



World Food
Programme

SAVING
LIVES
CHANGING
LIVES

WFP Governance - *A brief introduction*



What to expect...

- How governance is conducted
- How the WFP Executive Board is constituted
- Who are the other main actors and facilitators in the governance process

The Executive Board

Board Members oversee the organization's activities



The Executive Board - Impressions of a formal session



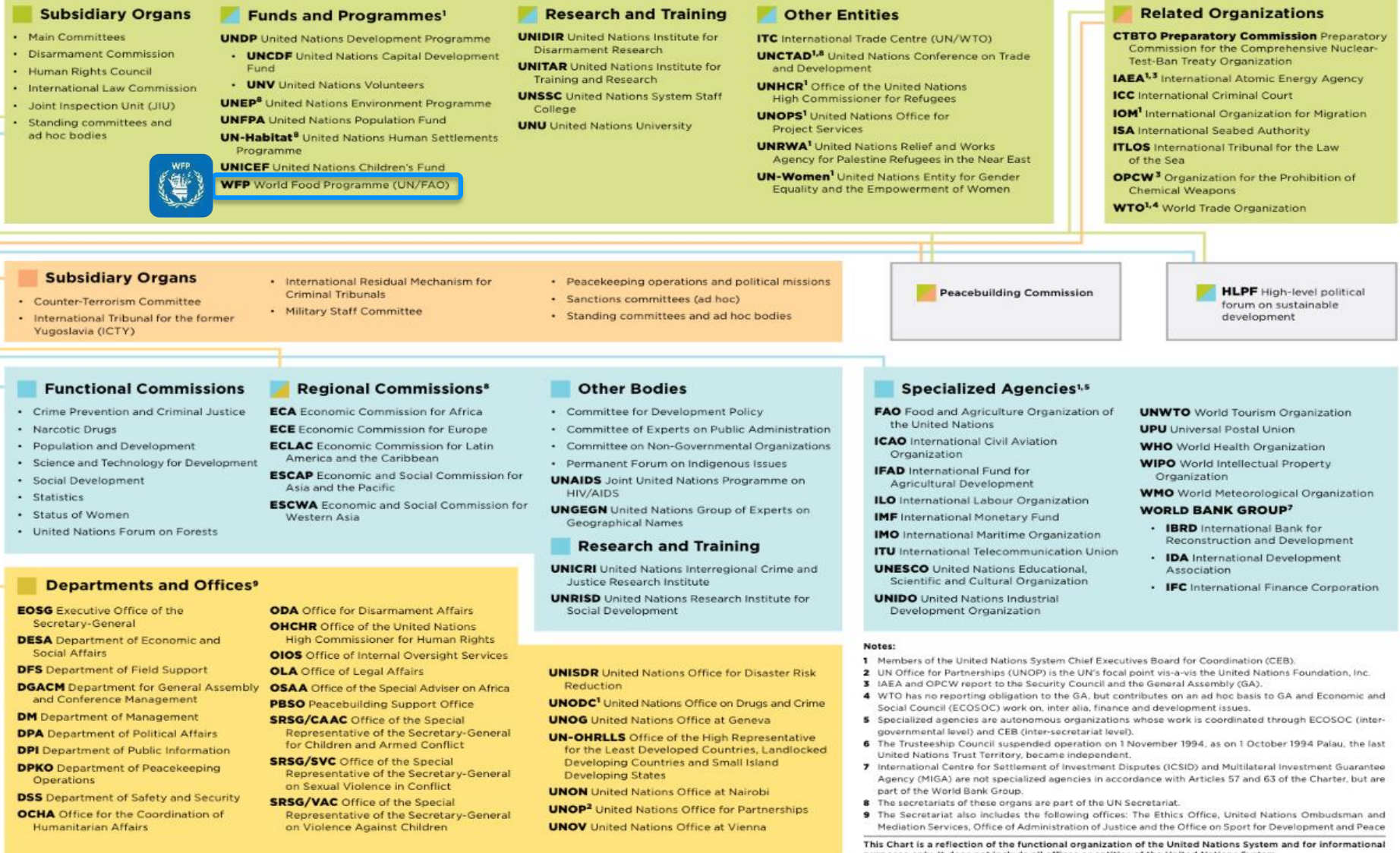
Where WFP fits in the United Nations System

