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Distribution: Limited

Note for the Record

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## **Note for the Record**

1. The President opened the session, welcoming the Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and WFP's Executive Director. He reminded the Board that the process for appointing a new Executive Director was laid down in Article VII.2 of WFP's General Regulations. He noted that after draft terms of reference for the position were circulated to all Board members on 6 February, the Bureau had proposed changes, which had been accepted by the United Nations Secretary-General and FAO's Director-General.
2. The Director-General of FAO then briefed the Board on the selection process, noting the restricted timeframe and expressing his appreciation of the Board's support. The call for candidates, open from 14 to 28 February, had attracted 23 applications from 14 countries; 5 of these came from women and 18 from men; 19 – 4 women and 15 men – were individual applications, and 4 were nominations from Member States, 1 woman and 3 men.
3. Six shortlisted candidates – one woman and five men – were considered by a panel of senior management from the United Nations and FAO, which included, among others, the Deputy Secretary-General, the Chef de Cabinet of the Secretary-General and the Deputy Director-General of Operations for FAO. The panel had focused on candidates' professional backgrounds, strengths and weaknesses; strategic vision for WFP; experience of building and working in partnerships; and management expertise. With the agreement of all candidates, the panel also endorsed the commitment to retaining WFP's Assistant Executive Director-level staff in their current posts until June 2017. Based on its deliberations, the panel had recommended three candidates as very strong, strong and good, and the Secretary-General and the Director-General had selected David Beasley, a national of the United States whom the panel had ranked as a very strong candidate. The Director-General requested the Board to confirm this selection during the extraordinary session.
4. Thanking the Director-General for his briefing, the President informed the Board that a previous commitment required the Director-General to leave the meeting prior to the Board's discussion. He requested the Board Secretariat to distribute the letter addressed to him by the Secretary-General on 22 March, together with the curriculum vitae of Mr Beasley, and then opened the floor for Board members' comments and questions.
5. Members took the floor to: congratulate Mr Beasley on his appointment; express their confidence in establishing a strong working relationship with him, conducive to achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals and enhanced collaboration among the Rome-based agencies; express their readiness to work with him in continued strengthening of internal controls, which had been a heightened topic of interest for the Board; and thank the outgoing Executive Director for her five years of leadership.

6. One member enquired as to the form that the rest of the extraordinary session was to take, and expressed regret at the absence of the Director-General from this phase of the consultation when it would have been helpful to hear more from someone directly involved in the selection process. In particular, the member requested more information about the successful candidate's strategic vision for WFP.
7. The President replied that the Board's deliberations would be recorded in a note for the record, and that the Board would be requested to adopt a draft recommendation endorsing the appointment later in the meeting, which would be communicated back to the Secretary-General.
8. Regarding Mr Beasley's strategic vision for WFP, the Executive Director commented that she had been favourably impressed by his understanding of WFP and the new Strategic Plan. Mr Beasley was committed to raising resources for WFP, particularly through his relations with members of the United States Government, and she expected that the Board would appreciate his commitment to serving vulnerable people.
9. The President then read out the text of the draft recommendation and the meeting adjourned for 15 minutes, at the request of a Board member, to allow consultations with members' capitals. After this adjournment, the recommendation was adopted without objection.<sup>1</sup>
10. With the floor once more open for statements, several members suggested that in future, the process of appointing of a new Executive Director involve more interactive consultation with the Board, allowing members to exchange views and obtain fuller information on candidates and the background to the selection. The President referred to previous communications between WFP's Executive Board and the United Nations Office of Legal Affairs and the FAO Legal Counsel regarding the regulations and past decisions on this issue, particularly the distinction between consultation and agreement, concurrence or consent, and the Secretary-General's role in deciding the nature of consultations with the Board. The President advised that details of these communications and decisions would be shared by the Secretariat with interested Board members. As a course of action, the President recommended that the Bureau discuss the matter to decide whether and how to proceed in the definition of a clearer selection process.
11. The Executive Director thanked the Board for its support over her five-year tenure. Good relations between the Board and management enabled WFP to serve vulnerable people better. Welcoming the Board's recognition of the importance of WFP's autonomy in its relationships with FAO, other United Nations agencies and partners, the Executive Director expressed the hope and expectation that WFP's Board, staff and management maintain this spirit of collaboration and commitment under the new Executive Director.
12. While not expressing an opinion regarding enhancement of the Board's role in the selection process of future Executive Directors, she reminded the Board that there were set procedures for introducing any changes to the regulations of WFP, and such changes had to be led by Member States. She hoped that the Board would continue to ensure that WFP had the space to carry out its mandate, seeking regulation changes through the appropriate channels as required.
13. The President closed the meeting, repeating the Board's appreciation of the Executive Director's leadership and wishing her all the best for the future.

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<sup>1</sup> The adopted recommendation is available as Annex I of this document.

**ANNEX I****Recommendation adopted by the Executive Board during the Special Session on the Appointment of the Executive Director**

The Board took note of the letter dated 22 March 2017, addressed by the Secretary-General to the President of the Board, in which he stated that he and the FAO Director-General intended to appoint Mr David Beasley as the new Executive Director of the World Food Programme for a term of five years. The Board authorized the President to convey to the Secretary-General and the Director-General of FAO that the Board had been consulted during a Special Session on the appointment of Mr Beasley and requested him to address to the Executive Director-designate the Board's congratulations on his appointment. The Board looked forward to working with him in close and harmonious collaboration.

