



# COUNCIL

## Hundred and Seventy-second Session

Rome, 24-28 April 2023

### Address by candidates for the post of Director-General

#### Executive summary

In accordance with Rule XXXVII.1(c) of the General Rules of the Organization, candidates for the post of Director-General of the Organization shall address the session of Council which precedes the session of the Conference that will appoint the Director-General, subject to such arrangements as the Council may make.

#### Suggested action by the Council

The Council is invited to take note of the sole candidate for the post of Director-General for the period 1 August 2023 to 31 July 2027; and (ii) the procedures concerning the address to Council and to the Conference by the candidate for the Office of Director-General of the Organization.

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

Rakesh Muthoo  
Secretary-General of the Conference and the Council  
Tel: +39 06570 55987  
Email: [CSG-Director@fao.org](mailto:CSG-Director@fao.org)

1. By 28 February 2023, the deadline set by the 170th Session of the Council (June 2022) for the receipt of nominations for the post of Director-General for the period 1 August 2023 to 31 July 2027, the following nominations had been received:

China	QU Dongyu
Iraq	Hamid Khalaf Ahmed
Tajikistan	Dilshod Sharifi

2. Subsequently, on 6 March 2023, the Secretary-General of the Conference and Council received a communication from the Government of the Republic of Iraq informing of the withdrawal of the nomination of Hamid Khalaf Ahmed.

3. On 3 April 2023, the Secretary-General of the Conference and Council received a communication from the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan informing of the withdrawal of the nomination of Dilshod Sharifi.

4. The procedures concerning the addresses by candidates were approved by the Council at its 171st Session (December 2022). These procedures, as applicable to the sole candidate for the post of Director-General, are contained in *Appendix A*, which also contains a table detailing the order in which the Regional Groups will pose questions to the candidate at the Council.

5. Arrangements for voting at the election of the Director-General, in accordance with the relevant provisions of Rules XII and XXXVII of the General Rules of the Organization (GROs), are set out in *Appendix B*.

**Appendix A**

**Procedures to be followed for the Address by candidates for the post of  
Director-General of FAO at the 172nd Session of the Council  
(Rome, 24-28 April 2023) and the 43rd Session of the Conference (1-7 July 2023)**

***Time allocation for the candidate during the 172nd Session of the Council (24-28 April 2023)***

The sole candidate for the post of Director-General will be allocated 90 minutes to address the Council, as follows:

- fifteen (15) minutes for opening remarks by the candidate;
- ten (10) minutes for an interactive question-and-answer session with each of the seven Regional Groups; and
- five (5) minutes for closing remarks by the candidate.

Each Regional Group will be responsible for managing their allocated 10 minutes for the interactive question-and-answer session, during which they can decide on which and how many questions to be posed, as well as the order in which they wish to pose the questions.

Questions can be asked only by a representative of each of the seven FAO Regional Groups.

Should he wish, the candidate may provide his written statement to Members ahead of the Council session.

***Order of Regional Groups to pose questions***

Members representing the Regional Groups will speak in the alphabetical order of the English names of the Regional Groups, as indicated in the table below:

Candidate	Questions/Regional Groups						
QU Dongyu	Africa	Asia	Europe	Latin America and the Caribbean	Near East	North America	Southwest Pacific

***Scheduling of the item “Address by candidates for the post of Director-General” during the 172nd Session of the Council (24-28 April 2023)***

The item *Address by candidates for the post of Director-General* during Council will be scheduled on Thursday, 27 April 2023 at 09.30 hours.

***Procedure to be followed by the Conference***

In line with the procedure followed at the Conference in 2019, 15 minutes will be allocated to the candidate.

The address by the candidate for the post of Director-General to the Conference will be scheduled on the afternoon of Saturday, 1 July 2023.

***Participation by candidate in Regional Group Meetings***

Upon request of a Regional Group, the candidate may participate in the meetings of that Regional Group, on the premise that any incremental cost, including additional interpretation services, resulting from the participation of the candidate shall be borne by the candidate.

## **Appendix B**

### **Arrangements for Voting**

Pursuant to Article VII of the FAO Constitution with regard to *The Director-General* of FAO and in accordance with the provisions of Rule XXXVII of the General Rules of the Organization (GRO) regarding the *Appointment of the Director-General*, as well as the relevant provisions set out in Rule XII of the GRO regarding *Quorum and Voting Arrangements at Meetings of Conference and Council*, the following arrangements for voting will be applied for the election of the Director-General of FAO for the term of office from 1 August 2023 to 31 July 2027 scheduled to take place during the 43rd Session of the FAO Conference on Sunday, 2 July 2023:

1. The appointment of the Director-General shall be decided by secret ballot [Rule XII.10(a)].
2. The appointment of the Director-General at a regular session of the Conference shall be effected within three working days following the opening date of the session [Rule XXXVII.1(d)].

### ***Quorum***

A majority of the Member Nations shall constitute a quorum [Rule XII.2(a)].

### ***Majority***

The Director-General shall be elected by a majority of votes cast; votes cast means affirmative and negative votes and does not include abstentions or defective ballots [Rule XII.4(a)].

Until a candidate obtains the required majority, the following procedure shall apply [Rule XXXVII.2(a-h)]:

- Two ballots shall be held among all candidates
- The candidate having received the smallest number of votes in the second ballot shall be eliminated;
- Thereafter, successive ballots shall be held and the candidate having received the smallest number of votes in any one of these ballots shall be eliminated until only three candidates remain;
- Two ballots shall be held among the three remaining candidates and the candidate having received the smallest number of votes during this second ballot shall be eliminated;
- A subsequent ballot or successive ballots shall be held among the two remaining candidates until one candidate obtains the required majority.

### ***Tellers***

The Chairperson of the Conference shall appoint two tellers from among the delegates, who are not parties directly involved in the election, to supervise the balloting procedure, count the ballot papers, decide on the validity of the ballot paper and certify the result of each ballot. The same tellers may be appointed for successive ballots. [Rule XII.10(c)(i-iii)].

The nominated tellers will be invited by the Secretariat at the start of the Conference to a briefing on duties to be carried out.

### ***Scrutineers***

Either the candidate or a scrutineer appointed by the candidate may attend the count of the votes, without taking part therein [Rule XII.10(g)]. The Secretariat will request the candidate to provide the name of a scrutineer in advance.

### ***Count of votes***

The Secretariat is mandated to take such steps as may be required to ensure that the results of secret ballots remain undisclosed until the formal announcement of the outcome of the ballot [Rule XII.10(h)]. Following the recommendation by the 105th Session of the Committee on

Constitutional and Legal Matters (October 2017), approved by the 158th Session of the Council (December 2017), the Secretariat is invited to enforce Rule XII.10(h), if necessary, by requesting all delegates and Secretariat members attending the count of votes to hand over any electronic appliances, such as mobile phones and tablets while in the room.

***Elections Officer***

An Elections Officer is appointed by the Director-General for each session of the Conference or Council who is responsible for ensuring adherence to the provisions of the Constitution and the General Rules of the Organization during the voting and electoral procedure [Rule XII.16(a-g)].