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Продовольственная и
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Объединенных Наций

Organización de las
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COUNCIL

Hundred and Sixty-sixth Session

26-30 April 2021

FAO Awards

Executive Summary

The Independent Chairperson of the Council has held numerous consultations, through the established mechanism of his informal meetings with the Chairpersons and Vice-Chairpersons of the Regional Groups, as per the mandate of the 41st Session of the Conference to “identify consistent and sustainable conditions for the award of prizes” at FAO. In the context of such meetings, Members have supported maintaining the monetary value of the FAO Awards and requested that alternative funding mechanisms be identified to ensure the sustainability of FAO Awards. Members have also encouraged a re-definition of the FAO Awards to align them with the strategic objectives of the Organization.

This document outlines a proposal by Management, in response to Members’ guidance, for the establishment of a new set of systematic and sustainable FAO Awards to invigorate the work under the Organization’s mandate by leveraging the FAO brand. It is proposed that five new categories of Awards are established, revolving around topics of institutional relevance and strategic importance, and which aim to bolster the sustainability and continued pertinence of the FAO Awards.

This proposal was reviewed by the Joint Meeting of the 130th Session of the Programme Committee and the 185th Session of the Finance Committee. This document is submitted to the Council for forward review, with the aim to submit this to the 42nd Session of the Conference for approval.

Suggested action by the Council

The Council is invited to consider the proposal to establish a new set of systematic and sustainable FAO Awards, alongside any related observations and advice from the Joint Meeting, and offer guidance thereon and submit any such recommendations as it considers appropriate for approval by the Conference at its 42nd Session.

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

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Documents can be consulted at www.fao.org

I. Background

1. The 41st Session of the Conference in 2019 endorsed the recommendation of its General Committee that “*the Independent Chairperson of the Council (ICC) should carry out inclusive consultations with Members with a view to defining consistent and sustainable conditions for the award of prizes, taking into account the global state of food and agriculture, including options for a phasing out of the oldest awards. The outcome of this process would be referred for the approval by the 42nd Session of the Conference*”.¹
2. The ICC has held consultations on this topic in the context of his monthly informal meetings with the Chairpersons and Vice-Chairpersons of the Regional Groups in September, October and November 2019, in January, February and October 2020, and in February 2021. Members have provided their inputs on numerous occasions, including in writing.
3. At the 23 October 2020 informal meeting of the ICC, Members supported maintaining the cash-element of FAO Awards and agreed on the need to identify alternative sources of funding for the Awards, such as through voluntary contributions. In this regard, Members noted their flexibility regarding the various options on how to implement this. FAO Management has developed a proposal for the FAO Awards, in line with Members’ guidance and inputs, while also considering the mandate and objectives of the Organization. A document outlining the proposal by FAO Management for the establishment of a new set of systematic and sustainable FAO Awards to invigorate the process leveraging the FAO brand was submitted to the Joint Meeting of the 130th Session of the Programme Committee and 185th Session of the Finance Committee.

II. Management Proposal

4. The proposed new FAO Awards aim to leverage the FAO brand to galvanize excellence in areas under FAO’s mandate; and at the same time to use the recognition, through the Awards, of outstanding achievement in advancing the goals of the Organization to strengthen the FAO brand.
5. These Awards will serve to motivate FAO partners to support activities aimed at achieving FAO’s objectives; and in turn, the achievements of FAO partners will bolster the image of FAO itself. The new Awards will serve as an instrument to enhance the Organization’s efforts aimed at increasing FAO visibility and at partnership building; and as such to make FAO more valuable to Members, more attractive to donors, more engaging to partners and more meaningful to its employees.
6. The proposed new FAO Awards are conceptualized around topics of institutional relevance and strategic importance, and therefore aim to bolster the sustainability and continued pertinence of FAO’s Awards in line with the guidance provided by the Conference at its 41st Session.
7. The proposed new annual Awards will consist of a main FAO Champion Award and four further Awards under the following categories: partnership, achievement, innovation and employees. These Awards are aimed at replacing existing FAO Awards that are named after former Directors-General and funded through the Regular Programme Budget, to create a systematic, consistent and coherent set of awards. Existing Awards that are currently funded entirely by Members’ extra-budgetary contributions shall be maintained.² The list of current FAO Awards named after former Directors-General and funded through the Regular Programme and which are proposed to be abolished is included in *Annex I* to this document.
8. The new Awards will be conferred annually, with a maximum capped at ten recipients, when justified, in each of the categories of partnership, achievement and innovation. This maximum will give the Selection Committees, composed of representatives of both Members and Management, the flexibility they may require. The selection criteria and processes, including the composition of the Selection Committees which entails participation by Members, are outlined in *Annex II*.

