

“Voting procedures under Rule XII, paragraph 10 of the General Rules of the Organization”: Comparative Study on the rules and best practices of UN and other relevant entities

Text in italics reflects non-legally binding guidance. All other text reflects formal rules of the concerned Organization. Unless otherwise indicated, references are to the established rules of procedure of the organization concerned, which are identified in the endnotes to this table.

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Invitation for candidatures	168 1) At least six months prior to the opening of the conference, the Secretary-General shall invite Member States to submit candidatures.	2. Ten months before the termination of that period, the Council shall inform Contracting States that it will proceed to the appointment of the Secretary General. The communication should also: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) invite attention to the provisions of Articles 54 (h), 58 and 59 of the Convention; b) set out the qualifications, experience and abilities which candidates are expected to demonstrate; and c) indicate the date by which the names of candidates for the Secretary General should be in the hands of the President; that date to provide Contracting States three full months for reply. 3. The names of the candidates shall be circulated by the President to all Contracting States as soon as they are received. 4. The Council shall invite candidates, at an appropriate date before the election, to present their views and ideas to a meeting of Representatives, and to answer any questions which may be posed.		1. Candidatures for the post of Director-General shall be received in the office of the Governing Body Chairperson on or before a date to be determined by the Governing Body which shall be at least two months prior to the date of the election. 2. In order to be considered these candidatures must be submitted by a Member State of the Organization or by a member of the Governing Body. [...] 7. Candidatures submitted in accordance with the abovementioned conditions shall be distributed together with curricula vitae and statements, in the official languages in which they are submitted, to the members of the Governing Body and to the Member States not represented on the Governing Body for information, by the Chairperson as soon as practical after the candidature has been received. Only statements received at the same time as the candidatures shall be receivable and ⁷ distributed.		Executive Board Rule 58 – Nomination of Director-General 1. At least six months before the expiry of the term of office of the Director-General or in case of vacancy at any other time, the Executive Board shall, as soon as possible, invite Member States to suggest the names of persons who might be considered for the post of Director-General, requesting them at the same time to provide full biographical details regarding these persons.
Conduct during campaign				8. Unethical practices such as promises, favours, gifts, etc., provided by, or in support of, candidates for the post of Director-General are prohibited. 9. Appropriate measures shall be taken by the Director-General to remind the staff of the Office of the rules and standards of conduct aimed at		

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				ensuring the Office’s neutrality with respect to the electoral process, as well as the sanctions that can be imposed on staff in the event these rules are not respected. Appropriate measures shall also be taken by the Director-General to prohibit the use of ILO resources for the purposes of campaigning for, or supporting, any candidate and to regulate the conduct of ILO staff presenting as candidates for the appointment as Director-General.		
Hearings				12. Hearings shall be conducted with the candidates at a private sitting of the Governing Body held prior to the election. The order of appearance in the hearings shall be drawn randomly by the Governing Body Chairperson and candidates shall be informed of the date and approximate time of their hearing at least one week prior to the hearing. Each candidate shall be heard individually and shall be invited to make a presentation to the Governing Body. Following the presentation the candidate shall receive and respond to questions from the Governing Body. The time allocated to candidates for making their presentation and receiving and responding to questions shall be determined by the Officers. Equal time will be allocated for all candidates.		
Election procedure	174 7) Elections shall be held by secret ballot. 184 4) Each delegation should indicate the candidate it supports: <i>a)</i> by electronic means; or <i>b)</i> when ballot papers are used to hold the elections, on its ballot paper by means of an "X" in the box against the name of that candidate.		Except as provided otherwise in respect of elections pursuant to Rule 40, all elections shall be held by secret ballot unless the Governing Council decides otherwise in an election where the number of candidates does not exceed the		Rule 52 For the appointment of the Secretary-General, the Council shall consider in private meeting its recommendation to the Assembly and vote upon it by secret ballot.	General Conference Rule 104 After discussion at a private meeting the Executive Board shall submit for approval by the General Conference a nomination for the post of the Director-General of the Organization. It shall submit at the same time a draft contract establishing the terms of appointment, salary, allowances and status of the Director-General.

