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## COUNCIL

### Hundred and Sixty-first Session

Rome, 8-12 April 2019

### Address by Candidates for the Post of Director-General

#### Executive Summary

In accordance with Rule XXXVII.1(c) of the General Rules of the Organization, candidates for the post of Director-General of the Organization shall address the session of Council which precedes the session of the Conference that will appoint the Director-General, subject to such arrangements as the Council may make.

This document outlines the procedure concerning the address to Council and Conference that was approved by Members at the Special Informal Meeting convened by the Independent Chairperson of Council with the Chairpersons and Vice-Chairpersons of the Regional Groups on 4 March 2019.

#### Suggested action by the Council

The Council is invited to take note of (i) the candidates for the post of Director-General for the period 1 August 2019 to 31 July 2023; (ii) the procedure concerning the address to Council and Conference by candidates for the post of Director-General, as agreed upon by Members at the Special Informal Meeting convened by the Independent Chairperson of Council with the Chairpersons and Vice-Chairpersons of the Regional Groups on 4 March 2019; and (iii) arrangements for voting at the election of the Director-General, in accordance with the relevant provisions of the General Rules of the Organization (GROs).

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1. By 28 February 2019, the deadline set by the 159<sup>th</sup> Session of the Council (June 2018) for the receipt of nominations for the post of Director-General for the period 1 August 2019 to 31 July 2023, the following nominations had been received:

Cameroon	Médi MOUNGUI
China	Qu Dongyu
France	Catherine Geslain-Lanéelle
Georgia	Davit Kirvalidze
India	Ramesh Chand

2. On 4 March 2019, the Independent Chairperson of Council convened a meeting with the Chairpersons and Vice-Chairpersons of the seven Regional Groups in order to finalise arrangements for the *Address by Candidates for the Post of Director-General* at the 161<sup>st</sup> Session of the Council (8-12 April 2019) and the 41<sup>st</sup> Session of the Conference (22-29 June 2019).

3. Taking into account that by the established deadline the nominations of five candidates for the post of Director-General had been received, Members reached agreement on the procedures regarding the addresses by the five candidates at the Council and Conference sessions, as well as other arrangements to be put in place, as set out in *Appendix A*.

4. Arrangements for voting at the election of the Director-General, in accordance with the relevant provisions of Rules XII and XXXVII of the General Rules of the Organization (GROs) are set out in *Appendix B*.

**Appendix A****Procedures to be followed for the *Addresses by Candidates for the Post of Director-General of FAO at the 161<sup>st</sup> Session of the Council (Rome, 8-12 April 2019)* and the 41<sup>st</sup> Session of the Conference (Rome, 22-29 June 2019), and other related arrangements*****Allocation of rooms to candidates***

An office will be assigned to each candidate for the duration of the 161<sup>st</sup> Session of the Council (8-12 April 2019) and an office and a meeting room will be assigned to each candidate for the first two days of the 41<sup>st</sup> Session of the Conference (22 and 23 June 2019).

The Director-General Elect will continue to use the facilities until the end of the session.

The offices and meeting rooms will be determined by drawing of lots by the candidate or his or her representative one week prior to the start of the 161<sup>st</sup> Session of the Council on Monday 1 April 2019 in the office of the Independent Chairperson of Council (ICC).

***Order of speakers***

The order of speakers for both the 161<sup>st</sup> Session of the Council and the 41<sup>st</sup> Session of the Conference will be determined by drawing of lots by the candidate or his or her representative one week prior to the start of the 161<sup>st</sup> Session of the Council on Monday 1 April 2019 in the office of the ICC.

***Time allocation for each candidate***

The total time allocated to each candidate will be limited to 90 minutes, as follows:

- 15 minutes for opening remarks by the candidate
- 10 minutes for an interactive question and answer session with each of the seven Regional Groups
- 5 minutes for closing remarks by the candidate

The opening statement by each candidate should include a declaration on sexual harassment, as discussed at the 160<sup>th</sup> Session of the Council (December 2018).

Each Regional Group will be responsible for managing their allocated 10 minutes for the interactive question and answer session, during which they can decide on which and how many questions to be posed, as well as the order in which they wish to pose the questions; Regional Groups have the prerogative of not asking the same question to each candidate.

In this regard, the advantage of posing the same question(s) to each candidate should be borne in mind as it could facilitate comparison.

Questions can be asked only by a representative of each of the seven FAO Regional Groups.

Should they wish, each candidate may provide his or her written statement to Members ahead of the Council session.

Time allocation will be managed by the ICC with a stopwatch, which will be visible on the screen behind the podium. The microphone will be deactivated once the time limit has been reached.

