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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  
الأغذية والزراعة  
للأمم المتحدة

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# CONFERENCE

## Thirty-ninth Session

Rome, 6-13 June 2015

### Appointment of the Independent Chairperson of the Council

#### Executive Summary

At its 150<sup>th</sup> Session (December 2014), the Council decided that, in accordance with Rule XXIII.-1(b) of the General Rules of the Organization, nominations for the office of Independent Chairperson of the Council should be communicated to the Secretary-General of the Conference and Council by 12.00 hours on Wednesday 8 April 2015.

By the date prescribed two nominations had been received, namely that of Mr Peter N. Mwanza (Republic of Malawi) and that of Mr Wilfred J. Ngirwa (United Republic of Tanzania).

Subsequently, the Government of Malawi withdrew the candidature of Mr Mwanza, thereby leaving Mr Wilfred J. Ngirwa as the sole candidate for the office of Independent Chairperson of the Council.

Mr Ngirwa's *Curriculum Vitae* can be found in Appendix A.

*Queries on the substantive content of this document may be addressed to:*

Stephen Dowd

Chief, Conference, Council and Government Relations Branch (CPAC)

Tel: +39 06570 53459

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## Appendix A

**NOTE VERBALE**

Ref. No: CKAD 598/620/01/24

The Embassy of the United Republic of Tanzania in Rome presents its compliments to the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, and with regard to the latter's Note with Ref.: C/CF4/3 of 19 December 2014, has the honour to transmit the letter from Honourable Bernard Kamillius Membe (MP), Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of the United Republic of Tanzania, to the Secretary General of the Conference and Council of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (UN-FAO), nominating the Tanzanian Ambassador Wilfred Joseph Ngirwa as candidate for the office of the Independent Chair of the FAO Council at the elections to be held during the 39<sup>th</sup> Session of the FAO Conference (6 – 13 June 2015).

The Embassy of the United Republic of Tanzania avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations assurances of its highest consideration.

  
Amb. James Alex Msekela  
Permanent Representative to the UN Rome Based Agencies  
Rome 27<sup>th</sup> January 2015

The seal of the United Republic of Tanzania, Rome, featuring a map of Tanzania and the text "UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA" and "ROME".

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Mr. Louis Gagnon

Secretary General of the Conference and Council of the  
Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations,  
**Rome, ITALY**



**THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA**

Telephone: 2111906-11  
Fax: 2116600  
P.O.BOX 9000,  
**Telex: 41086  
41197**  
E-Mail: [nje@nje.go.tz](mailto:nje@nje.go.tz)

Ministry of Foreign Affairs and  
International Cooperation,  
20 Kivukoni Road,  
P.O Box 9000,  
**11466 DAR ES SALAAM**

In reply please quote:

**Ref. No. CLA 215/663/01**

**16<sup>th</sup> January, 2015**

The Secretary General,  
UN-FAO Conference and Council,  
Viallen delle Terme di Caracalla,  
00153 Rome,  
**ITALY.**

**Mr. Secretary General,**

**RE: NOMINATION OF AMBASSADOR WILFRED JOSEPH NGIRWA FOR THE  
OFFICE OF INDEPENDENT CHAIRPERSON OF THE UN-FAO COUNCIL**

Please, allow me to extend to you and through you my sincere compliments to the Conference and Council of the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO).

With reference to your notice to Members of the 39<sup>th</sup> Session of the FAO Conference to be held on the 6 – 13<sup>th</sup> June, 2015 of which will appoint the Independent Chairperson of the Council, I have the honour to inform you that the Government of the United Republic of Tanzania has decided to present the candidature of Ambassador Wilfred Joseph Ngirwa to the above mentioned post and election.

Ambassador Ngirwa is currently the Independent Chairperson of the Conference and Council since June, 2013. His term of office is due to expire in June, 2015. Apart from his long high-level working experience in the field of Agriculture in both the Government of the United Republic of Tanzania and in the United Nations Food Agencies in Rome, Ambassador Ngirwa in his current mandate as the Independent Chairperson of the FAO Council (ICC) has been able to attain tremendous achievements.