The United Nations System



UN PRINCIPAL ORGANS

- GENERAL ASSEMBLY
- SECURITY COUNCIL
- ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL
- SECRETARIAT
- INTERNATIONAL COURT OF JUSTICE
- TRUSTEESHIP COUNCIL⁶



Notes:

- Members of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination (CEB).
- UN Office for Partnerships (UNOP) is the UN's focal point vis-a-vis the United Nations Foundation, Inc.
- IAEA and OPCW report to the Security Council and the General Assembly (GA).
- WTO has no reporting obligation to the GA, but contributes on an ad hoc basis to GA and Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) work on, inter alia, finance and development issues.
- Specialized agencies are autonomous organizations whose work is coordinated through ECOSOC (inter-governmental level) and CEB (inter-secretariat level).
- The Trusteeship Council suspended operation on 1 November 1994, as on 1 October 1994 Palau, the last United Nations Trust Territory, became independent.
- International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes (ICSID) and Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency (MIGA) are not specialized agencies in accordance with Articles 57 and 63 of the Charter, but are part of the World Bank Group.
- The secretariats of these organs are part of the UN Secretariat.
- The Secretariat also includes the following offices: The Ethics Office, United Nations Ombudsman and Mediation Services, Office of Administration of Justice and the Office on Sport for Development and Peace

This chart is a reflection of the functional organization of the United Nations System and for informational purposes only. It does not include all offices or entities of the United Nations System.

Seven Governance Facts

- 1961: Established jointly by UN General Assembly and FAO as a **3-year pilot**
- 1961-1975: governed by an **Intergovernmental Committee**
- 1976-1995: governed by 42-member **Committee on Food Aid Policies and Programmes (CFA)**
- 1993: **General Assembly Resolution 48/162** transforms CFA into **36-member Executive Board to govern WFP alone, effective 1 January 1996**
- 1994: **WFP Mission Statement** adopted (first for a UN agency)
- 22-23 January 1996: the **first** First Regular Session of the Executive Board convened
- 1999-2005: **WFP Governance Project** led by the Executive Board

WFP Governance Project (1999-2005)

Governance group formulated to improve three major Board functions:

- Information-sharing
- Consensus-building
- Decision-making

Objectives

- Strengthen governance
- Make the Board more strategic, efficient and effective

Outcomes

- Strategy framework
- Policy framework codification and regular review
- Oversight framework
- Accountability framework

Final Report

- November 2005: [Final Report on the Governance Project](#) approved by Executive Board at the second regular session of the Executive Board

Quick Rome-based Agency Comparison

FAO

197 members: 194 members + 2 associate members + 1 member organization (EU)

1 vote per member

2 governing bodies:

- Council (chaired by elected independent representative)
- Conference (highest body)

Various committees:

(comprised of Member States)

- Programme
- Finance
- CCLM
- [...]

IFAD

166 members represented by Governors (hybrid UN IFI)

Weighted voting (based on membership and contribution)

2 governing bodies:

- Executive Board (chaired by IFAD President as Chairperson)
- Governing Council (highest body)

2 main committees:

(comprised of Member States)

- Audit
- Evaluation

WFP

Out of 193 UN & 197 FAO members: 36 Executive Board Members + 1 Special and Permanent Observer (EU)

1 vote per member

Reports to 2 governing bodies:

- ECOSOC
- FAO Council

3 advisory committees:

- Audit (external experts)
- FAO Finance Committee (comprised of Member States)
- Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (ACABQ) (comprised of Member States)

How the Executive Board is Constituted

**States Members of the
UN General Assembly**

ECOSOC



Elects 18
Members



**WFP Executive Board
(36 Members)**

**Member Nations of the
FAO Conference**

FAO Council



Elects 18
Members



WFP Governance

Executive Board (36 Members)

- Intergovernmental oversight
- Specific policy direction
- Approves programme projects and WFP activities

WFP Secretariat (WFP Management)

- Administers WFP
- Implements projects and programmes
- Provides accountability

How the Executive Board is Constituted

Electoral make-up of the Executive Board Membership

List A	Africa	8 members	+1 rotational seat from Lists A, B and C (elected via FAO Council)
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	

Quick facts about Executive Board sessions

Three **formal sessions** annually:

First Regular Session February

Annual Session June

Second Regular Session November

Documents tabled can be:

- For Approval
- For Consideration
- For Information

Official Board Languages*:

English | Français | Español | العربية

**For informal sessions only.*

For formal sessions, interpretation is also in Chinese and Russian and documents such as the Management Plan and the Annual Performance Report are also translated into Chinese and Russian.

