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**Executive Board
First Regular Session**

Rome, 13 - 16 February 2001

FINANCIAL AND BUDGETARY MATTERS

Agenda item 5

For approval

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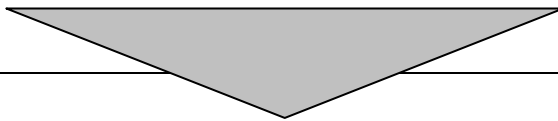
25 January 2001

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EVALUATION PANEL FOR THE SELECTION AND APPOINTMENT OF THE WFP EXTERNAL AUDITOR

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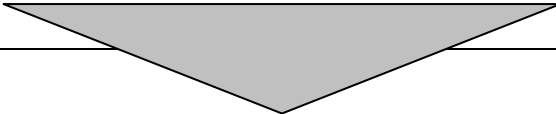
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Executive Summary



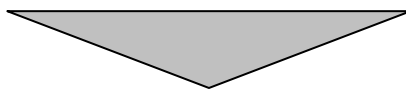
A break in continuity of the competitive selection process from eligible external auditors for the appointment of the External Auditor of WFP for 2002-2005 is expected when a new Bureau, and thereby a new evaluation panel, is elected in 2001.

This paper presents to the Board, for its consideration and approval, the recommendations to designate formally the Bureau of 2000, with its current composition, as the Evaluation Panel for the evaluation and short-listing of proposals from eligible external auditors for the appointment of the External Auditor of WFP, and to define its membership, chair, quorum, mandate and reporting to the Board.

The Board would need to modify its decision 1997/EB.3/97, which stipulated that the Bureau elected each year would oversee the selection and evaluation process, and did not stipulate the designation of another, subsidiary body.



Draft Decision



The Board approves the decisions:

a) To formally designate an Evaluation Panel for the evaluation and short-listing of proposals for the appointment of the External Auditor of WFP for 2002-2005, in modification of its decision 1997/EB.3/7.

b) That the Evaluation Panel members shall be the following members of the Bureau of the Board elected in 2000:

Mr Ruffin Gabriel Ambero List A

H.E. Mohamed Saeed Nouri-Naeeni List B

Ms Suzy Percy List C

Ms Ulla-Maija Finskas-Aho List D

Ms Mariann Kóvacs List E

c) That the Chair of the Evaluation Panel shall be the President of the Bureau elected for the year 2000, H.E. Mohamed Saeed Nouri-Naeeni. In the case that the President of the Bureau elected for the year 2000 is unable to chair during 2001, the functions of the Chair of the Evaluation Panel shall devolve upon the Vice-President of the Bureau elected for the year 2000, Ms Ulla-Maija Finskas-Aho.

d) That the Evaluation Panel members shall serve in their individual capacity. If any member of the Evaluation Panel is unable to carry out his or her functions during 2001, the Chair, in consultation with the representatives, shall choose a new member from one of the lists of States as defined in Appendix A to the General Regulations of WFP, giving due consideration to equitable geographical representation.

e) That a majority of the members of the Evaluation Panel shall constitute a quorum.

f) That the mandate of the Evaluation Panel shall be to oversee the process for the selection and appointment of the External Auditor of WFP for 2002–2005, in adherence to Board decisions 1997/EB.3/7, 1998/EB.1/2 and 2000/EB.A/7.

g) That the Evaluation Panel present an interim report for information to the Board at its Annual Session of 2001, and conclude its work with a final report for approval by the Board at its Third Regular Session of 2001.



BACKGROUND

1. The Executive Board decided (decision 1997/EB.3/7) that the appointment of the External Auditor of WFP would be based on competitive selection from proposals of eligible external auditors. It further decided that the Bureau of the Board would establish procedures and criteria, and initiate and oversee the competitive selection process and evaluate all proposals received.
2. At its First Regular Session of 1998, the Board, in decision 1998/EB.1/2, approved the procedures and criteria for the selection and appointment of the External Auditor of WFP beyond 2001 and agreed that a rating system for the selection criteria would have to be developed.
3. At its Annual Session of 2000, the Board approved the time frame and rating system of proposals for the selection and appointment of the WFP External Auditor contained in document WFP/EB.A/2000/5-A (decision 2000/EB.A/7).
4. In accordance with the above decisions, the Bureau elected for the year 2000 has constituted itself as an Evaluation Panel and commenced its work. However, the Bureau is concerned that the continuity of the selection process will be broken when a new Bureau is elected in 2001.
5. This paper presents to the Board, for its consideration and approval, the recommendation to formally designate the Bureau of 2000, with its current composition, as the Evaluation Panel for the evaluation and short-listing of proposals. This Evaluation Panel would continue its work in 2001, and recommend to the Board a candidate for appointment as the External Auditor of WFP for the period 2002–2005. This would modify the Board's decision 1997/EB.3/7, which stipulated that the Bureau elected for each year would oversee the selection and evaluation process, and did not stipulate the designation of another, subsidiary body.