*Adopted on 28 March 2017*

## ANNEX II

## List of Participants

## MEMBER STATES AND MEMBER NATIONS – EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS

## ÉTATS MEMBRES – MEMBRES DU CONSEIL D'ADMINISTRATION

## ESTADOS MIEMBROS – MIEMBROS DE LA JUNTA EJECUTIVA

## الدول الأعضاء والبلدان الأعضاء – أعضاء المجلس التنفيذي

**AFGHANISTAN – AFGANISTÁN – أفغانستان**

## REPRESENTATIVE:

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## ALTERNATES:

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Alternate Permanent Representative of the Islamic  
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Ahmad MASOOD  
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**ARGENTINA – ARGENTINE – الأرجنتين**

## REPRESENTANTE

Excmo. Sr. Don Claudio J. ROZENCWAIG  
Embajador  
Representante Permanente de la República Argentina  
ante la FAO, el FIDA y el PMA

## SUPLENTE

María Fernanda SILVA  
Ministra Plenipotenciaria  
Representante Permanente Adjunta de la República  
Argentina ante la FAO, el FIDA y el PMA

Manrique Lucio ALTAVISTA  
Secretario  
Representante Permanente Alterno de la República  
Argentina ante la FAO, el FIDA y el PMA

**AUSTRALIA – AUSTRALIE – أستراليا**

## REPRESENTATIVE:

Chris CHUNG  
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## ALTERNATE:

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Alternate Permanent Representative of Australia to  
WFP

**BANGLADESH – بنغلاديش**

## REPRESENTATIVE:

Dr. M.D. Mafizur RAHMAN  
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Alternate Permanent Representative of the People's  
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**BENIN – BÉNIN – بنن**

## REPRÉSENTANTE:

S.E. Mme Evelyne TOGBE-OLORY  
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Représentante permanente du Bénin auprès des  
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## SUPPLÉANT:

Adjiri Emilienne AGOSSA  
Attachée  
Représentante permanente suppléante du Bénin  
auprès des Agences des Nations Unies basées à Rome

**BRAZIL – BRÉSIL – BRASIL – البرازيل**

## REPRESENTATIVE:

H. E. João Carlos DE SOUZA-GOMES  
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of Brazil to FAO, IFAD and WFP

## ALTERNATE:

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Alternate Permanent Representative of the  
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**CANADA – CANADÁ – كندا**

## REPRESENTATIVE:

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**CHINA – CHINE – الصين**

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ZHU Yaqin  
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REPÚBLICA ISLÁMICA DEL IRÁN**  
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**MEMBER STATES AND MEMBER NATIONS: EXECUTIVE BOARD OBSERVERS**  
**ÉTATS MEMBRES: OBSERVATEURS DU CONSEIL D'ADMINISTRATION**  
**ESTADOS MIEMBROS – OBSERVADORES DE JUNTA EJECUTIVA**  
**الدول الأعضاء والبلدان الأعضاء – المراقبون في المجلس التنفيذي**

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 Ambassade de la République algérienne  
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**ANGOLA – أنغولا**

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 Représentant permanent suppléant de la République  
 d'Angola auprès du PAM

**AUSTRIA – AUTRICHE – النمسا**

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**BELGIUM – BELGIQUE – BÉLGICA – بلجيكا**

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**BOLIVIA (PLURINATIONAL STATE OF) –  
 BOLIVIE (ÉTAT PLURINATIONAL DE) –  
 BOLIVIA (ESTADO PLURINACIONAL DE)  
 دولة بوليفيا المتعددة القوميات –**

Luis SÁNCHEZ-GÓMEZ CUQUERELLA  
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Roxana OLLER CATOIRA  
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**BULGARIA – BULGARIE – بلغاريا**

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**BURUNDI – بوروندي**

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Viola NTIMPIRANGEZA  
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 de Chile ante los Organismos de Naciones Unidas en  
 Roma – FAO, FIDA y PMA

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 Roma – FAO, FIDA y PMA

**COLOMBIA – COLOMBIE – كولومبيا**

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**COSTA RICA – كوستاريكا**

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**CZECH REPUBLIC – RÉPUBLIQUE  
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الجمهورية التشيكية

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**DEMOCRATIC PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF  
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ÉQUATORIALE – GUINEA ECUATORIAL  
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**UNITED ARAB EMIRATES – EMIRATS  
ARABES UNIS – EMIRATOS ÁRABES  
UNIDOS – الإمارات العربية المتحدة**

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Ernesto Alfredo MESSANO DE MELLO  
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**VENEZUELA – فنزويلا**

Excmo. Sr. Don Elías Rafael ELJURI ABRAHAM  
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Porfirio PESTANA DE BARROS  
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Bolivariana de Venezuela ante la FAO y las  
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Karl BLUMTRITT  
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الدول غير الأعضاء التي لها صفة المراقب

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– الكرسي الرسولي

S.E. Monseigneur Fernando CHICA ARELLANO  
Nonce Apostolique  
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