Decisions are made
by consensus

The Executive Board Bureau



Role of the Executive Board Bureau

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

2019 WFP Executive Board Bureau*

President: H.E. Hisham Mohamed Badr
Egypt | List A

Vice-President: H.E. Ulrich Seidenberger
Germany | List D

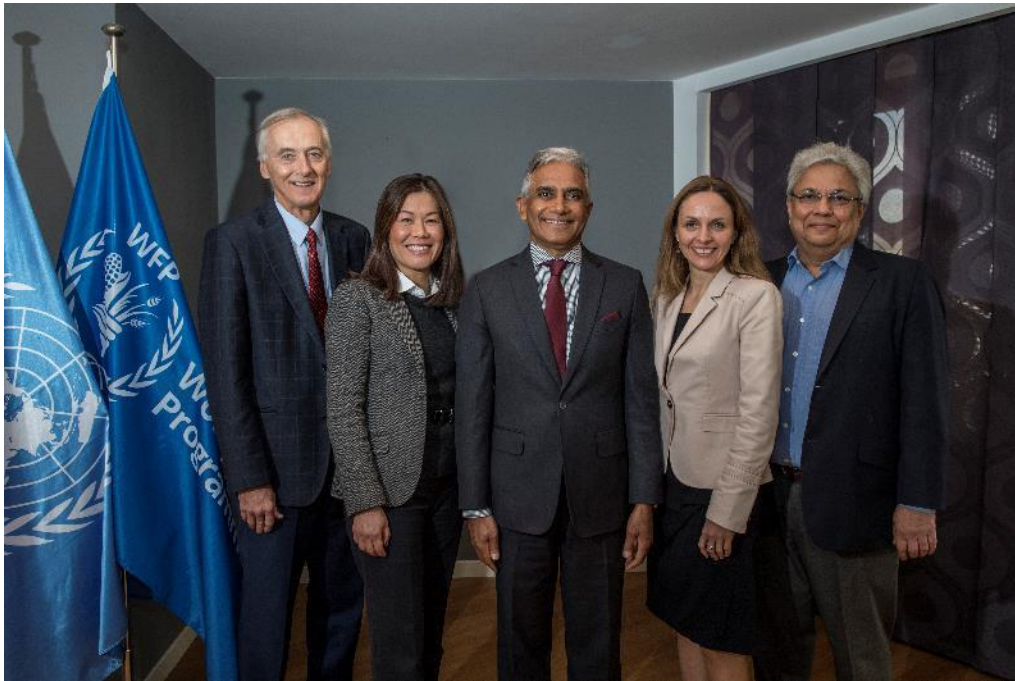
Member: Mr. Yousef Juhail
Kuwait | List B

Member: Vacant from 3 September - *previously: H.E. Karla Samayoa Recari, Ambassador and Permanent Representative Guatemala | List C*

Member: H.E. Victor Vasiliev
Russian Federation | List E

**Elected on ad personam basis at First Regular Session for one year, with succession planning expected for Vice-President/President.*

The WFP Audit Committee



Left to Right: Mr. R Samels (Canada), Ms. E. J. Cheung (ZHANG Qiling) (China), Mr. S. Kana (South Africa) Chairperson 2017-2019, Ms. A. Slomka-Golebiowska (Poland), Mr. O. Goswami (India)

WFP Audit Committee

Mr. Suresh Kana (South Africa)

Chairperson

Ms. Elaine June Cheung (ZHANG Qiling) (China)

Mr. Omkar Goswami (India)

Ms. Agnieszka Slomka-Golebiowska (Poland)

Mr. Robert Samels (Canada)

Quick Facts of the Audit Committee

- 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 and other audit related matters**
- Members are **selected and appointed by the Executive Board** for three-year terms, renewable once
- **Wholly independent and external** to the WFP Executive Board Secretariat and the Executive Board