The Government of the United Republic of Tanzania as an interested party, has been closely following up and to the satisfaction that the conference decisions always were clear and well implemented and the work of the both the Council and Technical Committees and the Regional Conferences were in line with the programming and budget cycle and there is enhanced trust and unity among Member States in various discussions on important and sometimes critical issues. All these notable progress in the work of FAO presently, have been possible and successful due to the spirit of trust and enhanced collaboration between the Membership and Leadership which is one of the key functions of the Independent Chairperson of the Council.

The Government of the United Republic of Tanzania is confident that for continued promotion and for up-holding the trust among member countries which are fundamental in the work and sustainability of FAO, calls for consistent and an outstanding leadership.

The Government of Tanzania believes that, with the leadership skills, vast knowledge and experiences on national, regional and international arena that Ambassador Ngirwa has all along managed to accumulate, provides him a better position to steer and contribute towards realisation of benefits of the FAO Reform to Members and attainment of FAO Council goals.

The Curriculum Vitae of Ambassador Ngirwa is attached for your consideration.

Please accept Mr. Secretary General, the assurances of my highest consideration.



Bernard Kamillius Membe (MP)  
**MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND  
INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION**

**WILFRED JOSEPH NGIRWA**  
**CURRICULUM VITAE**

**Personal Details**

Name: Wilfred Joseph NGIRWA

Born: 29<sup>th</sup> July, 1948

Nationality: Tanzanian

Languages spoken: English / Swahili

Contact: wngirwa@gmail.com / (+39 377 944 2607/ +255 769 607 186)

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**CAREER SUMMARY**

Wilfred is the incumbent Independent Chairperson of the FAO Council. He was appointed to the post in June 2013 for a two year term which will end in June 2015.

Wilfred is by training an agriculturalist in agriculture sciences, extension services and economics. He has served in government for 38 years at various levels as a technical expert as well as at leadership positions in Tanzania including being Commissioner of Agriculture Planning and Marketing; Regional Administrative Secretary in Regional and Local Governments and Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Agriculture whereby for five years he led the successful formulation of the Agriculture Strategy of Tanzania and the Agricultural Sector Development Program (2000 – 2005).

Wilfred has served as a diplomat (2006 – 2012) representing Tanzania as a Permanent Representative Ambassador to the UN Agriculture Agencies (FAO, IFAD & WFP) based in Rome where he also held leadership positions as Vice-Chairperson for the Conference Committee on the reform of FAO for five years. Also he was the Chairman of the Africa Regional Group of Ambassadors accredited to the UN Agencies in Rome.

He is knowledgeable with the mandates and working modalities of these UN Agencies, having served in the WFP Executive Board, the IFAD Governing Council (as Tanzania Alternate Governor) and in the FAO Council. He represented Tanzania in the FAO Committees (i.e. Agriculture, Forestry, Fisheries and Food Security), Commissions and a regular keen observer in the Finance Committee. He is an effective coordinator, broker, negotiator and consensus builder in the multilateral setting.

He has also for six years been one of the eleven members of the Independent Experts Consultative Committee for the UN Common Fund for Commodities (CFC) based in Amsterdam, Holland; meeting twice every year for a week long duration to scrutinize projects from member countries and from International Commodity Bodies (ICBs) for recommending those suitable for funding to CFC Governing Board. This has enhanced his understanding of issues of agricultural commodity problems.

Wilfred has worked with South African Development Cooperation (SADC) Food Security Hub in Harare, Zimbabwe in its initial stage of its creation in the formulation of an Agricultural Marketing Infrastructure Project for SADC countries.

## CAREER OBJECTIVE

Wilfred's life long career has involved him in dealing with agriculture and rural development issues that have given him a good understanding of the local and global challenges in agriculture. He remains interested and committed in the endeavour to enhance food security and nutrition for the poverty eradication. That is why he is practicing rural and peri-urban farming.

## EDUCATION

M.Sc. Agricultural Economics, Wye College, University of London, UK (1977)

B.Sc. Agriculture (Honors), Faculty of Agriculture, University of Dar es Salaam (1973).

