



22 April 2013

146th Session of the FAO Council
Appointment of FAO Deputy Director-General
(Knowledge)

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is my great pleasure to inform you that I intend to appoint Ms Maria Helena Semedo to the position of Deputy Director-General for Knowledge.

The position was advertised online with established procedures and attracted 101 candidates, 71 men and 30 women.

Based on the Terms of Reference and the qualification requirements for the post, the Office of Human Resources submitted the names of four candidates for interview.

Based on educational background, professional experience, managerial skills and the unanimous recommendation of the selection panel that interviewed the candidates and conducted the process, I decided to appoint Ms Semedo.

Ms Semedo has been with FAO for nearly 10 years, serving at different professional and managerial levels.

She began her tenure as FAO Representative in Niger, served as FAO Representative in Ghana, Subregional Coordinator for West Africa, and Assistant Director-General and Regional Representative for Africa.

Before joining FAO in 2003, Ms Semedo was a Member of Parliament in her native Cape Verde, and served as Minister of Fisheries, Agriculture and Rural Affairs; Minister of Marine Affairs; and the Minister of Tourism, Transportation and Seas.



Ms Semedo has all the qualities we were looking for.

This includes political experience, consensus-building abilities and great knowledge of the organization.

I would appreciate the confirmation of this appointment by the members of the Council.
Thank you.