



COUNCIL

Hundred and Thirty-eighth Session

Rome, 25 November 2009

DATES FOR NOMINATIONS FOR THE OFFICE OF DIRECTOR-GENERAL

1. New Rule XXXVI, paragraph 1(b) of the General Rules of the Organization (GRO) provides that, in consideration of the expiry of the term of office of the Director-General, the Council shall set dates for a period during which Member Nations may submit nominations for the office of Director-General. The nomination period shall have a duration of not less than twelve months and end at least 60 days prior to the beginning of the session of the Council, which itself will take place not less than sixty days before the session of the Conference at which the election will take place. The Secretary-General of the Conference and Council is required to circulate these nominations to all Members by the date likewise set by the Council. The Appendix to this document reproduces paragraph 1 of new Rule XXXVI of the GRO.
2. The Council may wish to note that the provisional calendar of sessions of the Governing Bodies of FAO approved by the Council at its Hundred and Thirty-seventh Session, held in September and October 2009, foresees that the Hundred and forty-first Session of the Council will be held from 11 to 15 April 2011, and that the Thirty-seventh Session of the Conference will be held from 25 June to 2 July 2011.
3. The Council may wish to set the dates for the nomination period from 1 February 2010 to 31 January 2011, as the period during which nominations may be made for the post of Director-General, to be elected at the Thirty-seventh session of the Conference to be held from 25 June to 2 July 2011. The Secretary-General of the Conference and Council shall communicate to all Members this nomination period, immediately after the current session of the Council.
4. In addition, the Secretary-General of the Conference and Council would circulate, by 10 February 2011, to the Member Nations the nominations received.
5. The communications referred to in this document shall be made by circular letter and through the Permanent Representatives website.

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6. Under the new pattern of sessions of the Conference, the Director-General will be elected for a term of four years at a Conference session held in June/July of a Conference year and take office on 1 August of that year. There will be a need for transitional measures applicable to the Director-General to be appointed at the Thirty-seventh Session of the Conference to be held from 25 June to 2 July 2011, insofar as the current incumbent was elected for a term of office from 1 January 2006 until 31 December 2011. The Director-General elected at the Thirty-seventh Session of the Conference, to be held from 25 June to 2 July 2011, shall serve from 1 January 2012 until 31 July 2015.

Appendix

Paragraph 1 of new Rule XXXVI(GRO)

1. In pursuance of paragraph 1 of Article VII of the Constitution, the Director-General of the Organization shall be appointed under the following conditions:
 - (a) When the term of office of the Director-General is due to expire, the appointment of a new Director-General shall be placed on the agenda of the regular session of the Conference immediately preceding the expiry of the term of office; whenever, for other reasons, the office of the Director-General is vacant, or notice is received of a pending vacancy, the appointment of a new Director-General shall be placed on the agenda of the next session of the Conference which opens not less than 120 days from the occurrence or notice of the pending vacancy.
 - (b) In consideration of the expiry of the term of office of the Director-General, the Council shall set the dates for a period during which Member Nations may submit nominations for the office of Director-General. The nomination period shall have a duration of not less than twelve months and end at least 60 days prior to the beginning of the session of the Council referred to in sub-paragraph (c) of this paragraph. The nomination period shall be communicated to all Member Nations and Associate Members by the Secretary-General of the Conference and Council. Nominations validly made in accordance with Rule XII.5 of these Rules shall be communicated to the Secretary-General of the Conference and Council by the date set by the Council. The Secretary-General shall circulate these nominations to all Member Nations and Associate Members by the date likewise set by the Council, it being understood that in the case of an election taking place at a regular session of the Conference, such date set by the Council shall be not later than 30 days before the session of the Council provided for in subparagraph (c) of this paragraph.
 - (c) Subject to such arrangements as the Council may make consistent with these Rules aimed at ensuring equality among candidates, candidates shall address the session of the Council which will be scheduled not less than sixty days before the session of the Conference and respond to such questions as may be put to them by Member Nations and Associate Members of the Organization. There shall be no debate and the Council shall not draw any conclusion or recommendation from any of the statements or interventions made.
 - (d) As soon as possible after the opening of the Conference session, the General Committee shall determine and announce the date of the election, it being understood that the appointment of the Director-General at a regular session shall begin and be effected within three working days following the opening date of such session. Candidates shall address the Conference and respond to questions that Member Nations and Associate Members may put to them, subject to such arrangements as the Conference may make consistent with these Rules aimed at ensuring equality among candidates.
 - (e) Travel expenses of each candidate, properly incurred in travelling, by the most direct route from his/her duty station to the site of the Council and Conference sessions referred to in sub-paragraphs (c) and (d) of this paragraph and return to his/her duty station, as well as a subsistence allowance for up to five days per session, shall be borne by the Organization in accordance with its travel regulations.