The WFP External Auditor

Quick Facts about the External Auditor

- Performs **audits of WFP accounts and other tasks requested by the Executive Board**
- Full scope of work and Terms of Reference defined by **Chapter XIV** of [WFP Financial Regulations](#)
- **Selected and appointed by the Executive Board through a Bureau-led competitive process** for a non-renewable six-year term* (another appointment is possible after a break of one term)
 - Must be the **Auditor-General (or equivalent)** of a State member
 - The ***Cour des comptes of France*** was appointed in November 2015 for the period 1 July 2016 to 30 June 2022 ([Decisions and Recommendations of the Second Regular Session of the Executive Board, 2015](#))
 - Previous External Auditors:
 - **Comptroller and Auditor General of India** (1 July 2010 to 30 June 2016)
 - **National Audit Office of the United Kingdom** (1 July 2002 to 30 June 2006 and 1 July 2006 to 30 June 2010)
 - ***Cour des comptes of France*** (1 July 1994 to 30 June 1998 and 1 July 1998 to 30 June 2002)

* Before mid-2010, it was a four-year term.

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)**

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

- **Twice-annual** (pending calendar availability) to visit UNHRD in Brindisi
 - First-hand understanding of emergency preparedness work
 - Ad hoc tour of facility — first established hub in WFP UNHRD network
 - Co-located with UN Logistics Base/UN Global Service Centre for United Nations coherence