Specialized courses:

- Project Planning and Appraisal for Developing Countries, University of Bradford, UK (1983)
- Agriculture Policy Formulation and Analysis, University of Zimbabwe (1988)
- Privatization of Public Enterprises and Services – WB, Washington, USA (1991)

## WORK HISTORY

**June 2013 – To date**

**Independent Chairperson** of the FAO Council

**Feb 2012**

Retired from the Tanzania Civil Service

**2006 – 2011**

**Permanent Representative Ambassador** of the United Republic of Tanzania to the United Nations Food and Agriculture Agencies (i.e. FAO, IFAD and WFP) based in Rome.

Key Achievements:

- Member and active participant in the Governing Bodies of the Agencies, including Board Member of FAO Council, Member of WFP Executive Board and Alternate Governor of Tanzania of IFAD Governing Council. Also in 2001 was appointed by the FAO Council 123<sup>rd</sup> Session as Vice-Chairperson (Rome 28 Oct – 1 Nov, 2002).
- Participated and contributed in the Reform of FAO:
  - 2006 – 2007: Dialogue with Independent External Evaluators (IEE) for FAO Reform and involvement in the preparation of the IEE process.
  - Nov 2007: Appointed by FAO Conference as Vice-Chair for Follow-up of IEE Recommendations.
  - Nov 2008: Appointed by FAO Special Conference as Vice-Chair for the Conference Committee on Immediate Plan of Action for FAO renewal (CoC-IEE, IPA).
  - Nov 2009: Appointed by FAO Conference as Vice-Chair for the Open-Ended Working Group on Governance (CoC-OEWG) issues.
  - The FAO wide ranging reform actions were fully endorsed and streamlined in the regular programme of work and budget of FAO by the July, 2011 FAO Conference.



**2001 – 2005**                    **Permanent Secretary** in the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security of the United Republic of Tanzania.

Key Responsibilities

Chief Executive of the Ministry providing managerial and leadership to the sector: Accountable for finance, budgets, policy, projects and programmes.

**1997 – 2001**                    **Regional Administrative Secretary**, Prime Minister’s Office (served in Rukwa and Dar es Salaam Regions). Regional Administrative Secretary of Dar es Salaam Region inclusive of the city (1999 – 2000)

Key Responsibilities:

- Head of Regional Secretariat (which has the following major support sections: Regional Administration, Management, Economic Development, Physical Planning and Engineering and Social Sector Support Services).
- Performed all Development and Administrative Services support and advised local authorities and other local organizations. Also served as the Accounting Officer and Chair of various regional committees and boards.

**1989 –1997**                    **Commissioner for Agricultural Planning and Marketing** and Chief Agricultural Economist in the Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives in Tanzania

Key Responsibilities:

- Responsible for overall agriculture sector planning and development, sector policies, programme formulation/implementation and monitoring, agricultural marketing and market information, statistics and farm management data.

**Feb–Dec 1989**                    **Assistant Commissioner** for Agricultural Planning and Marketing in the Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives

Key Responsibilities:

- Responsible for Sectoral Planning in particular developing and reviewing policies, monitoring sector performance, preparation of short, medium and long term plans and programmes, annual plans and budgets, coordination, resource mobilization and allocation, collection, analysis and dissemination of agricultural statistics.

**1974 – Feb 1989**                    **Agriculture Officer** (1974), Agricultural Economist (1977) and Senior Agricultural Economist (1988) in the Department of Planning and Marketing (in charge of the Agriculture marketing and pricing policies unit).

**1984**                                **Consultancy with Southern Africa Development Coordination (SADC)** - Worked as a consultant for SADC, Food Security Hub in Harare in the formulation of an Agricultural Marketing Infrastructure Project for the SADC countries.

**Special National Assignments (in Tanzania)**

**The Co-operative Reform in Tanzania:**

- Member of the Prime Minister’s Commission of Inquiry (as an expert on cooperative costing and marketing) into the Cooperatives movement (1975).
- Member of the Government Task Force to look into the re-establishment of Co-operative movement (1983), as an expert to propose marketing functions and institutional responsibilities of crop parastatals and cooperative unions. The cooperative movement was re-established in 1984.

