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**Executive Board
First Regular Session**

Rome, 8–11 February 2010

RESOURCE, FINANCIAL AND BUDGETARY MATTERS

Agenda item 6

*For information**

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SELECTION AND APPOINTMENT OF THE EXTERNAL AUDITOR

Activities of the Evaluation Panel

* In accordance with the Executive Board's decisions on governance, approved at the Annual and Third Regular Sessions, 2000, items for information should not be discussed unless a Board member specifically requests it, well in advance of the meeting, and the Chair accepts the request on the grounds that it is a proper use of the Board's time.

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NOTE TO THE EXECUTIVE BOARD

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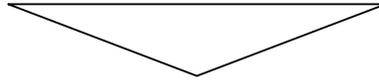
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DRAFT DECISION*



The Board takes note of “Selection and Appointment of the External Auditor: Activities of the Evaluation Panel” (WFP/EB.1/2010/6-A/1).

* This is a draft decision. For the final decision adopted by the Board, please refer to the Decisions and Recommendations document issued at the end of the session.



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1. This note provides information to the Board on the activities of the Evaluation Panel regarding proposals for the appointment of the WFP External Auditor for the term from 1 July 2010 to 30 June 2016. Such activities are in accordance with the procedure stated in document WFP/EB.2/2009/5-E/1, approved by the Board by correspondence on 6 October 2009.
 2. While the submission of the final report was scheduled for the First Regular Session of 2010, the Evaluation Panel considered it necessary to postpone it in order to grant due time to the process.
 3. The Request for Proposals was circulated to the membership on 9 October 2009, with a deadline of 18 December 2009. Proposals were received from the Auditors General (or official holding equivalent title) of five State Members of the United Nations or the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), as stipulated in Financial Regulation 14.1. The Evaluation Panel met in January 2010 for an initial review of the proposals received and to hear the views of the Audit Committee on the matter. The Evaluation Panel was to meet in February to award scores and short-list highest-ranking candidates.
 4. It was envisaged that the interviews, final scoring and evaluation would take place in mid-March. The recommendation of the Evaluation Panel was to be submitted subsequently to the FAO Finance Committee and the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (ACABQ).
 5. The Evaluation Panel expects to submit its final report to the Board for approval at its Annual Session in June 2010. Comments from the advisory bodies will also be submitted.
 6. As soon as the appointment has become effective, the present External Auditor will hand over to the new External Auditor, following procedures established by the United Nations Panel of External Auditors. It was confirmed that hand-over would take place in a timely fashion so as to allow the new External Auditor to fulfil adequately his terms of reference.