



联合国
粮食及
农业组织

Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations

Organisation des Nations
Unies pour l'alimentation
et l'agriculture

Продовольственная и
сельскохозяйственная организация
Объединенных Наций

Organización de las
Naciones Unidas para la
Alimentación y la Agricultura

منظمة
الغذية والزراعة
للأمم المتحدة

E

COUNCIL

Hundred and Seventy-eighth Session

Rome, 7 July 2025

Election of Chairperson and Members of the Finance Committee

1. Under Rule XXVII of the General Rules of the Organization (GRO), the Finance Committee consists of a Chairperson and 12 Members (two Members from each of the following regions: Africa, Asia and the Pacific, Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean, and Near East, and one Member from North America and one from Southwest Pacific). Each Member Nation seeking election to the Committee should communicate the name of the representative they would appoint if elected, and details of her/his qualifications and experience, to the Secretary-General of the Conference and Council (Rule XXVII.2 of the GRO).
2. The procedure for the election of Members of the Committee provides for Member Nations of the Organization to stand for election for a specific region as determined by the Conference for the purpose of Council elections, and that the Council first elect a Chairperson from among the nominated representatives of Member Nations. The Chairperson shall be elected on the basis of individual qualifications and shall not represent a region or a country.
3. The nominations received are listed below and the information on the qualifications and experience of the candidates for (i) the office of Chairperson is given in Appendix A and for (ii) Membership of the Committee is given in Appendix B.

4. The following nominations have been received for the post of Chairperson of the Finance Committee:

Mr Jujjavarapu Balaji (India)

5. The following nominations have been received for election to the Finance Committee:

AFRICA	CONGO LESOTHO	(Mr Bienvenu Ntsouanva) (Mr Lebeko Victor Sello)
ASIA AND THE PACIFIC	CHINA PAKISTAN	(Mr ZHANG Lubiao) (Mr Khalid Mehboob)
EUROPE	FRANCE UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND	(Mr Michel Leveque) (Mr Christopher Mace)
LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN	DOMINICAN REPUBLIC MEXICO	(Ms Ada Francisca Hernandez Rivera) (Mr José Luis Delgado Crespo)
NEAR EAST	KUWAIT	(Mr Naieff Al-Dousari)
NORTH AMERICA	UNITED STATES OF AMERICA	(Mr Scott Turner)

6. The elections are governed by the provisions of Rule XII of the GRO. In accordance with subparagraph 10(a) of this Rule, the Chairperson may submit to the Council that appointment be decided by clear general consent without recourse to a secret ballot when there are not more candidates than seats to be filled.

APPENDIX A

INDIA

Name: JUJJAVARAPU BALAJI

Present functions/activities:

Since September 2023 Currently serving as Minister (Agriculture) at the Embassy of India, Rome and Alternate Permanent Representative of India to the Rome based Agencies of FAO, IFAD, and WFP.

Key Multilateral Roles in RBAs:

- Serving Member, FAO Finance Committee.
- Represents India in FAO Council & Bureau of Committee on World Food Security (CFS).
- Represents India in WFP Executive Board.
- Convenor, WFP List-B Countries & Executive Board Bureau.
- Represents India in IFAD (occasionally)
- First Vice-Chair, COFI Sub-Committee on Fisheries Management.
- Rapporteur, CFS Policy Process on Urban and Peri-Urban Food Systems.
- Chairperson, FAO Steering Committee of UN International Year of Millets, 2023.
- Member, Steering Committee of the International Decade of Family Farming.
- Chairperson of Drafting Committee: 177th Session of FAO Council, 2025, 76th Session of FAO Committee on Commodity Problems, 2024 and COFI Sub-Committee on Aquaculture, 2019.
- Served as member of Drafting Committees at 175th Session of FAO Council, 36th Session of Committee on Fisheries, 27th Session of Committee on Forestry, 2nd Session of Sub-Committee on Livestock and COFI Sub-Committee on Aquaculture.

Main previous functions/activities:

Prior to September 2023

Brief Description of work experience:

Senior Indian Administrative Service officer of Government of India with over 24 years of leadership experience at both federal and state levels, specializing in governance, public policy formulation, financial management, public service delivery and multilateral diplomacy. Extensive experience in finance, including priority sector lending, microfinance, SME and infrastructure financing, startup ecosystems, and innovation-driven development. Highly skilled in managing large budgets, public procurement, financial oversight, driving regulatory reforms, institutional strengthening, and crisis management. Proven expertise in designing and implementing large-scale, billion-dollar

schemes and projects across a wide range of sectors. Extensive experience in agriculture and food security, rural development, public health and food safety, school education, industry and commerce, transport infrastructure, petrochemicals, fisheries and aquaculture, biotechnology, and social safety nets such as public distribution systems and school meal programs. Well-versed in international cooperation and adept at high-level negotiations, particularly in trade and multilateral engagements, including WTO negotiations. Recognized for strategic policy leadership, high-level representation in multilateral platforms, and effective coordination in complex, multistakeholder environments. Served as District Commissioner and District Magistrate across four districts in Assam, India, led the implementation of public policies and socio-economic development programs impacting millions of multi-ethnic, linguistic and culturally diverse communities. Oversaw land and resource management, maintained law and order, enforced regulatory frameworks, conducted free and fair elections, managed disaster response, recovery and rebuilding operations, and ensured effective public grievance redressal.