***October 2018:** first Board visit to the **Munich Innovation Accelerator** – will become annual occurrence

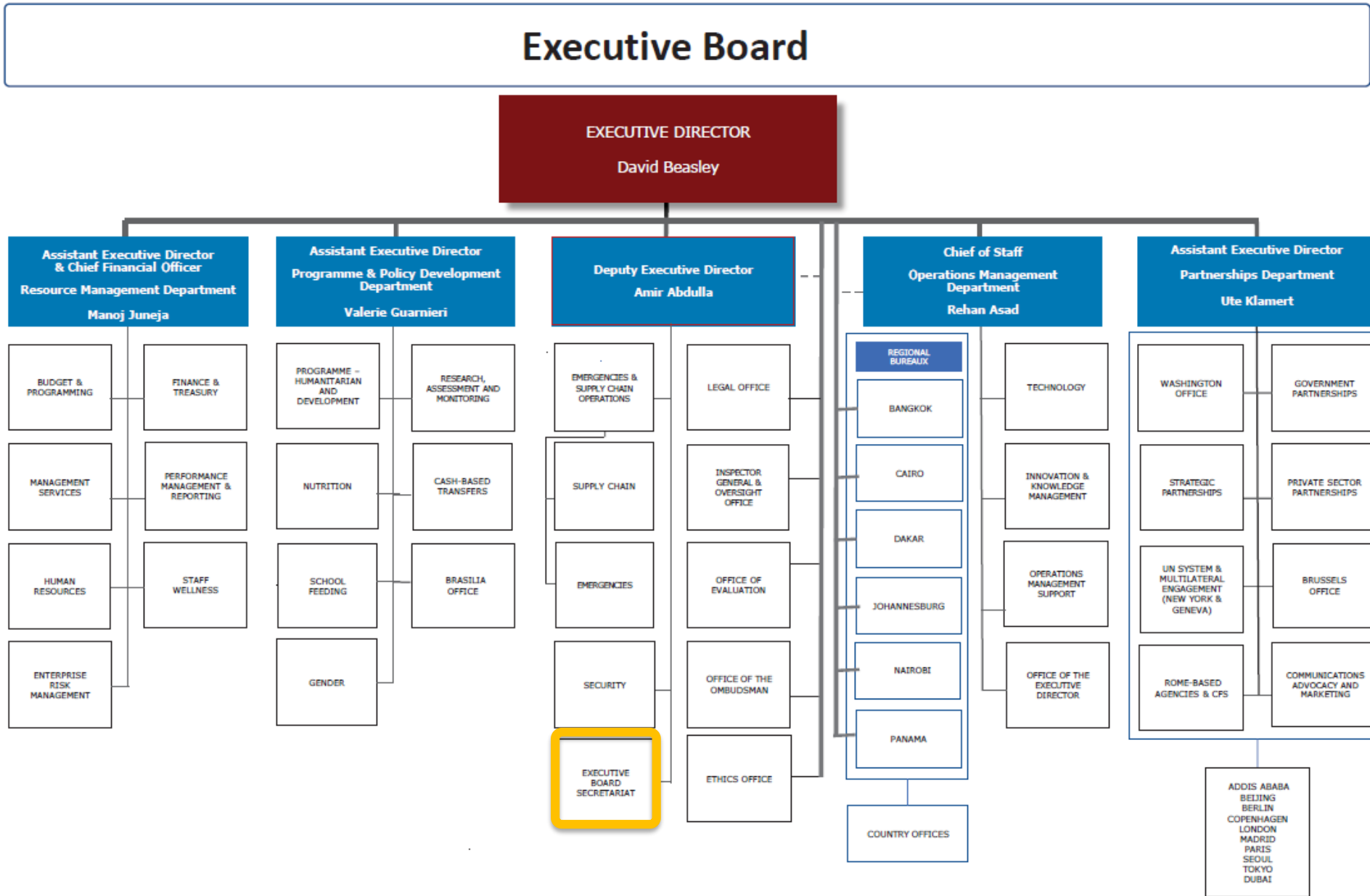
Executive Board Secretariat



What does the Executive Board Secretariat do?

- Interface/Facilitator between Board and WFP Management
- Services provider to Board and Bureau
- Liaison with Permanent Representations
- Secretariat support to WFP Audit Committee

