

# 1. THE EXECUTIVE BOARD AND ITS FUNCTIONS

On 1 January 1996, following the adoption of parallel resolutions by the United Nations General Assembly and the Conference of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), WFP's governing body, – then called the Committee on Food Aid Policies and Programmes (CFA) – was reconstituted into its current form, the WFP Executive Board (United Nations General Assembly resolution 50/8; FAO Conference resolution 9/95). Comprising **36 States Members** of the United Nations or FAO, the Board oversees WFP's humanitarian and development food assistance activities.

The functions of the Board are defined in Article VI of the General Regulations as:

- evolving and coordinating short-term and longer-term food aid policies;
- providing intergovernmental supervision and direction of WFP management;
- reviewing, modifying as necessary and approving programmes, projects and activities submitted to it by the Executive Director (delegating to the Executive Director such authority in those approvals as it may specify); and
- reviewing the administration and implementation of approved programmes, projects and activities of WFP.

The Board reports annually on WFP's programmes, projects and activities including major decisions of the Board to the substantive session of the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations (ECOSOC) and the FAO Council.

Details on the powers and functions of the Board and its current Rules of Procedure can be found in the *WFP General Regulations and General Rules* (blue booklet), 2014 Edition.



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## 2. COMPOSITION OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD AND ELECTION OF ITS MEMBERS

The Executive Board has 36 members elected among the States Members of the United Nations or FAO. In accordance with General Assembly resolution 53/223 of 7 April 1999 and FAO Conference resolution 6/99 of 13 November 1999, ECOSOC and the FAO Council each elect 18 members of the WFP Executive Board, as follows:

Regional Electoral Lists	Members elected by		Total
	ECOSOC	FAO Council	
<b>Economically developing countries</b>			
<b>List A Africa</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>List B Asia and the Middle East</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>List C Latin America and the Caribbean</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Rotating seat (*) among the States of Lists A, B and C</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Economically developed countries</b>			
<b>List D D1: North America D2: Western Europe D3: Japan D4: Australia D5: New Zealand</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>List E Eastern Europe</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>36</b>

(\*) One additional member rotating among the States included in lists A, B, and C to be elected by the Council of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations; the pattern of rotation shall be as follows:

- A State from list A to be elected to occupy the additional seat every other term, starting from 1 January 2012;
- A State from list B to be elected to occupy the additional seat every fourth term, starting from 1 January 2015;
- A State from list C to be elected to occupy the additional seat every fourth term, starting from 1 January 2021.

The rotating seat will henceforth rotate on a permanent basis among the States included in lists A, B and C as described in the paragraph above, without the need for a further review, unless such review is requested by a majority of the Board members and, in any event, not before the completion of one full rotation scheme of four terms.

Each Member State serves for a three-year term and is eligible for re-election. Each year one third of the Executive Board membership is renewed.



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### 3. THE EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBER STATES IN 2014 AND THEIR TERM OF TENURE<sup>(1)</sup>

Member States elected by ECOSOC (★) or the FAO Council (■)



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Country	Executive Board term expiring at the end of		
	2014	2015	2016
<b>List A</b>			
Burundi			★
Equatorial Guinea			■
Ethiopia			★
Ghana <sup>(2)</sup>	■		
South Africa		★	
Tunisia	■		
Uganda		■	
Zambia	★		
<b>List B</b>			
Afghanistan		■	
China	★		
India		★	
Iraq		★	
Pakistan			★
Philippines		■	
Saudi Arabia			■
<b>List C</b>			
Brazil	■		
Colombia			■
Cuba			★
Guatemala	★		
Mexico		■	
<b>List D</b>			
Australia <sup>(3)</sup>	■		
Canada			■
Germany			■
Italy		■	
Japan	★		
Luxembourg <sup>(3)</sup>	■		
Netherlands		★	
Norway			★
Spain			★
Switzerland		★	
United Kingdom	★		
United States of America		■	
<b>List E</b>			
Czech Republic	★		
Russian Federation		★	
Slovakia	■		

ECOSOC elections for the three-year term 2014/2015/2016 took place on 25 April (Burundi, Cuba, Ethiopia, Norway and Pakistan) and 7 November 2013 (Spain). The FAO Council elections for the same three-year term took place on 3 December 2013.

- (1) Term of office relates to the standard three-year periods for which State Members are elected by ECOSOC or FAO Council respectively. State Members may stand down for one or two years within this period, offering their seat to another State Member.
- (2) Ghana is occupying the rotating seat. The rotating seat is to be occupied by a country of: List A- First term- 2012/2013/2014, List B- Second Term- 2015/2016/2017, List A- Third Term- 2018/2019/2020, and List C- Fourth Term- 2021/2022/2023.
- (3) Belgium and Sweden announced their decision to step down through a letter from the List D Convenor on 25 November 2013 and that these two seats would be taken up by Australia and Luxembourg for 2014.

# 4. EXECUTIVE BOARD SESSIONS AND THE PROGRAMME OF WORK

The WFP Executive Board holds its Annual Session in May or June each year, for up to five consecutive working days.

Between the Annual Sessions, the Board holds two Regular Sessions, one in February and the other in October or November, each for two to five working days. The duration of each session is determined by the agenda.

The dates of WFP Board sessions are planned in collaboration with FAO and the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), in order to avoid overlap.