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			number of elective places to be filled.			<p>Rule 105</p> <p>The General Conference shall consider this nomination and the draft contract at a private meeting and shall then come to a decision by secret ballot.</p> <p>Executive Board</p> <p>XI. Special Procedures</p> <p>2. The Executive Board shall consider in private meeting all the names so suggested, together with any proposed by Members of the Board, provided that no candidature shall be considered unless biographical details are available.</p> <p>3. The person to be nominated by the Executive Board shall be chosen by secret ballot.</p> <p>4. The Chairman of the Board shall inform the General Conference of the candidate nominated by the Board.</p> <p>X. Voting</p> <p>Rule 54 – Secret ballot</p> <p>1. The nomination of a candidate for post of Director-General shall be decided by secret ballot.</p>
Required majority and process in absence of majority	<p>115 1) A majority shall consist of more than half the delegations present and voting.</p> <p>187 5) Any candidate obtaining the majority (see No.115 above) shall be elected.</p> <p>191 9) When, in the first ballot, no candidate obtains the necessary majority of the votes, then one or – if required – two further ballots shall be held after successive intervals of at least six hours, unless the conference decides otherwise, from the announcement of the results.</p> <p>192 10) When, after the third ballot, no candidate has obtained the necessary majority of votes, then, after an interval of at least twelve hours, unless the conference decides otherwise, from the announcement of the results, a fourth ballot shall be held in which the two candidates having the</p>	5. The appointment of the Secretary General shall require a majority of the Members of the Council.	2. The Governing Council shall appoint the President by at least two-thirds of the total number of votes. In the case of more than one nominee, if no nominee receives the required number of votes on the first ballot, a second ballot shall be taken in which the nominee who received the fewest votes shall not participate. This procedure shall be repeated until one nominee receives at least two-thirds of the total number of votes or the Council decides that such balloting be discontinued and decision be taken on another date. Each Governor casting the	<p>11. To be elected, a candidate must receive the votes of more than one half of the members of the Governing Body entitled to vote.</p> <p>...</p> <p>13. On the date set for the election, as many ballots shall be held as are necessary to determine which of the candidates has obtained the majority required by Rule (11) above.</p> <p>14.</p> <p>(i) After each ballot the candidate who has obtained the lowest number of votes shall be eliminated.</p> <p>(ii) If two or more candidates obtain simultaneously the</p>	<p>Rule 37</p> <p>If one person only is to be elected and no candidate obtains a majority in the first ballot, a second ballot shall be taken confined normally to the two candidates obtaining the largest number of votes. If in the second ballot the votes are equally divided, the election shall be deferred until the first suitable subsequent opportunity during the same session of the Council, when, if another tie results, the Chairman shall decide between the candidates by drawing lots.</p> <p>Rule 37bis</p>	<p>Executive Board</p> <p>Rule 56</p> <p>1. When a single elective place is to be filled, any candidate obtaining in the first ballot an absolute majority (i.e. more than half) of the votes cast shall be declared elected.</p> <p>2. If no candidate obtains an absolute majority in the first ballot, further ballots shall be taken. Any candidate obtaining an absolute majority of the votes cast shall be declared elected. If, after four ballots have been taken, no candidate has obtained an absolute majority, a final ballot shall be taken, restricted to the two candidates who obtained the most votes in the fourth ballot. The candidate obtaining a majority of the votes cast shall be declared elected.</p> <p>[...]</p> <p>5. If, in the final ballot or an eliminating ballot, two or more</p>

