

Questions and Answers regarding Elections in Geneva

The following Q &As are based on questions received from Members regarding the elections and the replies subsequently developed.

Q: Recommending position/title of the voting delegate and alternative voting delegate - Should it be Ambassador or vice Ambassador? counselor or first/second secretary?

A: In relation to who should be a voting delegate / alternate and which level they should have, this is completely at the discretion of the Member country. It is important that the individual is identified as a member of the national delegation and the identity of the voting delegate is communicated to the Codex Secretariat to facilitate admission to the voting booths.

**Q. The exact date, time and place of the voting
- Voting delegate will be defined depending on the availability of the voting date and time**

A: As arrangements for voting are still ongoing, we are unable to confirm the exact time and place of the voting. But the current expectation is that elections for Chairperson will take place, if required (i.e. more nominations for the position than seats available), on Tuesday 9 November, elections for vice-chairpersons Thursday 11 November, and elections for Members, if required, on Saturday 13 November.

Q Can you please inform me whether the Secretariat has circulated a list of candidates as yet?

A: The formal call for nominations of chairperson and vice-chairperson is only issued at the opening of CAC44 and the nominations for Chairperson can only be confirmed on day 2 of the CAC when voting would also take place. Once the election of the chairperson is completed, nominations will be formally opened for the position of vice-chairperson and confirmed on Day 4 with elections taking place thereafter.

Q. For the vote and the appointment, do we receive another official invitation in this context? If so, when will we receive it?

A. The official invitation to CAC44 was sent to all Codex Contact points on 9 September. [This is also attached for ease of reference.] As the elections will be part of the 44th Session of the Commission no further invitations will be sent. Members in registering their delegates to CAC44 have been asked to identify their voting delegate and alternate voting delegate, noting

that these individuals would need to be physically present in Geneva for the duration of the session. These individuals could, for example, be part of the Members Office of the Permanent Representation in Geneva or in the countries Embassy. There will be follow-up communications with all voting delegates (with copy to the codex contact point) on the more specific arrangements for the voting. Further information will also be made available on the CAC44 webpage as it becomes available.

Q. Is the invitation for one person as a representative of his country?

A. Invitations to all Codex Meetings are to the member country of Codex not an individual. A country's delegation to CAC44 can be made up of more than one person. Different people can participate in the virtual discussions of the CAC and in the voting. So, for example while a country might have a qualified individual from the relevant Ministry seated in the capital as Head of Delegation and following the virtual discussions of CAC44 and intervening as appropriate, the country may have another individual who is physically present in Geneva designated as the voting delegate. This individual should be registered as part of the official delegation, but their only role may be to vote in the elections.

Q. How will the secret ballot be conducted? when? certainly in the presence of examiners, but are there any requirements for the person who will be voting?

A. The secret ballot will be conducted in line with FAO rules for conducting elections. The details of this will be published shortly on the CAC44 webpage. While the voting arrangements are still being finalized, the current expectation is that elections (i.e. more nominations for the position than seats available), for Chairperson will take place on Tuesday 9 November, elections for vice-chairpersons Thursday 11 November, and elections for Members, if required, on Saturday 13 November.

In relation to who should be a voting delegate / alternate there are no special requirements except that they must be designated by their country to vote, they must be registered as part of the country's delegation to CAC44 and the Codex Secretariat informed as to the identity of the, voting delegate / alternate and they should follow the voting procedures regarding the secret ballot which will be provided in detail (e.g., Confirmation of identification to security, tellers; no recording devices in the voting area).

Q. Is there any information regarding travel procedures?

A. Geneva was selected as the venue for in-person voting as most Codex members have an Embassy or Permanent Representation to the UN in Geneva and the expectation is that individuals from one of these offices would be designated as the voting delegate and alternate

voting delegate. In such cases no travel would be required. We are aware that there are a small number of members who do not have such offices in Geneva. We will be following up with them individually to outline their options.

Q. Is possible to register multiple Alternate Voting Delegates for the election at CAC44.

A. Members may wish to register more than one alternate delegate to ensure they are fully able to exercise their right to vote.

Q. When will we receive information on the nominations for the upcoming elections?

A. The nomination process for the elections will aim to mirror as much as possible the nomination process that is used in a physical meeting. This means that the nominations for the positions of Chairperson and vice-chairpersons will only be formally available during the 44th session of the Commission

In following that approach the formal call for nominations for the position of chairperson will open on the first day of CAC44 and close at the beginning of the session on Day 2. Then on Day 2 the list of nominations will be announced, followed by voting, if required. When voting for the chairperson is completed and the result announced, the nominations for the position of vice-chairpersons will be opened on Day 3 and close at the beginning of the session on Day 4. Then on Day 4 the list of nominations will be announced, followed by voting. With regards to Members elected on a Geographical basis, the nominations for the members will open on Day 5 and close at the beginning of the session on Day 6. Then on Day 6 the list of nominations would be announced, followed by voting, if required. In any case where the list of nominations does not exceed the number of seats available, elections could proceed by acclamation and no voting will be required.

Q. Who are the nominees for the upcoming election?

A. There are currently no official nominations for the positions of chairperson and vice-chairpersons as the official nomination period will only open at the beginning of the 44th Session of the Codex Alimentarius Commission. We are aware that some countries have expressed informally their intention to nominate an individual for election of Chairperson or vice-chairpersons. Nominations will only become official when they are submitted to the Codex Secretariat during the official nomination period at CAC44.

Q. I know that 1 chairperson and 3 vice-chairperson will be elected by Members. So, one member will use 1 vote for chairperson and 3 votes for vice-chairpersons or 1 vote for chairperson and 1 vote for vice-chairpersons.

A. 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 that would invalidate the ballot paper. To put this into context as there is one vacancy for Chairperson the Member should vote for one of the candidates on the ballot paper. In the case of the vice-chairpersons, as there are three vacancies, this means the member should vote for three of the candidates in the first round. 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 Member would need to vote for two of the candidates in that round.

Is only on candidate as Chairperson and only 3 for Vice. It is true? Do we have to vote anyway?

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.