

## 1. Why are we having elections?

We are having elections because, as established in the Codex Procedural Manual under Rule III.1, the Members of the Commission must elect a Chairperson and three Vice-Chairpersons at each session. These would normally hold office from the end of the session at which they were elected until the end of the following regular session.

## 2. Which positions are currently open for election?

Currently there are four positions open for election:

- Chairperson (1 vacancy);
- Vice-Chairpersons (3 vacancies).

Depending on the results of the above elections, other positions may open for election or appointment, more specifically Members of the Executive Committee of the Codex Alimentarius Commission elected on a geographical basis (see question 18) or Coordinator (see question 20).

## 3. When will the elections take place?

The nomination periods for the Chairperson and Vice-Chairpersons, and the consequent elections of the Chairperson and three Vice-chairpersons of the Codex Alimentarius Commission will take place only at the Commission session (CAC47, Geneva, Switzerland, 25 – 30 November 2024) in accordance with the below table. The table also gives the times for elections by secret ballot should there be more than one candidate per elective position.

Position	Nomination period opens	Nomination period closes	Election by secret ballot (if needed)
Chairperson	Monday 25 November 15:00 CET	Tuesday 26 November 10:00 CET	Tuesday 26 November 15:00 CET
Vice-Chairpersons	Tuesday 26 November 18:00 CET	Wednesday 27 November 13:00 CET	Wednesday 27 November 15:00 CET
Member of the Executive Committee elected on a geographical basis (if necessary)	Wednesday 27 November 18.00 CET	Thursday 28 November 13:00 CET	Thursday 28 November 15:00 CET

## 4. Where will the elections take place?

The elections will take place during CAC47 at the International Conference Center Geneva (CICG) Rue de Varembé 17, 1211 Genève, Switzerland.

## 5. Who are the candidates?

As the nomination period has not yet opened, there are no official nominations to date. Members intending to nominate a candidate for any of the vacancies may however communicate this intent directly to Members for their information.

## 6. Can the present Chairperson and Vice-Chairpersons be nominated and elected again?

The present Chairperson, Mr Steve Wearne (United Kingdom) is not eligible for re-election as Chairperson of CAC, having been elected at CAC44 (2021) and re-elected at CAC45 and CAC46, and thus having already served three regular terms (2021-2024).

The present Vice-Chairpersons, Mr Allan Azegale (Kenya), Mr Raj Rajasekar (New Zealand), and Mr Diego Varela (Chile), are not eligible for re-election as Vice-Chairpersons, having been elected at CAC44 (2021), and re-elected at CAC45 and CAC46, and thus having already served three regular terms (2021-2024). The Vice-Chairpersons are, however, eligible for the position of Chairperson of CAC.

## 7. What is the deadline for nominations?

The nomination period for the election of Chairperson and Vice-Chairpersons is only open at the Commission session. The nomination periods are indicated in the table provided in question 3.

## 8. How will the nomination process take place?

Nomination forms will be available from the Codex Secretariat as soon as the Chairperson of the Commission opens the nomination period (no form is therefore currently available).

Nomination forms require the name of both the nominee and the nominator and their signatures. Members interested in nominating a candidate for the position of Chairperson and / or Vice-Chairperson should collect and complete the form and return it to the Codex Secretariat within the time set for the close of nominations (see table in question 3), which will also be announced several times during the Commission.

The Codex Secretariat can provide further information and assist interested Members during the Session of CAC47.



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## 9. Who votes?

Only Members of the Codex Alimentarius Commission are eligible to vote and put forward candidates.

It is important to note that voting by secret ballot in any meeting modality is in person only.

Rules on the composition of delegations allow Members to include any person in their delegation, including nationals from other countries. The only limitation that applies is that no delegate to CAC47 can also be included in the CAC47 delegation of another Member.

This means that Members who cannot participate in-person could exercise their voting rights by including a person already based in Geneva on their delegation or a person that has the opportunity to travel to Geneva for the purpose of voting (e.g. from their diplomatic Representation in a nearby city or country).

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## 10. Will there necessarily be voting?

Voting will only take place if needed, that is if there are more nominations for a position than vacancies available. In cases where the number of nominations for a position is the same as the number of vacancies, the election is decided by clear general consent/acclamation. In such cases, physical in-person voting will not be required. The table in question 3 gives the times for voting by secret ballot if there is more than one candidate per elective position.

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## 11. How will delegates know if voting will be needed?

Whether or not voting is required will be announced approximately three hours before the scheduled election together with the nominations. Heads of Delegation are advised to keep in touch with their voting delegates.

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## 12. What will be the procedure for voting for the position of Chairperson and Vice-Chairpersons at CAC47?

If there is more than one candidate for an elected position, then the election will be decided by secret ballot. It is important to note that voting by secret ballot in any meeting modality is in person only.

Each Codex Member must register all delegates planning to attend CAC47 in Geneva via INDICO. The link has been provided to all Codex Contact Points in the official invitation to CAC47.

*P.S. When it comes to the time for voting (see question 3), the Chairperson and elections Officer will guide Members through the process.*

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## 13. What information will voters be provided with?

All delegates can refer to the document “Election of Chairperson and Vice-Chairpersons and Members Elected on a Geographical basis and appointment of Coordinators” (CX/CAC 24/47/24) published on the [CAC47](#) page. Information regarding nominations, elections and related times is included in the table contained in question 3. Further information will be provided during CAC47 by the Codex Secretariat.

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## 14. I have never voted before. What do I need to know?