***Order of Regional Groups to pose questions***

Members representing the Regional Groups will speak in the alphabetical order of the English names of the Regional Groups, and the order of the Regional Group will move up one place for each, as indicated in the table below:

Candidates	Questions / Regional Groups						
	Africa	Asia	Europe	Latin America and the Caribbean	Near East	North America	Southwest Pacific
Candidate 1	Africa	Asia	Europe	Latin America and the Caribbean	Near East	North America	Southwest Pacific
Candidate 2	Asia	Europe	Latin America and the Caribbean	Near East	North America	Southwest Pacific	Africa
Candidate 3	Europe	Latin America and the Caribbean	Near East	North America	Southwest Pacific	Africa	Asia
Candidate 4	Latin America and the Caribbean	Near East	North America	Southwest Pacific	Africa	Asia	Europe
Candidate 5	Near East	North America	Southwest Pacific	Africa	Asia	Europe	Latin America and the Caribbean

***Scheduling of the item on the “Address by Candidates for the Post of Director-General” during the 161<sup>st</sup> Session of the Council (8-12 April 2019)***

The item on the *Addresses by Candidates for the Post of Director-General* during Council will be scheduled on Thursday 11 April 2019, with two candidates addressing the Council in the morning and three in the afternoon, with a 15 minute interval between each candidate, with the following schedule:

- first candidate: 9.30-11.00
- second candidate: 11.15-12.45  
(12.45-13.45 lunch break)
- third candidate: 14.00-15.30
- fourth candidate: 15.45-17.15
- fifth candidate: 17.30-19.00

***Procedure to be followed by the Conference***

In line with the procedure followed at the Conference in 2011, 15 minutes will be allocated to each candidate to address the 41<sup>st</sup> Session of the Conference and no question and answer session will take place thereafter.

The *Address by Candidates for the Post of Director-General* to the Conference will be scheduled on the afternoon of Saturday 22 June 2019.

***Participation by candidates in Regional Group Meetings***

Upon request of a Regional Group, any candidate may participate in the meetings of that Regional Group, with the premise that any incremental cost, including additional interpretation services if required, due to the result of the participation of a candidate shall be borne by the candidate.

In line with document C 2019/7, any requests by candidates for facilities for meetings to be held during FAO sessions, not within the period of the 161<sup>st</sup> Session of the Council or the first two days of the 41<sup>st</sup> Session of the Conference, are subject to the established procedures for requesting bilateral meeting rooms.

## **Appendix B**

### **Arrangements for Voting**

Pursuant to Article VII of the FAO Constitutions with regard to *The Director-General* of FAO and in accordance with the provisions of Rule XXXVII of the General Rules of the Organization (GRO) regarding the *Appointment of the Director-General*, as well as the relevant provisions set out in Rule XII of the GRO regarding *Quorum and Voting Arrangements at Meetings of Conference and Council*, the following arrangements for voting will be applied for the election of the Director-General of FAO for the term of office from 1 August 2019 to 31 July 2023 scheduled to take place during the 41<sup>st</sup> Session of the FAO Conference on Sunday 23 June 2019:

- The appointment of the Director-General shall be decided by secret ballot [Rule XII.10(a)].
- The appointment of the Director-General at a regular session of the Conference shall be effected within three working days following the opening date of the session [Rule XXXVII.1(d)].

### ***Quorum***

A majority of the Member Nations shall constitute a quorum [Rule XII.2(a)].

### ***Majority***

The Director-General shall be elected by a majority of votes cast; votes cast means affirmative and negative votes and does not include abstentions or defective ballots [Rule XII.4(a)].

Until a candidate obtains the required majority, the following procedure shall apply [Rule XXXVII.2(a-h)]:

- Two ballots shall be held among all candidates
- The candidate having received the smallest number of votes in the second ballot shall be eliminated;
- Thereafter, successive ballots shall be held and the candidate having received the smallest number of votes in any one of these ballots shall be eliminated until only three candidates remain;
- Two ballots shall be held among the three remaining candidates and the candidate having received the smallest number of votes during this second ballot shall be eliminated;
- A subsequent ballot or successive ballots shall be held among the two remaining candidates until one candidate obtains the required majority.

### ***Tellers***

The Chairperson of the Conference shall appoint two tellers from among the delegates, who are not parties directly involved in the election, to supervise the balloting procedure, count the ballot papers, decide on the validity of the ballot paper and certify the result of each ballot. The same tellers may be appointed for successive ballots. [Rule XII.10(c)(i-iii)].

The nominated tellers will be invited by the Secretariat at the start of the Conference to a briefing on duties to be carried out.

### ***Scrutineers***

Either the candidate or a scrutineer appointed by the candidate may attend the count of the votes, without taking part therein [Rule XII.10(g)]. The Secretariat will request candidates to provide the names of scrutineers in advance.

### ***Count of votes***

The Secretariat is mandated to take such steps as may be required to ensure that the results of secret ballots remain undisclosed until the formal announcement of the outcome of the ballot [Rule XII.10(h)]. Following the recommendation by the 105<sup>th</sup> Session of the Committee on

Constitutional and Legal Matters (October 2017), approved by the 158<sup>th</sup> Session of the Council (December 2017), the Secretariat is invited to enforce Rule XII.10(h), if necessary, by requesting all delegates and Secretariat members attending the count of votes to hand over any electronic appliances, such as mobile phones and tablets while in the room.

***Elections Officer***

An Elections Officer is appointed by the Director-General for each session of the Conference or Council who is responsible for ensuring adherence to the provisions of the Constitution and the General Rules of the Organization during the voting and electoral procedure [Rule XII.16(a-g)].