

# INTRODUCTION TO WFP GOVERNANCE

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**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



**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 A | H.E. Mr. Youssef Balla | Morocco

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**Vice-President:** List D | H.E. Ms. Elissa Golberg | Canada

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**Member:** List B | Dr. Balaji Jujjavarapu | India

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**Member:** List C | Vacant (currently represented by Alternate: H.E. Mr. Mario Arvelo, Dominican Republic)

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**Member:** List E | Vacant (currently represented by Alternate: H.E. Mr. Zsolt Belánszky-Demkó, Hungary)

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

# 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
- Annual Joint Meeting of the FAO Council, IFAD Executive Board and WFP Executive Board

## 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

## Visit to the United Nations Humanitarian Response Depot (UNHRD)

- Annual visit to UNHRD in Brindisi – the first established hub in the WFP UNHRD network – to learn first-hand about its comprehensive supply chain services in enabling emergency preparedness and response

## Visit to the WFP Innovation Accelerator

- Visit to the WFP Innovation Accelerator in Munich, Germany to learn first-hand about the Accelerator's work in supporting and scaling innovative solutions to end hunger worldwide.

# 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.
- In 2023, a Bureau-established ad-hoc Governance Review Steering Committee appointed an independent consultant to conduct the governance review, which produced a final report with **14 recommendations** in 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.
- The Board established a **working group** at the 2023 second regular session to review the recommendations from the report and consider other governance initiatives as appropriate.
  - The working group submitted its **interim report** to the Board at the 2024 annual session in June, with a first set of recommendations that are now being taken forward by the Secretariat.
  - The working group is expected to submit a second **report** to the Board at the 2024 second regular session in November. A written virtual consultation process is currently underway ahead of the 11 October informal consultation, whereby the membership is invited to provide feedback on the proposals.



# GOVERNANCE REVIEW: UPCOMING CHANGES FROM 2025

## Key recommendations approved at EB.A/2024:

- Focus of Board sessions: Strategy and policy (EB.1), oversight and accountability (EB.A), policy matters, Management Plan and CSPs (EB.2)
- One-day “strategic dialogue” – early 2025
- Documents: For information and for decision
- Two in-person induction sessions per year focused on (i) governance and (ii) WFP activities + digital refresher module on governance
- Half-day introductory session for new Bureau members
- Dedicated handbook for Board and Bureau members
- Digital transformation

## Key recommendations under discussion ahead of Board decision at EB.2/2024:

- Split first regular session: Bureau election in January and regular business of first regular sessions in February
- More strategic and timely documents
- Streamlined policy formulation process: strategic engagement with the Board
- Direct interactions between the Board and the IOAC on oversight matters
- Informal meetings: Strategic nature, more defined objectives and outcomes, exploration of other modalities (e.g. workshops)
- Streamlined CSP consultation process

# 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

# THE WFP INDEPENDENT OVERSIGHT ADVISORY COMMITTEE (IOAC)



## Committee members

Mr. Robert Samels (Canada) - *Chairperson*

Ms. Margaret Dezse (Hungary)

Ms. Bettina Tucci Bartsiotas (Uruguay)

Mr. Darshak Shah (Kenya)

Mr. Veerathai Santiprabhob (Thailand)

- 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