CONTINUITY OF THE SELECTION PROCESS

6. The Bureau invited proposals and responses from eligible state auditors of Member States of the United Nations and Member Nations of FAO. Following receipt of replies, the Bureau constituted itself as an Evaluation Panel, and commenced evaluating and short-listing valid proposals with the assistance of the WFP Secretariat. In accordance with the time frame approved by the Board, the evaluation will be completed by June 2001. In October 2001, the Bureau is expected to recommend a candidate to the Board for approval.
7. After starting its evaluation work, the Bureau noted that there would be a break in continuity in the process for selection of the External Auditor when a new Bureau, constituting a new Evaluation Panel, is elected in 2001. Furthermore, the new members of the Evaluation Panel would need to acquire familiarity and knowledge of the proposals and process, and repeat work and analysis already performed, thus rendering the evaluation procedures inefficient.



LEGAL OPINION

8. The WFP Secretariat, at the request of the Bureau, consulted with the Legal Counsel, the Legal Office of FAO. The Legal Counsel advised that:
- for the sake of continuity and efficiency, a panel consisting of the members of the Bureau in function during the year that the selection process is initiated, carry out the selection process;
 - this panel should continue in function with the same composition until the specific selection process is completed;
 - the Board, when taking the decision to designate this panel, would be acting under the terms of Rule XIII.1 of the Rules of Procedure which state that the Board may establish working groups or other subsidiary bodies as and when it deems necessary for the accomplishment of its functions. The Board shall define their membership and mandate and shall refer to them any questions for study and report. Rule XIII.2 further states that the activities of such working groups or other subsidiary bodies shall be governed, *mutatis mutandis*, by the Rules of Procedure; and
 - in line with Rule IV.1 of the Rules of Procedure, the members of the panel serve as individuals. Therefore, the Board could also consider making provision to address the situation where one or more members of the panel would be unable to exercise their functions and would need to be replaced.

DESIGNATION OF AN EVALUATION PANEL

9. Based on the advice of the Legal Counsel, the Bureau proposes that the Board, in designating an Evaluation Panel for the process of selection and appointment of the External Auditor of WFP for 2002–2005 (the "Evaluation Panel"), shall define: membership, chair, quorum, mandate and reporting.

RECOMMENDATION

10. The Bureau elected for the year 2000 recommends that the Board approve:
- a) In modification of its decision 1997/EB.3/7, to designate formally an Evaluation Panel for the evaluation and short-listing of proposals for the appointment of the External Auditor of WFP for 2002–2005.



- b) As Evaluation Panel members, the following members of the Bureau of the Board elected in 2000:

Mr Rufin Gabriel Ambero	List A
H.E. Mohamed Saeed Nouri-Naeeni	List B
Ms Suzy Percy	List C
Ms Ulla-Maija Finkas-Aho	List D
Ms Mariann Kóvacs	List E

- c) As the Chair of the Evaluation Panel, the President of the Bureau elected for the year 2000, H.E. Mohamed Saeed Nouri-Naeeni. In the case that the President of the Bureau elected for the year 2000 is unable to chair during 2001, the functions of the Chair of the Evaluation Panel shall devolve upon the Vice-President of the Bureau elected for the year 2000, Ms Ulla-Maija Finkas-Aho.
- d) That the Evaluation Panel members shall serve in their individual capacity. If any member of the Evaluation Panel is unable to carry out his or her functions during 2001, the Chair, in consultation with the representatives, shall choose a new member from one of the lists of States as defined in Appendix A to the General Regulations of WFP, giving due consideration to equitable geographical representation.
- e) That a majority of the members of the Evaluation Panel shall constitute a quorum.
- f) That the mandate of the Evaluation Panel shall be to oversee the process for the selection and appointment of the External Auditor of WFP for 2002–2005, in adherence to Board decisions 1997/EB.3/7, 1998/EB.1/2 and 2000/EB.A/7.
- g) That the Evaluation Panel shall present an interim report for information to the Board at its Annual Session of 2001, and conclude its work with a final report for approval by the Board at its Third Regular Session of 2001.

