

166th Session of the Council

FAO Awards

Secretariat response to written inputs from the Council

The Management thanks the Dominican Republic for the statement, and appreciated the importance it has attached to the FAO Awards.

The Management thanks Australia for the statement and wishes to reiterate that the proposal has capped Regular Programme Budget contribution to the Awards to the current allocation of USD 125,000 per biennium. All additional requirements will be funded through a dedicated Trust Fund with voluntary contributions.

The maximum of 10 awardees in a category would be a cap set by the Conference, allowing for flexibility in situations which may call for recognition of collective efforts that involve multiple entities/individuals.

The proposed criteria and selection process, based on current good practices that have been previously approved by the Conference, provide for Member representation in the selection committees.

The proposed criteria and selection process, reproduced below, is based on previous Conference-approved texts on the processes, with no deviation. Members are represented in all the selection committees.

*a) **Eligibility for the awards:** Members, institutions, individuals, international/regional organizations, academic or research entities, civil society groups, private sector entities and FAO employees can be nominated for the various awards, according to a set of specific criteria, for outstanding contribution towards advancing the overall goals of the Organization, including the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The awards will be in the categories of, i) the FAO Champion Award, the highest corporate Award for Members or their representatives for contribution to the overall achievement of FAO mandate; ii) Partnership, for outstanding cooperation with FAO; iii) Achievement, in various sectors and programmes related to the work of the Organization; iv) Innovation, for ground-breaking innovation in areas under FAO's mandate; and, v) Employees, for exceptional effectiveness and accomplishment in serving the Organization.*

*b) **Nature of the award:** the award will consist of a scroll describing the recipient's achievements and a cash prize. No cash prize will be given to FAO employees, in any categories.*

*c) **Selection of winners:** An ad hoc interdepartmental Screening Committee, chaired by a member of the core leadership, will make a shortlist of nominations. The winners will be chosen by a Selection Committee chaired by the Director-General and comprising the Independent Chairperson of the Council, the Chairperson of the Finance Committee and the Chairperson of the Programme Committee.*

*d) **Conferment of the awards:** the awards will be presented at a ceremony during the Conference, Council, World Food Day or other high visibility events.*