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	<p>largest number of votes at the third ballot shall be voted upon.</p> <p>193 11) If however, after the third ballot, there is a tie between several candidates so that the two candidates to be voted upon at the fourth ballot cannot be selected, then one or, if necessary, two additional ballots shall first be held, after successive intervals of at least six hours, unless the conference decides otherwise, from the announcement of the results, to decide between the candidates in question.</p> <p>194 12) When there is a tie in both the additional ballots mentioned in No. 193 above, then the eldest of the candidates still in contention shall be declared elected.</p>		<p>votes of the Member he represents shall cast them in favour of a single person.</p> <p><u>Information Note on Relevant Procedures and Modalities for the Appointment of the President of IFAD</u></p> <p><i>14. As provided in rule 41.2 of the Rules of Procedure of the Governing Council, if no nominee receives the required number of votes (two thirds of the total number of votes) on the first ballot, a second ballot will be taken in which the nominee who received the fewest votes will not participate.</i></p> <p><i>15. The procedures outlined above will be repeated until one nominee receives at least two thirds of the total number of votes or the Council decides that the balloting should be discontinued and a decision taken on another date (rule 41.2).</i></p>	<p>lowest number of votes, they shall be eliminated together.</p> <p>15. If in the ballot between the remaining candidates they receive the same number of votes and a further ballot still does not produce a majority for one of them, or if one candidate remains but does not obtain the majority required by Rule (11) above in a further ballot in which his or her name is submitted to the Governing Body for a final vote, the Governing Body may postpone the election and freely set a new deadline for the submission of candidatures.</p>	<p>In the event of four or more candidates standing for the position of Secretary-General, if, in the first and subsequent ballots, no candidate obtains a majority in accordance with Rule 37, a number of successive ballots shall be held, in each of which the candidate who received the least number of votes in the previous ballot shall not be included in the list of candidates for the subsequent ballot.</p> <p>Rule 37ter</p> <p>In cases where two or more candidates gain the same number of votes in joint lowest position, a run-off ballot shall be held between them and the candidate gaining the lowest number of votes shall be eliminated from subsequent ballots.</p>	<p>candidates obtain the same number of votes, the Chairman shall decide between them by drawing lots.</p>
Conduct of the ballot, including measures to preserve secrecy	<p>175 8) Elections should preferably be held using an electronic system when a suitable system is available and if the conference does not decide otherwise.</p> <p>176 9) Whenever ballot papers are used, before proceeding to the vote, one teller for each region shall be designated by the chairman of the conference from among the delegations present. The chairman of the conference shall hand them the list of delegations entitled to vote and the list of candidates.</p> <p>...</p>		<p>1. The appointment of the President shall be considered by the Governing Council at a private meeting, and voting shall be in accordance with Rule 38.1.</p> <p><u>Information Note on Relevant Procedures and Modalities for the Appointment of the President of IFAD</u></p> <p><i>8. Voting booths will be set up to allow Governors or, in their</i></p>		<p>Rule 31</p> <p>Each Member shall have one vote. For the purposes of Article 62 of the Convention and of these Rules:</p> <p>(a) the phrase "Members present and voting" means Members casting an affirmative or negative vote. Members abstaining from voting or casting an invalid vote shall be considered as not voting;</p> <p>(b) the phrase "Members present" means</p>	<p>Executive Board</p> <p>Rule 55</p> <p>1. Before the vote begins, the Chairman shall appoint two tellers to scrutinize the votes cast.</p> <p>2. When the counting of the votes is completed and the tellers have reported to the Chairman, he shall announce the results of the ballot bearing in mind that the voting will be recorded as follows:</p> <p>(a) From the total number of Members of the Board will be deducted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the number of Members absent, if any;

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	<p>188 6) Blank ballot papers shall be considered as abstentions. Ballot papers with more than one box marked, or bearing any mark other than an "X" inside a box, or bearing any mark whatsoever outside the boxes, shall be considered as invalid and shall not be counted. In computing the majority, delegations abstaining from voting shall not be taken into account.</p> <p>...</p> <p>190 8) When the counting of the votes is completed, the chairman of the conference shall announce the results of the ballot in the following order:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - number of delegations entitled to vote; - number of delegations absent; - number of abstentions; - number of invalid ballot papers; - number of votes recorded; - number of votes constituting the required majority; - number of votes secured by each of the candidates, in ascending order of the number of votes; - name of the elected candidate, if any. 		<p><i>absence, Alternate Governors or, in the absence of both, members of delegations to mark their ballots in complete privacy.</i></p> <p><i>9. The Chairperson will outline specific procedures to follow. Members will receive an envelope containing one or more ballot papers with a total number of votes equal to the total number of votes to which the Member concerned is entitled. The number of votes to which Members are entitled will be noted on each envelope. The calculation of Members' voting rights is explained in annex III hereto. The representative of the Member is requested to check the ballot papers immediately upon receipt and sign for them accordingly; if the total votes in the ballot papers do not tally with the number of votes indicated on the envelope, the representative of the Member should inform the relevant officials immediately of such discrepancy before signing.</i></p> <p><i>10. The names of Members of IFAD will be called by the Secretary of IFAD in their English alphabetical order. The Governor, or other individual representing the Member who is to cast that Member's ballot, should then proceed to the front of the plenary hall to one of the voting booths and</i></p>		<p>Members present at the meeting, whether they cast an affirmative or negative vote, whether they abstain, whether they cast an invalid vote, or whether they take no part in the voting. Participants at the session who are not present at the meeting at which voting takes place shall be considered as not present.</p> <p>The foregoing provisions shall only apply if the quorum laid down in Article 19(b)* of the Convention is obtained at the meeting at which the vote is taken.</p> <p>* Twenty-six Members of the Council shall constitute a quorum.</p> <p>...</p> <p>Rule 36</p> <p>In a secret ballot, two scrutineers shall, on the proposal of the Chairman, be appointed by the Council from the delegations present and shall proceed to scrutinize the votes cast. All invalid votes cast shall be reported to the Council.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the number of blank ballot papers, if any; - the number of invalid ballot papers, if any. <p>(b) The remaining number will constitute the number of votes recorded. The majority required will be more than half that number.</p> <p><u>Practical Arrangements – UNESCO Executive Board, 202nd Session, 2017</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Voting will take place during a Private Session of the Board at the end of each day's work until the conditions of Rule 56 of the Rules of Procedure of the Executive Board are met.</i> • <i>The vote shall be conducted in accordance with Rule 55 of the Rules of Procedure.</i> • <i>The use of mobile telephones will not be permitted during the voting process.</i> • <i>At the beginning of the Private Session, two voting booths will be installed in the centre of Room X and a ballot box will be installed in front of the Chairperson</i> • <i>Two Tellers shall be chosen from amongst the Members of the Board, who shall scrutinize the votes cast.</i> • <i>Voting shall take place according to the French alphabetic order of the name of each of the 58 Members.</i> • <i>Each Member, once called upon by the Chairperson, shall proceed to the voting booth with an envelope and a ballot sheet provided by the Secretariat.</i> • <i>When calling upon a Member, the Chairperson will announce the next Member to vote and request that they prepare themselves.</i> • <i>Inside the voting booth, the Member shall clearly indicate their vote by ticking the box corresponding to the candidate of choice.</i>

