

INTRODUCTION TO WFP GOVERNANCE

**Philip Ward, Secretary to the Executive Board, and
Director, Executive Board Secretariat**

**Executive Board Induction
September 2023**



**World Food
Programme**

HOW GOVERNANCE AT WFP WORKS

WFP Governance

Executive Board (36 Members)

- Intergovernmental oversight
- Provides policy direction
- Approves programme, projects and WFP activities

WFP Secretariat (WFP Management)

- Administers WFP
- Implements programmes, projects and activities
- Provides accountability

HOW THE EXECUTIVE BOARD IS CONSTITUTED



**States Members
of the UN General
Assembly**

ECOSOC

Elects 18
Member States

**Member Nations
of the FAO
Conference**

FAO Council

Elects 18
Member States



**World Food
Programme**

**WFP Executive
Board
(36 Members)**

HOW THE EXECUTIVE BOARD IS CONSTITUTED

Electoral make-up of the Executive Board Membership

List A Africa 8 members

List B Asia & Middle East 7 members

List C Latin America & the Caribbean 5 members

List D North America, Western Europe,
Japan, Australia and
New Zealand 12 members

List E Central and Eastern Europe 3 members

+1 rotational seat from
Lists A, B and C
(elected via FAO Council)

EXECUTIVE BOARD SESSIONS

Three formal sessions annually:

- First regular session (February)
 - Annual session (June)
 - Second regular session (November)
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Official Board Languages*:

English | Français | Español | العربية

**For informal sessions only.*

*For formal sessions, interpretation is also in **Chinese** and **Russian** and documents going to the FAO Finance Committee are also translated into Chinese and Russian*

Documents tabled can be:

- For Approval
- For Consideration
- For Information

**Decisions are made by
consensus**

THE EXECUTIVE BOARD BUREAU



Role of the Executive Board Bureau:

- Plans the work of the Board (including Board sessions)
- Shares information and promotes dialogue between List members and the Secretariat
- Facilitates consensus among and between Lists outside of formal sessions

Current composition:

President: List E | H.E. Mr. Artur Pollok | Poland

Vice-President: List A | H.E. Mr. Youssef Balla | Morocco

Member: List B | H.E. Md. Shameem Ahsan | Bangladesh

Member: List C | H.E. Mr. Carlos Bernardo Cherniak | Argentina

Member: List D | H.E. Ms. Céline JURGENSEN | France

Note: Bureau members are elected on ad personam basis at First Regular Session for one year, with succession planning expected for Vice-President/President.

THE WFP INDEPENDENT OVERSIGHT ADVISORY COMMITTEE (IOAC)

- Serves in an expert advisory capacity to assist the Executive Board and the Executive Director in exercising their governance responsibilities for **financial reporting, internal control arrangements, risk management processes, evaluation** and **other audit related matters**
- Members are **selected and appointed by the Executive Board** for three-year terms, renewable once
- **Wholly independent** and provides an annual report to the Executive Board

Committee members

Mr. Robert Samels (Canada) - *Chairperson*

Ms. Margaret Dezse (Hungary)

Ms. Bettina Tucci Bartsiotas (Uruguay)

Mr. Darshak Shah (Kenya)

Mr. Veerathai Santiprabhob (Thailand)

BOARD ACTIVITIES



Joint United Nations Activities:

- Annual Joint Meeting of the Executive Boards (JMB) of UNDP/UNFPA/UNOPS, UNICEF, UN-Women and WFP in New York (May/June)
- Annual Joint Field Visit of the Executive Boards (JFV) of UNDP/UNFPA/UNOPS, UNICEF, UN-Women and WFP (April/May)
- Annual Joint Meeting of the FAO Council, IFAD Executive Board and WFP Executive Board (September/October)

Board Field Visit:

- **Annual field visit** to view WFP operations (September/October/November)
- First-hand exposure to operations brings context to Board dialogue
- Opportunity to meet with people WFP serves

United Nations Humanitarian Response Depot (UNHRD) visit

- Annual visit to UNHRD in Brindisi
- First-hand understanding of emergency preparedness work
- Tour of facility — first established hub in the WFP UNHRD network and visit to the United Nations Global Service Centre

GOVERNANCE REVIEW

- **Objective:** A Board-led process to identify opportunities for practical ways to improve governance efficiency and enable the Executive Board to remain best in class in response to evolving global challenges.
- In May 2022, the Bureau initiated discussions about the value of undertaking a governance review.
- A four-month review was conducted from late January to May 2023 by an independent consultant appointed by a Bureau-established ad-hoc Governance Review Steering Committee made up of members of each electoral lists.
- Report produced with recommendations on four areas: roles and responsibilities of the Executive Board, roles and responsibilities of the Bureau, processes of informal Board meetings and good practices from other UN agencies.
- Next steps:
 - Informal consultations to discuss recommendations (September – October 2023)
 - Establishment of a Working Group on Governance (Second regular session, November 2023)
 - Working Group to work on recommendations to be proposed for approval by the Executive Board

THE EXECUTIVE BOARD SECRETARIAT

- **Interface between the membership** (Board members and observers) **and the WFP Secretariat**
- Headed by the Secretary to the Executive Board

- Facilitates the interaction between the Executive Board and the WFP secretariat
- Organizes Board sessions, Bureau meetings and consultations on relevant topics
- Provides the necessary services to the Board and its Bureau (translation, interpretation, documentation, conference services, etc.)
- Manages the relationship between the Executive Board and other governing bodies; provides secretariat support to the Independent Oversight Advisory Committee
- Facilitates the organization of field visits by Board members
- Facilitates the exchange of information with Permanent Representations in Rome
- Assists Board delegates with any information as requested