### **The Agriculture Marketing Reforms**

- Conducted a study and put out recommendations for the basis of cereal marketing liberalization. The cereals were liberalized 1987/1988.
- Evolved a mechanism for liberalization of traditional export crops. The traditional export crops marketing were liberalized in 1993/1994.

### **Agriculture Sector Memorandum 1994:**

- Led a sector experts' team in study and preparation of the Tanzania Agriculture Sector Memorandum leading to the formulation of the Agriculture and Livestock Policies in Tanzania (Mainland). Also involved in the preparation of Cooperative Policy.
- Chaired the Steering Committee on Agriculture Sector Management Project. This project analyzed the functions of the Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives, redefining the role of Government and the functions of the Ministry leading to the organizational restructuring of Ministry, reflecting new core functions, divestiture of commercial functions to the private sector and recommending a new structure for the Ministry.

### **Agriculture Sector Investment Program (ASIP)**

- Led the preparation of an ASIP for Tanzania 1996.
- Member of the President's Special Committee to advise the Government on Agricultural Development 1999.

### **Agriculture Sector Development Strategy (ASDS) and Agriculture Sector Development Programme (2000 – 2005)**

- Led and Chaired Agricultural Sectoral Ministries of Permanent Secretaries and the Agriculture Sector Stake-holders Coordination Teams respectively in the formulation of the Agricultural Strategy and Development Programme for Tanzania which is now the reference memorandum for agriculture development in Tanzania.

### **Membership & Affiliations**

- International Association for Agricultural Economists (current)
- Founding member of the Association of Agricultural Economists in Tanzania (current)
- Member of the **Independent Experts Consultative Committee** (11 persons) of the Common Fund for Commodities (CFC), a UN Amsterdam based Agency.
  - Meets twice a year (Jan/Feb and July/Aug) to scrutinize commodity focused development projects from Member countries and recommend those suitable for funding to the CFC Governing Board (2005 – 2010)

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### **Publications**

Wilfred has written several of reports & papers on a wide range of topics related to the agriculture sector.

- The Hatchability of Eggs (Coefficients) – BSc. Thesis 1973.
- The Livestock Marketing in Tanzania – MSc. Thesis 1976.
- Between 1974 and 1989 produced various Commodity Annual Reviews and Policy Recommendations under the Marketing Development Bureau inclusive Livestock, Milk, Tea, Sugar, Coffee, Cereals, Fruits and Vegetables.
- Costs of Marketing Efficiency of Cooperative Unions (1975).

- The Cereal Marketing Manual, prepared for teaching purposes at the request of Moshi Cooperative College, 1987.
- Consultancy report on the Status of Cereal Marketing and Food Security in Tanzania under the Framework of structural Adjustment program, ECDPM (Maastrich-Holland) submitted and presented at workshop March, 1989 in Maastrich ECDPM.
- Consultancy reports on Sisal marketing in Tanzania. Current constraints and possible solution – 1994, for FAO Project – Network and Centre for Agricultural Marketing Training in Eastern and Southern Africa, Harare.
- Consultancy paper on Agriculture Transformation in Africa with reference to Tanzania - sponsored by Development of Economics – Michigan State University presented to a workshop held in Abidjan, Ivory Coast – October, 1995.
- Transition Economic Policy and Policy Options for the Agriculture Sector in Tanzania – A consultancy report prepared for the Economic and Social Research Foundation Dar es Salaam, October, 1995.
- A paper on Agricultural Growth: Challenges, Opportunities and the role of Research – presented to workshop on Policy and Financing of Agricultural Research in Tanzania. Paper is cited in ISNAR 1996 Proceedings of the workshop.

#### **OTHER EXPERIENCES:**

##### **Member of the Board of Director in Tanzania including:**

- Sugar Development Cooperation and its Subsidiaries,
- Tanzania Cotton Lint and Seed Boards,
- Hanang Wheat complex Companies (Seven Farms 25,000 ha.)
- Ubungo Farm Implements (UFI) Company,
- Chairman Rukwa Regional Transport Company,
- Tanzania Vocational Technical Training Institute.

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#### **REFERENCES**

Available upon request