Where the Executive Board Secretariat fits in WFP

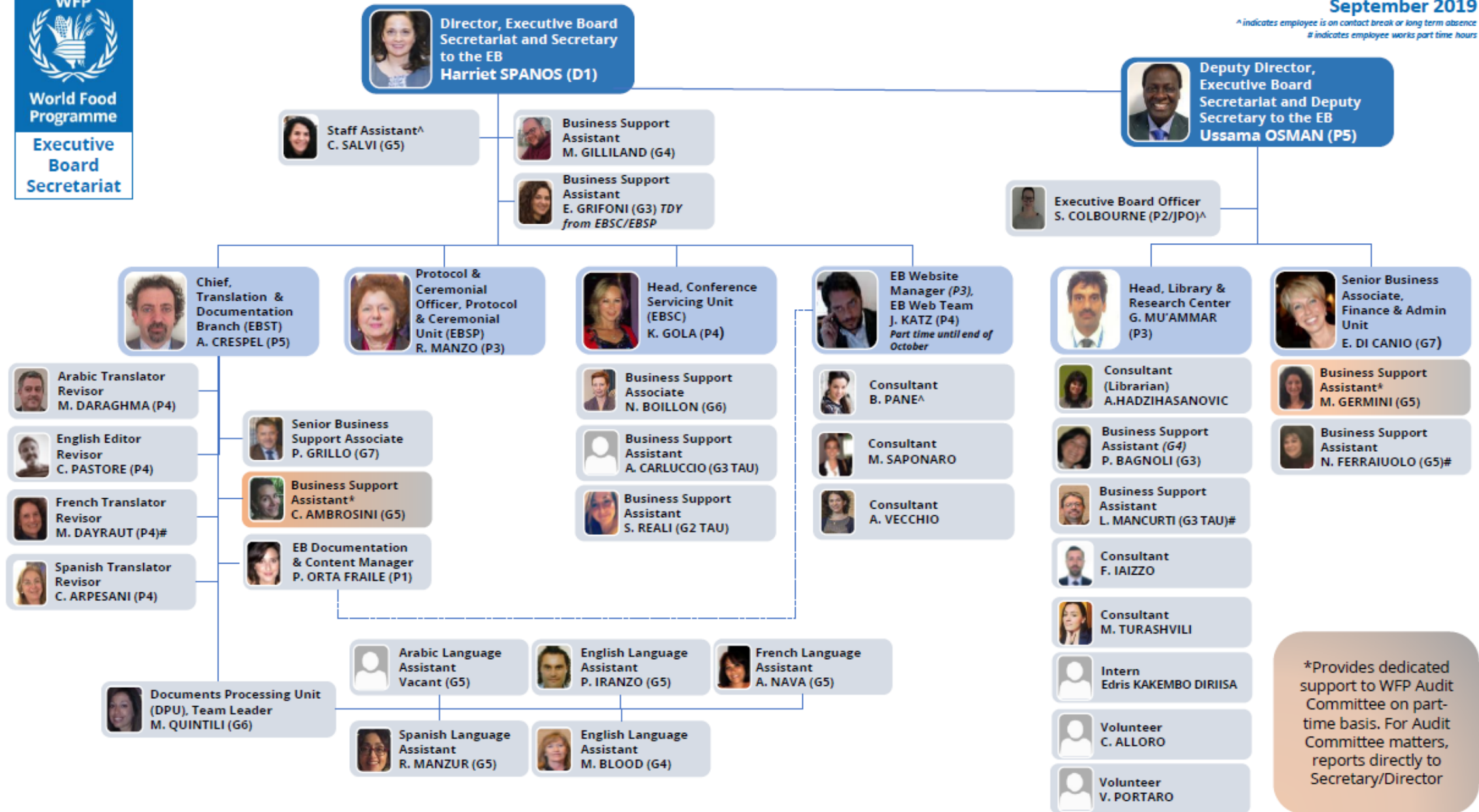


Executive Board Secretariat - Composition



September 2019

[^] indicates employee is on contact break or long term absence
indicates employee works part time hours



*Provides dedicated support to WFP Audit Committee on part-time basis. For Audit Committee matters, reports directly to Secretary/Director

WFP Library and Research Centre

The WFP Library & Research Centre helps WFP staff worldwide and external users, including the Executive Board Membership, to access information from WFP internal and external sources:

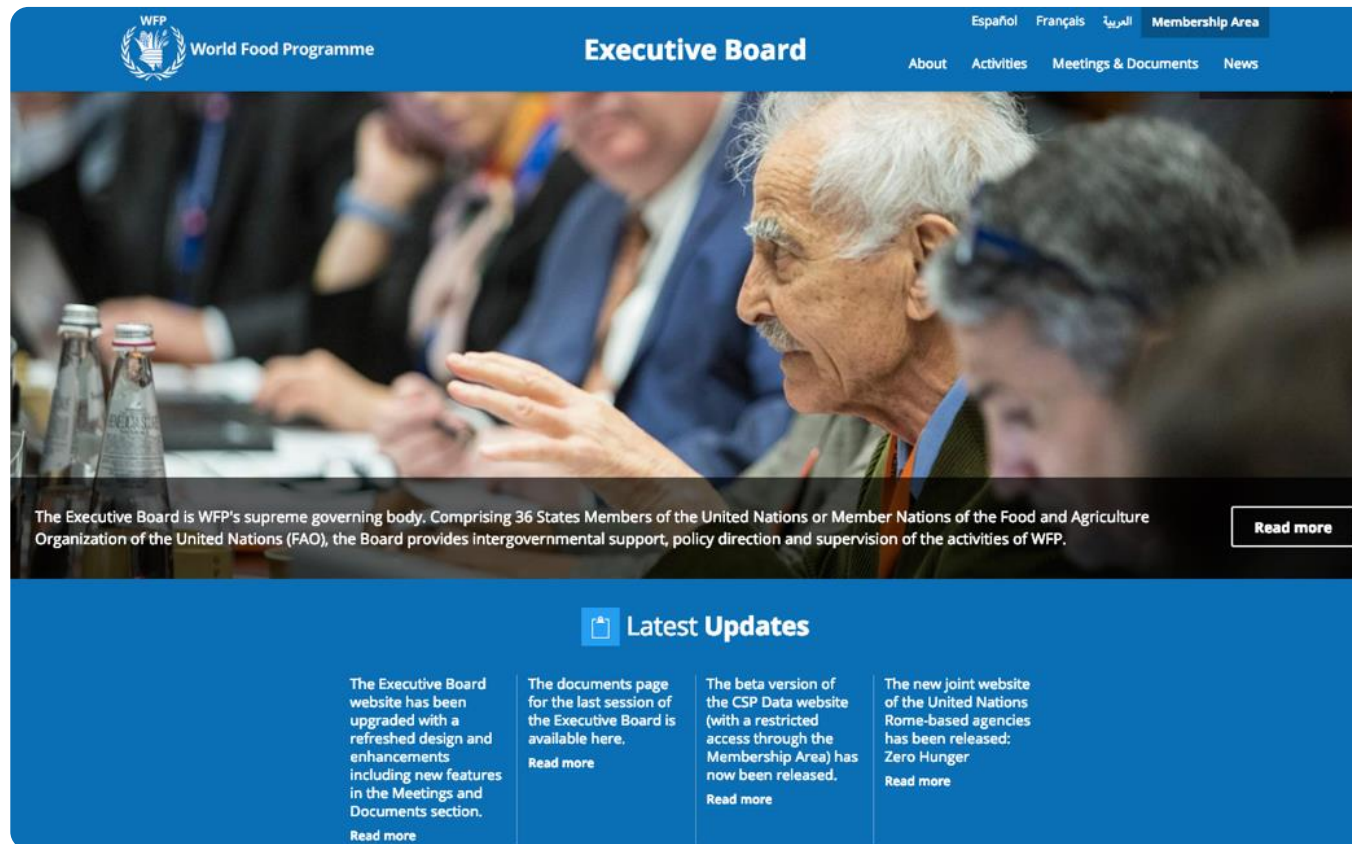
- [Desk Research](#)
- [Loans](#)
- [Electronic Services](#)
- [Acquisitions of Publications](#)
- [Briefings](#)
- [Collection:](#)
 - [Periodicals](#)
 - [Reference Material](#)
 - [Online News Services](#)
 - [Research Databases](#)
 - [Catalogue](#)