Core Competencies:

- Program and Financial Management
- Institutional financing including SME and infrastructure
- Multilateral Diplomacy & Representation
- Public Policy Formulation & Implementation
- Agricultural and Food Security Policy
- Fisheries & Rural Livelihoods
- Social Safety Nets
- Crisis Management and Governance
- Regulatory and Institutional Reforms
- International Negotiations & Stakeholder Coordination

Education and distinctions :

- Ph.D. in Microbiology, Osmania University, India
- M.Sc. in Animal Sciences, University of Hyderabad, India. Awarded University Medal for Academic Excellence
- B.Sc. in Biology, Acharya Nagarjuna University, India. Awarded College Gold Medal

Core beliefs:

A firm commitment to strategic thinking and planning, team building, and fostering an inclusive and coordinated work culture. Dedicated to delivering impactful results within limited resources through evidence-based decision-making, meaningful consultation, and consensus-building while upholding the highest standards of transparency, accountability, adherence to rules, and effective communication in the work place.

Training :

Among others, attended short training programs on public policy at Duke Center for International Development, Terry Sanford School of Public Policy Duke University, USA and Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy, Singapore.

Languages known:

English (fluent), Hindi (fluent), Telugu (native), Assamese (fluent) and Bengali (working).

APPENDIX B**CHINA**

Name: ZHANG Lubiao

Present functions/activities:

2024.11-present Permanent Representative (Ambassador) of the People's Republic of China to the United Nations Agencies for Food and Agriculture

Main previous functions/activities:

2020-2024 Director-general, Foreign Economic Cooperation Center, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs (MARA), P.R.China
During his tenure, Dr. ZHANG actively involved in foreign agriculture investment activities, lead series of abroad agricultural investment programs in Asian and African countries, closely collaborated with FAO, IFAD and WFP through SSTC designing programs in many developing countries

2018-2020 Director-general, Agricultural Trade Promotion Center, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs (MARA), P.R.China
During his tenure, Dr. ZHANG played the leading role in China-WTO affairs and provide technical guidance during the negotiations on regional and bilateral free trade agreements.

2015-2018 Deputy Director-general, Department of International Cooperation, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs (MARA), P.R.China
During his tenure, Dr. ZHANG managed responsibilities related to bilateral investment treaties, foreign direct investment and international cooperation development.

2005-2015 Director-general, Bureau of International Cooperation, Chinese Academy of Agriculture Sciences (CAAS),
During his tenure, Dr. ZHANG served as leader of China's agricultural science and technology international exchange and cooperation, deeply involved in partnerships with multilateral development banks such as World Bank and African Development Band in designing programs in agriculture production and rural poverty alleviation. Meanwhile, as a professor of Agricultural Economics, he is recognized as a Distinguished Professor at the University for Peace (UPEACE), a Commissioner of Murdoch University. Dr. ZHANG has extensive experience and profound knowledge in agriculture, economics and finance issues.

CONGO

Name: Bienvenu NTSOUANVA

Current functions/activities:

Since 2021 Embassy Counsellor, Deputy Permanent Representative to FAO,
IFAD and WFP
Director-General for Agriculture

Since 2023 Member of the Finance Committee of the Food and Agriculture
Organization of the United Nations (FAO)

Main previous functions/activities:

From 9 February Director-General for Agriculture
2018 to
30 September 2020

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

Name: H.E. Ada Francisca HERNANDEZ RIVERA

Current functions or activities:

2025–2027	Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Dominican Republic to FAO, IFAD and WFP
-----------	--

Main previous functions or activities:

2021–2024	Ambassador, Alternate Representative of the Dominican Republic to UNESCO
-----------	--

FRANCE

Name: LEVEQUE Michel

Present functions/activities:

Sept 2022-2025	Agricultural Counsellor, Permanent Mission of France to the UN in Rome
----------------	--

Main previous functions/activities:

Sept 2022 - June 2023	Member of the Programme Committee (FAO)
Since October 2023	Representation of France to the CFS Bureau
2020-2022	Adviser, Staff of the Minister of Agriculture and Food, Paris
2017-2020	Agricultural Counsellor, Embassy of France in South Africa
2009-2017	Deputy Director, Ministry of Agriculture and Food - Paris Human resources and Vocational Training.
1991	Master's degree in Banking and Finance, University of Aix Marseille (France)

KUWAIT

Name: Mr Naieff AL-DOUSARI

Present functions/activities:

August 2022 to date

- First Secretary of the State of Kuwait to the United Nations Organization for Food and Agriculture (FAO) and the World Food Programme (WFP) in Rome (Italy).
-

Main previous functions/activities:

September 2003 to date

September 2003 to date:

- 19 years' experience in various departments in the Public Authority for Agriculture Affairs and Fish Resources (PAAF) in Kuwait related to farming projects in regions, agricultural quarries, and food security.
- Establishing Regional relations with Food and Agricultural Institutes in coordination with the Public Authority for Agriculture Affairs and Fish Resources in Kuwait.
- Supervising farmers implementing new agricultural methods.
- Improving food and agricultural policies (nationally).
- Adopting innovative approaches for better productive environment within the framework of food and agriculture sectors in Kuwait.
- Leading dialogues, seminars and online consultations on various issues related to Agriculture and Food Security in Kuwait.
- Agricultural supervisor for farmers and crop quality control.
- Provided support for farmers to choose and produce crops, introducing new agricultural methods with the aim of improving productivity.
- Introducing sustainable development policies related to food security for farmers in the country.
- Coordination between the relevant national agricultural associations and farmers in order to implement the strategic plan for national food security.

Participation in Seminars, Regional Committee

In 2005

Participate in a national seminar on Agriculture Development.

In 2008

Participate in a national seminar on Agriculture Pesticides.

In 2013

Participate in a national seminar on Food Security.

In 2022 to date

Participate in FAO Council & Conference sessions
Participate in FAO Technical Committees (COAG, CFS, COFI,
COFO....)

LESOTHO

Name: H.E. Mr Lebeko Victor Sello

Present functions/activities:

From March 2025 - present Ambassador of the Kingdom of Lesotho to the Italian Republic and Permanent Representative of the Kingdom of Lesotho to the UN Rome-based Agencies.

Functions:

Implementations and safeguard Lesotho's Foreign Policy, persuing Lesotho's interests as well as keeping its image intact.

PROTECTION DUTIES:

Protects the interests of Lesotho and those of its nationals in the area of accreditation so that the country's interests are not harmed, and Lesotho nationals are not discriminated or subject to injustice.

NEGOTIATION DUTIES:

Negotiates with the governments of the area of accreditation and other bodies as directed by the Government of Lesotho in order to protect, promote and advance the interests of Lesotho in the negotiations.

PROMOTIVE DUTIES:

Promotes friendly relations between Lesotho and the area of accreditation so that the policies of the Government of Lesotho are understood and if possible accepted.

Develops the economic, cultural, and scientific cooperation between Lesotho and the area of accreditation so that the interests of Lesotho can be advanced through such cooperation.

FINANCIAL ACCOUNTABILITY:

He is the Chief Accounting Officer of the Mission and should ensure that financial and material resources allocated to the Mission are utilized in an economic manner and in accordance with the Financial Regulations of the Government of Lesotho.

Main previous functions/activities:

Sept. 2020-August 2023 Principal Secretary of the Ministry of Justice and Law in the Kingdom of Lesotho. Responsibilities of the position extends to Heading a Government Ministry and serving as the Chief Accounting Officer in all Ministry,s activities and financial transactions.

Functions:

Head of the Government Ministry and Chief Accounting Officer in line with Lesotho Public Financial Regulations.

Upholds the constitution of Lesotho and acts in accordance with its terms.

Develops and formulates strategies and procedures which are necessary to improve service delivery.

-
- Creates a conducive environment upon which Government business can be conducted.
 - Works with Hon. Minister to implement Government Policies as they are determined from time to time.
 - Represents the Ministry in all official ceremonies.
 - Custodian of National Development Strategic Plan (NSDP) at the Ministerial level.

January 2013 -
January 2020

Finance & Administration Director - Lesotho Planned Parenthood Association

Functions:

- a. Head of Finance and Administration Department and Member of the Senior Management Team.
- b. Financial Planning and Reporting
- c. Auditing
- d. Human Resources Management and Administration
- e. Procurement and Supply Management

MEXICO

Name: José Luis Delgado Crespo

Present functions/activities:

From April, 2025 to date.	Chargé d'Affairs, a.i. Permanent Mission of Mexico to the UN Agencies based in Rome
---------------------------	--

Main previous functions/activities:

2019 - 2025	Deputy Permanent Representative Permanent Mission of Mexico to the UN Agencies to the UN Agencies based in Rome
2016-2019	Deputy Director-General for Political Affairs and International Security, Directorate-General for the United Nations, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Mexico.
2015-2016	Director for Economic Development, Directorate-General for the Mesoamerican Integration and Development Project, Mexican Agency for International Development Cooperation.
2007-2015	Head, Political Affairs, Embassy of Mexico in Japan
2005-2007	Head, Consular Section, Embassy of Mexico in Jamaica
2003-2005	Deputy-Director for International Cooperation against Drug Trafficking and Corruption, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Mexico.