¹ Fourth Report of the General Committee of the 41st Session of the Conference, paragraph 8.

² Such as the Margarita Lizárraga Medal funded by Mexico and the International Innovation Award for Sustainable Food and Agriculture funded by Switzerland.

9. The new FAO Awards will be show-cased in an annual cycle, through high visibility ceremonies throughout the year, including during the FAO Conference and Council Sessions and World Food Day events. The proposed timing for each Award is included in the section below.

10. In line with Members' guidance, it is proposed to maintain the monetary value for all new Awards except for those in the employee category, or where an employee or FAO team is chosen for an Award in the other categories. In order to support the sustainability of the Awards, it is proposed to establish a new dedicated Trust Fund, with voluntary contributions by Members and other donors, including intergovernmental entities, foundations, civil society organizations and private sector entities, in line with FAO's guidelines on resources mobilization and private sector engagement. Contributions will be duly recognized.

11. Regular Programme resources for existing awards and prizes are envisaged to be retained as an important and small dimension for the new FAO Awards, which will be funded primarily through extrabudgetary resources. As indicated in *Annex 1*, the current total prize money from the Regular Programme comes to USD 95 000. In addition, the estimated travel related costs that have been included in PWB 2020-21 amount to just under USD 30 000. Future Regular Programme budget contribution for the Awards will be capped at a total of USD 125 000. The current Awards provide for travel of accompanying spouses and dependent children as well. Management proposes to cease this practice and provide for travel of the awardees and spouse only. The average travel cost is USD 1 500 per person, based on the actual expenses of the past three biennium cycles.

III. The New FAO Awards

FAO Champion Award

12. The FAO Champion Award will be awarded annually, either during the regular Conference Session or during the first regular Council Session in non-Conference years. It will be the highest corporate Award, recognizing significant and outstanding contribution towards advancing the overall goals of the Organization, including the achievement of the 2030 Agenda Sustainable Development Goals. The Award may be conferred mainly upon Members, and institutions or individuals. Its monetary value will be set commensurate with its status as the premier FAO Award. It is proposed that the prize be set at USD 50 000. For context, three of the current awards have their prize money set at USD 25 000.

FAO Award for Partnership

13. The FAO Award for Partnership will recognize outstanding cooperation with FAO in advancing the Organization's work by Members, other UN agencies or international institutions, academic or research entities; and civil society or private sector entities, including media outlets for outstanding coverage of food and agricultural issues. This Award will be conferred at the first session of the Council every year. With respect to non-state stakeholders, the usual due diligence processes would be applied with respect to any prospective recipient, to minimize reputational risks. It is proposed that the prize be set at USD 10 000 per awardee.

FAO Award for Achievement

14. The FAO Award for Achievement will recognize specific professional achievements in various sectors and programmes related to the work of the Organization, with due regard paid to areas where FAO carries out extensive work, such as fisheries, forestry, climate, land and water, animal and plant health, to name but a few. It would be conferred upon any entity or individual, including FAO teams or employees, for example, for outstanding technical cooperation or humanitarian work at country level (akin to the existing B.R. Sen Award). This prize would be awarded during the annual World Food Day celebrations, starting this year (15 October 2021). It is proposed that the prize be set at USD 10 000 per awardee.

FAO Award for Innovation

15. The FAO Award for Innovation will be conferred for ground-breaking innovation in areas under FAO's mandate to a broad spectrum of awardees. This could include but not be limited to, for example, innovations on agri-food systems, digital agriculture, advances in biotechnology, innovation in sustainable production practices such as Agroecology, new business models, etc. The Award could

be conferred upon a Member or non-state partners. Recipients would also include FAO teams or employees. Out of a total of ten Awards conferred each year, approximately two-thirds would be conferred upon partners and one-third upon FAO teams or employees. This Award would be granted annually during the second regular sessions of the Council. It is proposed that the prize be set at USD 10 000 per awardee. FAO employees or teams will not receive cash prizes.

FAO Award for Employees

16. The FAO Award for Employees will be conferred upon FAO teams for exceptional effectiveness and accomplishment in serving the Organization. It will also encompass the established employee awards for individuals, such as the Best Young and the Best Young at Heart Awards, best FAO Representatives and others. These awards would be conferred at a dedicated, annual FAO Employee Recognition Award ceremony. There would be no cash prize.

IV. Selection Criteria and Processes

17. The proposed selection criteria and processes for the new awards are outlined in *Annex II*. They are based on the current criteria and processes, as listed in *Annex I*, which were approved by the Conference through various Resolutions³. Management does not propose deviations from the current practices which have served the Organization well.

³ 33/67; 1/75; 2/93; 1/2011; and 1/2019.

