Management Accountant (CMA) designation - Society of Management Accountants of Canada (Ontario),

1999: Certified Information Systems Auditor (CISA) designation - Information Systems Audit and Control Association – USA and Canada

1992: Certified Internal Auditor (CIA) designation - Institute of Internal Auditors – USA and Canada

1982: Bachelor of Business and Public Administration - University of Brasília, Brazil