Here is an outline of the voting procedure:

- The number of votes to be cast should be the same as there are vacancies on the ballot paper. Any number lower or higher than the number of vacancies would invalidate the ballot paper.

Example

- For the election of the Chairperson, the voting delegate should vote for one of the candidates on the ballot paper – considering there is only one vacancy for Chairperson. However, in the case of the Vice-Chairpersons, the voting delegate should cast the vote for three of the candidates in the first round – considering that there are three vacancies for Vice-Chairpersons. In case successive rounds of balloting are needed, then this number might change. For example, if after the first round, one of the candidates is elected Vice-Chairperson and two vacancies remain, then the voting delegate would need to vote for two of the candidates in that round. Clear voting instructions will be presented on the ballot papers. In addition, assistance with voting will be available before and during the voting procedure.

In cases where more than one round of voting is required, these will take place as soon as practicable on the same day as the first round of voting and continue until vacancies are filled.

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## 15. How can my country vote if we are not physically present at CAC47 and do not have a representative in Geneva?

There are a couple of options available to you if you are unable to physically attend CAC47 and do not have a physical presence in Geneva. The applicable Rules on the composition of delegations allow Members to include any person to their delegation, including nationals from other countries. The only limitation that applies is that no delegate to CAC47 can also be included in the delegation to CAC47 of another Member. This means that you could exercise your voting rights by including on your delegation a person already based in Geneva (that could be a national from another Member country) or a person that has the opportunity to travel to Geneva for the purpose of voting (e.g. from your diplomatic Representation in a nearby city or country)

If you have any questions on this, please contact us at [Codex@fao.org](mailto:Codex@fao.org).

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## 16. Where can I read the rules regarding voting?

All the rules regarding elections are available on the Codex webpage.

For the Election of Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson click here.

For the Election of the Executive Committee Members elected on a geographical basis click here.

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## 17. What will happen to a Member's seat on the CCEXEC if a candidate from that Member Country is elected Vice-Chairperson.

Rule V.1 of the Rules of Procedure of CAC further prescribes that not more than one delegate from any one country shall be a member of the Executive Committee. To implement this rule, elections are held sequentially with Chairperson elections held first, then Vice-Chairpersons elections, and finally Members elected on a geographic basis. When a national from a Member country is elected to a position, that Member country can no longer submit nominations for any other vacancy to be filled.

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## 18. Will there be elections for the position of Member elected on a geographical basis in CCEXEC?

CAC46 (2023) elected/re-elected by general consent the following Members of the Executive Committee on a geographic basis for the period from the end of its present Session to the end of the second succeeding regular Session of the Commission (CAC48):

Africa: Morocco (Kingdom of) (elected); Asia: India (elected); Europe: Finland (re-elected); Latin America and the Caribbean: Costa Rica (elected); Near East: Iran (Islamic Republic of) (re-elected); North America: Canada (re-elected); South-West Pacific: Vanuatu (re-elected)

Therefore, no elections are currently scheduled for these positions at CAC47.

However, should one or more of the above Members elected on a geographical basis be elected as Chairperson or Vice-Chairperson of the Codex Alimentarius Commission, it will be necessary to elect a replacement Member and a nomination process will be opened during CAC47. In cases where the number of nominations for a position is the same as the number of vacancies, the election is decided by clear general consent/acclamation and physical in-person voting will not be required. In cases where there are more nominations for the position than vacancies available then the election will be decided by secret ballot. It is also important to note that nominations for Members elected on a geographical basis may only be put forward by Members of the same region.

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## 19. When will election results be announced?

The results of the elections will be announced immediately after the end of the ballot count. In the election for the Chairperson of the Commission, if a candidate fails on the first ballot to obtain a majority of the votes cast, successive ballots will be cast immediately after such announcement, until a candidate obtains the majority.

In the election for the three Vice-chairpersons, if only some of the elective places have been filled after the first ballot, a second ballot will be cast to fill the remaining elective places.

In case successive ballots are required, the Codex Secretariat will contact voting/alternate delegates providing further details on the exact time of such ballots.

However, elections will only take place if needed, that is if there are more nominations for a position than vacancies available. The nomination period will only open the day before each of the respective elections and will be done virtually (via email during the 24h nomination window). When the nomination period closes and the candidates are announced, if at that point in time the number of candidates is the same as the number of vacancies it will be proposed to elect by acclamation. If the number of candidates exceeds the number of persons, elections will proceed by in-person voting.

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## 20. How will Coordinators be appointed?

The appointment of Coordinators is made exclusively on the proposal of a majority of the Members of the Commission which constitute the region or group of countries concerned. In principle, they are nominated at each session of the relevant Coordinating Committee established under Rule XI.1(b)(ii) and appointed at the following regular session of the Commission. Coordinators hold office from the end of this session and may be reappointed for a second term.

Considering that only two FAO/WHO Coordinating Committees met since CAC46, namely the FAO/WHO Coordinating Committee for Europe (CCEURO) and the FAO/WHO Coordinating Committee for Latin America and the Caribbean (CCLAC), only these regions will appoint their respective Coordinators.

However, in line with Rule V.1 of the Rules of Procedure of CAC which prescribes that not more than one delegate from any one country shall be a member of the Executive Committee, should one or more of the current Coordinators be elected to the position of Chairperson or Vice-Chairperson, a new appointment will be necessary. Members from the region will be asked to make a proposal for the position for appointment by CAC47.

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## 21. Where can I find further information about the elections?

Further information is contained in the CAC47 document "Election of Chairperson and Vice-Chairpersons and Members Elected on a Geographical basis and appointment of Coordinators". (CX/CAC 24/47/24)