PAKISTAN

Name: Khalid Mehboob

Present functions/activities:

2010-Present Advisor/Alternate Permanent Representative of Pakistan to FAO, WFP and IFAD from 2010 to date.
As a member of the Pakistan Delegation, he has participated regularly and actively in meetings of the: (a) FAO Conference, Council, Finance Committee, Programme Committee and various FAO Technical Committees; (b) IFAD Governing Council and the Executive Board, as well as the Replenishment Meetings of IFAD, and (c) Executive Board of WFP.

Main previous functions/activities:

2011-2013 Member of the FAO Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters

2013-2015 Member of the FAO Finance Committee

2015-2017 Chairperson of the Finance Committee

2017-2021 Independent Chairperson of the FAO Council

- Member of IFAD's Working Group on Governance; (iv) Member of IFAD's Emoluments Committee and Convener/Chair of the Sub-List C2 Member Nations of IFAD.

2024 Member of the Steering Committee on WFP Governance

- Member of IFAD's Working Group on Governance

- Member of IFAD's Emoluments Committee

1969-2009 - Senior Consultant FAO (2008-2009)
- Assistant Director-General-Administration and Finance (1991-2007)
- Director-Office of Internal Audit and Inspection and Management Control (1978-1991)
- Senior, Internal Auditor (1976-1978)
- Executive Officer (Land and Water Division-1971-1975)
- Finance Office (Finance Division)-1969-1970

1962-1969 Prior to joining FAO, worked for Price Water House & CO, Rome, BUPA (Medical Insurance-London) and Henry Finck and Co. Chartered Accountants London

- **ACADEMIC QUALIFICATIONS:**
- BA (Economics)-Punjab University
- Chartered Accountant (Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales)
- Fellow of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales

UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND

Name: Mr Christopher Mace

Present functions/activities:

August 2023 - Present Head of Investigations for the Foreign Commonwealth and Development Office of the United Kingdom.

July 2023 – Present Member of FAO Finance Committee

Main previous functions/activities:

Sep 2020 – Aug 2023 Deputy Head of Internal Audit for the Foreign Commonwealth and Development Office of the United Kingdom.

June 2022 – June 2024 Head of Internal Audit for FCDO Services, an Arm's Length Body of the Foreign Commonwealth and Development Office of the United Kingdom.

Nov 2021- Dec 2022 – UK Representative on the Audit and Finance Committee of GAVI, the Vaccine Alliance
Performing the role of non-executive director in a personal capacity, as GAVI sought to mainstream all pandemic activities, particularly the COVAX facility.

Aug 2014 – Sep 2020 Head of Assurance at the Department for International Development of the United Kingdom, Responsible for leading the audit team to deliver assurance on all UK Government ODA spend from DFID.

Aug 2010 – Aug 2014 Chartered Accountant and Senior Associate at Price Waterhouse Coopers, Senior associate within PWC's assurance practice, working domestically and internationally for clients in manufacturing, financial services, oil and gas, and the public sector.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Name: Scott Turner

Present functions/activities:

June 8, 2025-present Scott Turner is a career Senior Foreign Service officer serving as Chargé d’Affaires a.i. at the U.S. Mission to the UN Agencies in Rome since June 8, 2025, arriving as its Deputy Chief of Mission and Deputy Permanent Representative.

Main previous functions/activities:

2001-2025 Most recently he was acting Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for the Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration and its Deputy Assistant Secretary overseeing humanitarian assistance programs in the Middle East, North Africa, and Europe, as well as press and congressional affairs. He also served as Deputy Special Envoy for Middle East Humanitarian Issues until May 2024, supporting the humanitarian response in Gaza following the horrific attacks of October 7, 2023.

Scott also previously served as Deputy Political Counselor at the United States Mission to the United Nations (USUN) in New York and Deputy Counselor for Humanitarian Affairs at USUN/Geneva representing the United States at the International Syria Support Group’s Humanitarian Task Force. Other postings include Baghdad, Paris (US/UNESCO), Naples, and as a Watch Officer in the Department of State Operations Center.

Before joining the Foreign Service in 2001, Scott served as a Peace Corps Volunteer in Guinea, West Africa. He received his B.A. in history from Trinity College, CT. He speaks Italian and French