The Board sessions for 2014 and 2015 are scheduled as follows:

## 2014

- First Regular Session: 10–11 February
- Annual Session: 3–6 June
- Second Regular Session: 10–14 November

## 2015

- First Regular Session: 9–13 February
- Annual Session: 25–29 May
- Second Regular Session: 9–13 November

The Board may also hold special sessions in exceptional circumstances:

- at the written request of at least one third of the Members of the Board; or
- on the call of the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the Director-General of FAO with the concurrence of one third of the Members of the Board; or
- on the call of the WFP Executive Director.

The Board plans its work on a biennial basis. The Biennial Programme of Work of the Board, prepared by the Secretariat and the Executive Board Bureau, is reviewed and approved annually at the Second Regular Session. The Biennial Programme of Work is normally based on three types of input:

- documents stipulated in the WFP General Regulations and Rules;
- documents requested by the Board, in line with the Decisions and Recommendations of previous Board sessions; and
- documents proposed by the Secretariat such as reports on WFP initiatives or documents proposed by ECOSOC or the FAO Council.



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## 5. THE EXECUTIVE BOARD BUREAU: FUNCTIONS AND COMPOSITION

At its First Regular Session each year, the Board elects from among the representatives of its members a President, a Vice-President and three other members (collectively designated as the Bureau), along with an alternate from each List.

A member of the Bureau is chosen from each of Lists A, B, C, D and E.

The alternate will replace the Bureau member if he/she is temporarily or permanently unavailable. The designated alternate shall have the same rights and responsibilities as the Bureau member he/she is replacing. Alternates may also attend Bureau meetings as non-participating observers at other times.

As good governance practice and as part of succession planning for the Presidency of the Board, future Presidents usually serve as Vice-President in the year before they take office.

The primary functions of the Bureau are to facilitate the functioning of the Board, in particular:

- strategic planning of the work of the Board;
- preparation and organization of Board meetings; and
- promotion of dialogue.

The Bureau meets regularly to review work in progress and to prepare for Board sessions.

# 6. BOARD MEMBERS' VISITS TO FIELD ACTIVITIES

In order to enable Board Members to acquire a sound understanding of WFP's activities, two Executive Board field visits are organized each year.

The purpose of these field visits is to allow Members to:

- observe WFP field operations;
- observe WFP as a partner of recipient governments;
- observe WFP as a partner of United Nations country teams;
- obtain insight into the implementation of WFP policies and strategies in the field; and
- study all facets of programming and programme delivery in the countries visited.

Each year the Executive Boards of WFP, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) carry out a joint field visit to understand how United Nations agencies can work synergistically at the country level and how they contribute to achieving the Millennium Development Goals.

In 2014, the following Executive Board field trips will take place:

### In April:

- Panama Regional Hub and El Salvador (Joint Field Visit of the Executive Boards of UNDP/UNFPA/UNOPS, UNICEF, UN-Women and WFP).

### In March (tbc):

- Brindisi, Italy (WFP Executive Board visit to the United Nations Humanitarian Response Depot).
- WFP Executive Board field visit - destination to be determined.

The Lists nominate one representative each to participate in the Joint Field Visit. They may nominate more than one participant to the WFP field visits, provided the cost for the second participant is covered by the respective List member. List D covers the costs of all its participants in WFP field visits.



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## 7. OBSERVERS TO THE EXECUTIVE BOARD

Any Member of the United Nations or any Member or Associate Member of FAO or of any other specialized agency or of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) that is not a member of the WFP Board may participate on request in the deliberations of the WFP Board without the right to vote.

The United Nations and FAO are invited to participate in the deliberations of the Board, without the right to vote.

Specialized agencies of the United Nations, IAEA, international organizations, inter-governmental organizations (IGOs) and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) cooperating with WFP may be invited by the WFP Executive Director, subject to the direction of the Board, to attend Board sessions without the right to vote.

## 8. LANGUAGES OF THE WFP EXECUTIVE BOARD

The four official languages of the WFP Executive Board are Arabic, English, French and Spanish.

Special arrangements may be made in respect of other official languages of the United Nations or FAO for particular sessions of the Board, taking into account the membership of the Board.

Interpretation at Board sessions is provided in Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish.

# 9. THE WFP SECRETARIAT AND ITS FUNCTIONS

The WFP Secretariat is headed by the Executive Director, who is responsible and accountable to the Board for the administration of WFP and for the implementation of its programmes, projects and other activities. The Executive Director is responsible for the staffing and organization of the Secretariat.

The Executive Director is appointed for a five-year term of office by the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the Director-General of FAO, after consultation with the Executive Board. The procedure for appointing the Executive Director also applies to reappointment, which may not be for more than one further term.

The Executive Director is responsible for providing services to the Board, assisted by the Executive Board Secretariat.

## THE EXECUTIVE BOARD SECRETARIAT

The Secretary to the Executive Board is the interface between the membership (Board members and observers) and the WFP Secretariat. The Secretary to the Executive Board leads a team of staff who handle conference services and documentation. The Secretariat of the Executive Board, which is part of the Partnership and Governance Services Department:

- facilitates the interaction between the Executive Board and the WFP Secretariat;
- provides the necessary services to the Board and its Bureau;
- manages the relationship between the Executive Board and other governing bodies;
- collaborates with other Rome-based organizations in fields related to conference servicing and documentation; and
- facilitates exchange of information with Permanent Representations in Rome.



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