How you can connect with us

Executive Board Website: executiveboard.wfp.org

Contact us by E-mail: WFPSecretarytotheEB@wfp.org



The screenshot shows the desktop version of the Executive Board website. At the top, there is a blue header with the WFP logo and 'World Food Programme' on the left, and 'Executive Board' in the center. Navigation links include 'Español', 'Français', 'العربية', 'Membership Area', 'About', 'Activities', 'Meetings & Documents', and 'News'. Below the header is a large image of a meeting. A text box below the image reads: 'The Executive Board is WFP's supreme governing body. Comprising 36 States Members of the United Nations or Member Nations of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the Board provides intergovernmental support, policy direction and supervision of the activities of WFP.' A 'Read more' button is to the right. Below this is a 'Latest Updates' section with four news items, each with a 'Read more' link.

Executive Board

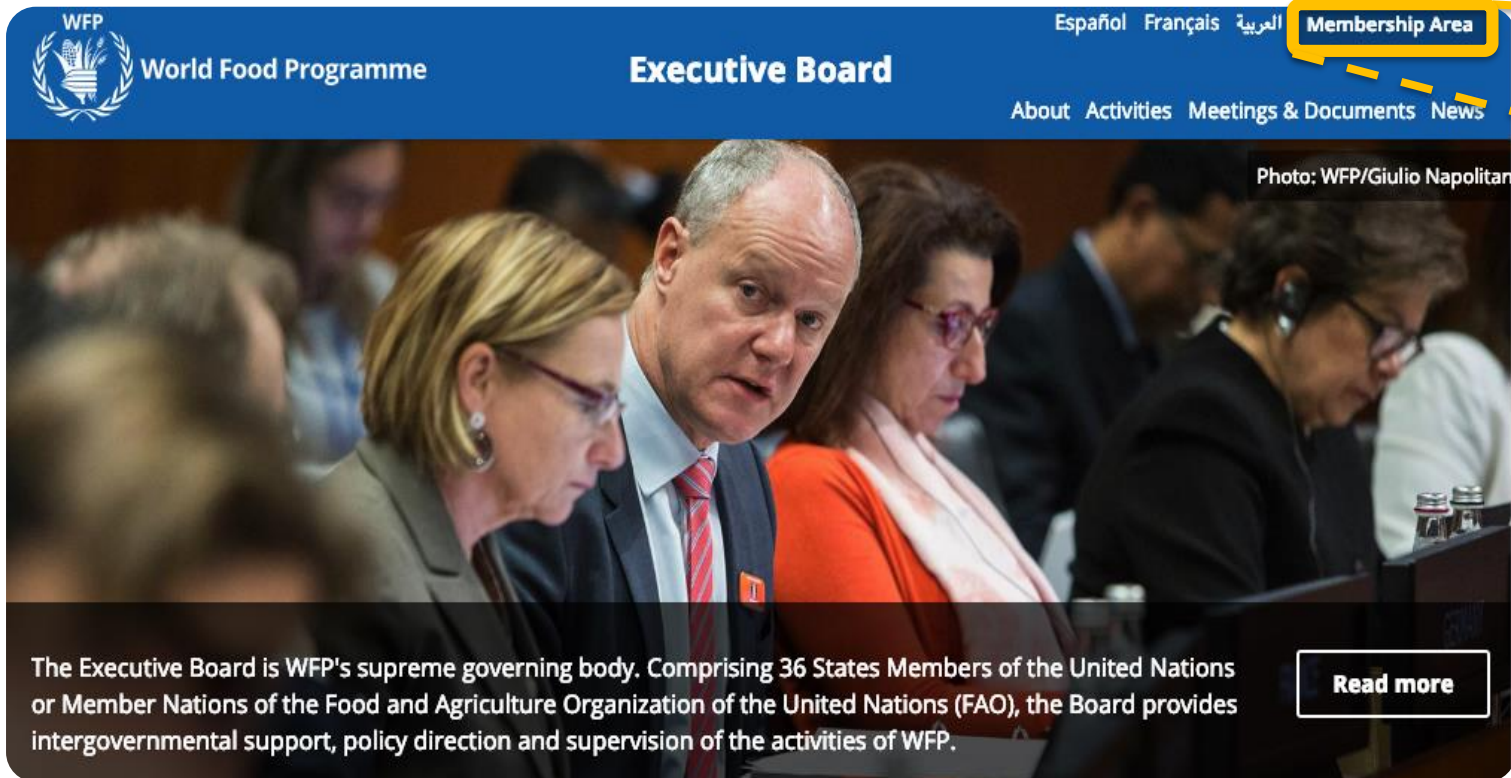
The Executive Board is WFP's supreme governing body. Comprising 36 States Members of the United Nations or Member Nations of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the Board provides intergovernmental support, policy direction and supervision of the activities of WFP.

