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# WFP Governance – *An introduction*



## 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

<b>List A</b>	Africa	8 members	+1 rotational seat from Lists A, B and C (elected via FAO Council)
<b>List B</b>	Asia & Middle East	7 members	
<b>List C</b>	Latin America & the Caribbean	5 members	
<b>List D</b>	North America, Western Europe, Japan, Australia and New Zealand	12 members	
<b>List E</b>	Central and Eastern Europe	3 members	

# Quick facts about Executive Board sessions

Three **formal sessions** annually:

**First** Regular Session      February

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**Annual** Session              June

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**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 going to the FAO Finance Committee are also translated into Chinese and Russian*

Decisions are made  
**by consensus**

# The Executive Board Bureau (2020)^



From left to right: H.E. Dr. Ulrich Seidenberger; Mr. Luís Fernando de Carvalho; H.E. Bothata Tsikoane; Dr. Bommakanti Rajender; and H.E. Artur Andrzej Pollok.

## 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

## 2020 WFP Executive Board Bureau\*

**President:** H.E. Dr. Ulrich Seidenberger  
*Germany | List D*

**Vice-President:** Mr. Luis Fernando de Carvalho  
*Brazil | List C*

**Member:** H.E. Mr. H.E. Bothata Tsikoane  
*Lesotho | List A*

**Member:** Dr. Bommakanti Rajender  
*India | List B*

**Member:** H.E. Mr. Artur Pollok  
*Poland | List E*

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

<sup>^</sup>Due to the postponement of EB.1/2020 session (originally scheduled for 24-25 February 2020) in light of the COVID-19 outbreak in Italy, the 2020 Executive Board Bureau was officially elected on 16 April 2020 at the reconvened abbreviated EB.1/2020 session. The 2019 Executive Board Bureau term continued until this date.

# 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); and
    - ***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)**
- Annual Joint Meeting of the FAO Council, the IFAD Executive Board and the 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

- **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 United Nations Logistics Base/United Nations Global Service Centre for United Nations coherence

**\*October 2018 & February 2020:** Board visit to the **Munich Innovation Accelerator**





# Executive Board Secretariat

Executive Board Website:  
[executiveboard.wfp.org](http://executiveboard.wfp.org)

Contact us by E-mail:  
[WFPSecretarytotheEB@wfp.or](mailto:WFPSecretarytotheEB@wfp.or)