Annex 1: Current FAO Conference Awards funded through the Programme of Work and Budget

Award	Conference Resolution	Recipient	Eligibility	Criteria	Time frame	Selection Process	Prize
B.R. Sen	33/67	For field officers during their country assignments.	Any FAO field officer who has served under any of the programmes operated by FAO during the years for which the Award is made is eligible for nomination. This includes international field project officers, National Professional Officers (NPOs), FAO Officers in Regional and Sub regional Offices, and FAO Representatives. Officers in this context refer to staff members in the professional category. In exceptional circumstances, nominations may be based on service prior to the year for which an Award is to be considered, either for service performed no earlier than the previous biennium (in such cases, although the Award is given for a specific year in accordance with the Award schedule, the year for which performance is being recognized will be indicated), or for an overall career achievement. In the latter case, part of that service has to have been performed within the current biennium.	A nominee must have made an outstanding contribution to the advancement of the country or countries to which he or she was assigned, in particular in the fields of sustainable agricultural and rural development or food security. This contribution must be clearly identifiable and may take the form of technical innovations in agriculture, fisheries or forestry; institutional or administrative improvements; discoveries of new resources as a result of research, surveys or other investigations; establishment of training and research institutions; or achievements in any of the many other tasks assigned to FAO personnel.	One Award is conferred for each year of the biennium so one for each year. In the case of a joint award the prize is divided among the winners.	<p>Technical screening done by the technical department.</p> <p>Screening Committee: Chairperson DDG-T, ADGs at regional level and the FAO Core leadership.</p> <p>Selection Committee: Chaired by the Director-General and composed of the Secretary of the awards DDG-T, the Independent Chairperson of the Council, the Chairpersons of the Programme and Finance Committees.</p> <p>The process has been streamlined for all awards. By introducing an electronic voting system and a simple and transparent scoring system based on a weighted average. The process has improved workflow, which resulted in a significant reduction of staff and related operational costs. The process is managed by the FAO Awards Secretariat.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scroll describing the field officers achievements and/or an award. • Cash prize of USD 5 000 per year so a total of USD 10 000 • A roundtrip fare to Rome and associated travel expenses for the Award recipient and spouse, and young children who cannot be left unattended at the duty station.