Latest Updates

- The Executive Board website has been upgraded with a refreshed design and enhancements including new features in the Meetings and Documents section. [Read more](#)
- The documents page for the last session of the Executive Board is available here. [Read more](#)
- The beta version of the CSP Data website (with a restricted access through the Membership Area) has now been released. [Read more](#)
- The new joint website of the United Nations Rome-based agencies Zero Hunger has been released. [Read more](#)



How to connect with us – Restricted Membership Area



Membership Area

The screenshot shows the 'Executive Board MEMBERSHIP AREA' page. At the top right is a 'MENU' button. The main heading asks 'Have you received a WFP Code?' with an information icon. Below this is a 'Register' button. A section for 'Already registered? Please log in.' contains an 'Email' input field, a 'Password' input field with a 'This field is required.' error message, and a 'Log in' button. A 'Reset password' link is at the bottom.

Get Registered Today?

Please contact your mission's designated WFP Membership Area Focal Point for instructions in how to register.

How to connect with us – Membership Area Key Features



World Food Programme

Executive Board
MEMBERSHIP AREA

Français

Español

العربية

Executive Board Website

Country Strategic Plans

Documents at a Glance

Feedback

FAQ

Welcome to the Executive Board Membership Area

This area will become a one-stop-shop for all information that the Membership requires for their decision-making processes. Registered users can access content only available to Permanent Representations and embassies accredited to WFP.

Country Strategic Plans (CSPs)

This forum contains active virtual consultations

Countries

[Algeria](#)

- *Concept note for Algeria interim country strategic plan (2019–2022)*
- *Revision of Algeria transitional interim country strategic plan (January–December 2018) - approved by correspondence on 8 November 2018*

[Afghanistan](#)

- *Country strategic plan (2018–2022) - approved at EB.A/2018*

[Armenia](#)

- *Concept note for Armenia country strategic plan (July 2019–June 2024)*
- *Revision of Armenia transitional interim country strategic plan - approved by correspondence on 19 October 2018*

[Bangladesh](#)

- *Country Strategic Plan (2017–2020) - approved at EB.1/2017*

[Benin](#)

- *Concept note for Benin country strategic plan (2019–2023)*

Documents at a Glance

In this section you will find a series of documents that the EB Secretariat is pleased to share with the Membership so that Permanent Representatives can easily access complements to meetings such as Notes for the Record and transcripts and other WFP restricted documents. This information is usually sent to you by Email and we will keep doing so.



[Notes for the Record](#)



[Transcripts](#)



[Special Reports](#)



[ED Circulares](#)



[WFP Shuttle Bus Timetable](#)