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			<p><i>will mark the name of his/her preferred nominee in the space provided on each of the ballot papers (see attached sample in annex IV). Governors casting the votes of the Member they represent are to cast them in favour of a single person (rule 41.2 of the Rules of Procedure of the Governing Council, see annex I). They will then proceed to the voting box to deposit their ballots.</i></p> <p><i>11. The Governing Council will remain in official session during the voting procedure and delegations are requested to remain in the hall prior to casting their vote and, preferably, also after they have cast their votes. Should they find it necessary to leave the hall, Governors and delegates are requested to remain nearby so that they can resume their places quickly when the meeting is called to order by the Chairperson prior to announcing the results of the voting.</i></p> <p><i>12. The ballots will be counted, in a special room designated for that purpose, by three tellers, one from each List, as appointed by the Chairperson of the Governing Council; the three tellers will be supported in their task by IFAD staff members, under the supervision of the Secretary of IFAD. When the counting of the votes is complete, the totals received by each nominee will be entered</i></p>			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>The ballot is folded and placed inside the envelope whilst in the voting booth.</i> • <i>The Member proceeds to the ballot box and casts their vote by placing the envelope into it.</i> • <i>Once all Members have duly cast their vote, the Chairperson will call upon the Tellers to scrutinize the votes cast.</i> • <i>The Tellers shall record the outcome of the vote and present the result to the Chairperson.</i> • <i>With a view to ensuring the fullest transparency, every bulletin will be opened under camera and projected onto the screen in Room X.</i> • <i>If the conditions in Rule 55 are met, the Chairperson shall announce the outcome.</i> • <i>If the conditions of Rule 56 are not met, the Chairperson will announce the need to proceed to a second round of voting that will take place the following day.</i> • <i>Additional voting in private session will continue until the conditions of Rule 56 are met.</i> • <i>Once the conditions of Rule 56 are met, the Chairperson, during a public session of the plenary, shall announce the results of the vote.</i> • <i>This person will then be considered as the Board's nomination for the position of Director-General of the Organization.</i> • <i>The Chairperson conveys the recommendation of the Executive Board at the private session during the 39th session of the General Conference, on item 12.I of its agenda.</i>

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			<i>on a tally sheet that will be signed by each teller. 13. After the meeting has been called to order, the Chairperson will be presented with the signed tally sheet and will announce the results.</i>			

¹ ITU, [General Rules of Conferences, Assemblies and Meetings of the Union](#)

² ICAO, [Rules of Procedure for the Council](#)

³ IFAD, [Rules of Procedure for the Governing Council](#) unless otherwise indicated. NB. As reflected in the Governing Council Report Forty-second Session, 14-15 February 2019, paragraph 44 “The Governing Council considered the proposal for an automated voting system at IFAD, as contained in document GC 42/L.5/Rev.1. In line with the decision taken at the forty-first session of the Governing Council in February 2018, as contained in resolution 202/XLI, and the related Report of the Governing Council Bureau (document GC 41/L.9), the Governing Council gave its approval for the Secretariat to assess the feasibility of an automated voting system based on the principles contained in this document”. Ballot counting had been considered previously, see paragraphs 62 *et seq* of [Report of the Governing Council Bureau on the Review of the Established Practice for the Process Leading to the Appointment of the President of IFAD, December 2017 \(GC 41/L.9\)](#).

⁴ ILO, [Annex III to the Compendium of rules applicable to the Governing Body of the International Labour Office adopted by the Governing Body at its 240th Session \(May–June 1988\) and amended at its 312th Session](#)

⁵ IMO, Rules of Procedure of the Council, Basic Documents, Volume I (2018 Edition). Accessible upon registration at [IMODOCS](#).

⁶ UNESCO, [Rules of Procedure of the General Conference](#), [Rules of Procedure of the Executive Board](#), 2019 Edition.