<p>A.H. Boerma</p>	<p>1/75</p>	<p>For journalists who have successfully steered public attention towards food security topics.</p>	<p>Journalists or group of journalists (press, television or radio) from around the world who through their work have helped to focus public attention on important aspects of the world food problem particularly relating to agricultural and rural development.</p>	<p>For journalists who have successfully steered public attention towards food security topics.</p>	<p>One Award per biennium. In the case of a joint award the prize is divided among the winners.</p>	<p>Technical screening done by the technical department.</p> <p>Screening Committee Chairperson DDG-T, ADGs at regional level and the FAO Core leadership.</p> <p>Selection Committee: Chaired by the Director-General and composed of the Secretary of the awards DDG-T, the Independent Chairperson of the Council, the Chairpersons of the Programme and Finance Committees and the FAO Awards Secretariat (OCC).</p> <p>The process has been streamlined for all the awards. By introducing an electronic voting system and a simple and transparent scoring system based on a weighted average. The process has improved workflow, which resulted in a significant reduction of staff and related operational costs. The process is managed by the FAO Awards Secretariat.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Personalized scroll and/or award. •Cash prize of USD 10 000. A roundtrip fare to Rome and associated travel expenses for the Award recipient.
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<p>Edouard Saouma</p>	<p>2/93</p>	<p>For institutions that have created true impact in the efficient execution of FAO TCP Projects</p>	<p>Any national or regional institution that has implemented with particular efficiency a project funded by the Technical Cooperation Programme of FAO. The Award considers projects that were implemented in the course of the biennium preceding the Conference.</p>	<p>In the spirit of Conference Resolution 2/93 the winning institution should be one that has implemented a TCP-funded project having a model character and which has either:</p> <p>a) allowed the rapid mobilization of resources or responded efficiently to emergency situations; and/or</p> <p>b) filled a critical gap and met successfully short-term technical assistance needs which could not be covered by other sources of support; and/or</p> <p>c) produced sustainable outcome and outputs and had particular catalytic effects such as increased mobilization of investment funds, large-scale follow-up action, policy and institutional changes; and/or</p> <p>d) contributed to the strengthening of the beneficiary country's capacities to ensure that the critical gap and problem faced would either not appear again or could be resolved effectively at the national or regional level. Particular emphasis will be given to the nature, the sustainability and the replicability of the achievements and the catalytic effects generated compared with the inputs provided by the Technical Cooperation Programme.</p>	<p>One Award per biennium. In the case of a joint award the prize is divided among the winners.</p>	<p>Technical screening done by the technical department.</p> <p>Screening Committee Chairperson DDG-T, ADGs at regional level and the FAO Core leadership.</p> <p>Selection Committee: Chaired by the Director-General and composed of the Secretary of the awards DDG-T, the Independent Chairperson of the Council, the Chairpersons of the Programme and Finance Committees and the FAO Awards Secretariat (OCC).</p> <p>The process has been streamlined for all the awards. By introducing an electronic voting system and a simple and transparent scoring system based on a weighted average. The process has improved workflow, which resulted in a significant reduction of staff and related operational costs. The process is managed by the FAO Awards Secretariat.</p>	<p>•Personalized scroll and/or award.</p> <p>•Cash prize of USD 25 000.</p> <p>A roundtrip fare to Rome and associated travel expenses for the Award recipient.</p>
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<p>Jacques Diouf</p>	<p>1/2011</p>	<p>Any individual, national, regional or global institution</p>	<p>Any individual, national, regional or global institution that has, in the course of the biennium preceding the Conference, made a significant contribution to the improvement of global food security.</p>	<p>In the spirit of Conference Resolution 1/2011 the winning individual or institution should be one that has</p> <p>a) developed suitable analyses of the causes of food insecurity and successfully advocated for consistent measures that have been adopted and applied, on a large scale, by governments, civil society organizations and/or private enterprises, through programmes aimed at fighting hunger and malnutrition, and/or;</p> <p>b) mobilized resources and led to the implementation of large-scale programmes for fighting hunger and malnutrition that have demonstrated sustainable impact.</p>	<p>One Award per biennium. In the case of a joint award the prize is divided among the winners.</p>	<p>Technical screening done by the technical department.</p> <p>Screening Committee: Chairperson DDG-T, ADGs at regional level and the FAO Core leadership.</p> <p>Selection Committee: Chaired by the Director-General and composed of the Secretary of the awards DDG-T, the Independent Chairperson of the Council, the Chairpersons of the Programme and Finance Committees.</p> <p>The process has been streamlined for all the awards. By introducing an electronic voting system and a simple and transparent scoring system based on a weighted average. The process has improved workflow, which resulted in a significant reduction of staff and related operational costs. The process is managed by the FAO Conference Awards."</p>	<p>•Personalized scroll and/or award.</p> <p>•Cash prize of USD 25 000.</p> <p>A roundtrip fare to Rome and associated travel expenses for the Award recipient.</p>
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<p>Graziano Da Silva</p>	<p>1/2019</p>	<p>A civil society organization with major achievements in promoting Zero Hunger best practices.</p>	<p>Any national, regional or global civil society organization that has, in the course of the biennium preceding the Conference, made a significant contribution to the improvement of global food security and Zero Hunger.</p>	<p>In the spirit of Conference Resolution 06/2019 the winning organization should be one that can:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • demonstrate that it has engaged local communities and relevant stakeholders and aims to improve people’s lives and respond to their needs and rights. It should enhance the contribution to the realization of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and Zero Hunger. • present an innovative idea, a new approach, or a unique policy implemented in order to realize Zero Hunger and the SDGs. • appear to be adaptable to other contexts (e.g. cities, countries or regions). There should ideally be evidence that it has inspired similar innovations in other public-sector institutions within a given country, region or at the global level. • The initiative shows some evidence of impact on improving people’s lives. 	<p>One Award per biennium. In the case of a joint award the prize is divided among the winners.</p>	<p>Technical screening done by the technical department.</p> <p>Screening Committee: Chairperson DDG-T, ADGs at regional level and the FAO Core leadership.</p> <p>Selection Committee: Chaired by the Director-General and composed of the Secretary of the awards DDG-T, the Independent Chairperson of the Council, the Chairpersons of the Programme and Finance Committees.</p> <p>The process has been streamlined for all the awards. By introducing an electronic voting system and a simple and transparent scoring system based on a weighted average. The process has improved workflow, which resulted in a significant reduction of staff and related operational costs. The process is managed by the FAO Awards Secretariat.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Personalized scroll and/or award. •Cash prize of USD 25 000. <p>A roundtrip fare to Rome and associated travel expenses for the Award recipient.</p>
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Annex 2: Proposed Criteria and Procedures for the Nomination and Selection for FAO Awards

1. 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 collaboration 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.
2. 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 category.
3. Selection of awardees: An *ad hoc* interdepartmental Screening Committee, chaired by a member of the core leadership, will make a shortlist of nominations. The awardees 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.
4. Conferment of the awards: the awards will be presented at a ceremony during the Conference, Council, World Food Day and/or other high visibility events.