



联合国
粮食及
农业组织

Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations

Organisation des Nations
Unies pour l'alimentation
et l'agriculture

Продовольственная и
сельскохозяйственная организация
Объединенных Наций

Organización de las
Naciones Unidas para la
Alimentación y la Agricultura

منظمة
الغذية والزراعة
للأمم المتحدة

E

CONFERENCE

Forty-third Session

Rome, 1-7 July 2023

Secret ballot vote for the election of the Director-General

I. Introduction

1. The appointment of the Director-General for the term of office from 1 August 2023 to 31 July 2027 will be undertaken by means of an **in person, secret ballot vote** in the Plenary Hall at the Rome headquarters premises on **Sunday, 2 July 2023 at 10.30am (Rome time)**.
2. There is a sole candidate at the 43rd Session of the Conference for the office of Director-General, **Dr QU Dongyu** of China.
3. The appointment of the Director-General by secret ballot is mandatory under the rules and regulations of the Organization, **including in the instance of a sole candidate**. Specifically, Rule XII.10(a) of the General Rules of the Organization states that “*The appointment of the Director-General shall be decided by secret ballot.*”

II. Conditions for voting

4. In compliance with the Basic Texts, the secret ballot vote may only be undertaken in person. There is **no option** of online voting, nor of election by acclamation.
5. Votes are cast physically in the Plenary Hall by delegates of Member Nations **duly registered** for the 43rd Session of the Conference.
6. Every Member Nation of FAO is eligible to vote in the election of the Director-General, on a **one-country, one-vote basis**.
7. Member Nations which have lost their voting rights due to arrears of their financial payments to the Organization under Article III.4 of the Constitution may request **restoration of their voting rights** by the Conference, by submitting a request for special consideration, to be reviewed by the General Committee of the Conference.
8. Thus, in order to participate in the election of the Director-General at the 43rd Session of the Conference, every Member Nation must: a) have a delegate present in the Plenary Hall in Rome to cast its vote b) ensure said delegate is duly registered for the 43rd Session of the Conference beforehand; and c) ensure its right to vote as Member Nation is intact at the time of the election.

III. Electoral Officers

9. The secret ballot voting procedure will be supervised by two **tellers**, who are appointed from among the delegates of Member Nations by the Chairperson of the Conference. The tellers so appointed may not be directly interested in the election. In the practice of FAO, this standard is considered to have been met when tellers are not from the same region as candidates in the election.
10. The role of the tellers is to supervise the balloting procedure, count the ballot papers, decide on the validity of the ballot paper and certify the result of each ballot.
11. Furthermore, the candidate may appoint a **scrutineer** of his behalf to attend the counting of the votes – but not take part in the count.
12. Finally, the **Elections Officer** is responsible for ensuring adherence to the provisions of the Constitution and the General Rules of the Organization during the voting and electoral procedure.

IV. Voting procedure

13. The secret ballot voting procedures applied to the appointment of the Director-General fully comply with the requirements of the General Rules of the Organization, specifically Rule XII and Rule XXXVII, as well as with established practice. Rule XII of the GRO contains detailed guidance as to the conduct of secret ballot voting.
14. The Director-General will be elected by a majority of votes cast. “Votes Cast” means votes in favour and votes against, and does not include abstentions or defective ballot.

15. Prior to the secret ballot vote, a mandatory quorum check will be conducted to establish that a majority of the Member Nations of FAO is present in the Plenary, as required. FAO has 194 Member Nations; accordingly, the quorum requirement will be met when 98 Member Nations are **present in the Plenary Hall**.

16. Once the quorum is established, the tellers will be invited by the Chairperson to take their positions in the voting area in the Plenary Hall, and then the start of voting. Once voting begins, there will be no interventions from the floor until voting is completed. Delegates will be called to the voting area in English alphabetical order.

17. Voting delegates will be asked by the Secretariat to hand over electronic recording or communications appliances such as mobile telephones and tablets at the entrance of the voting area, for immediate return at the exit of the voting area and once a voting delegate has deposited their ballot paper.

18. At the entrance of the voting areas, one teller will issue a ballot paper to each delegate, a sample of which may be found in Annex 1. After marking the ballot paper in the voting booth, the delegate deposits their ballot in front of the second teller.

19. After all the names of the Member Nations entitled to vote have been read out, the names of those countries that have not voted will be called again to vote. Following the second call for votes, the Chairperson will close the voting session. No delegate will be allowed to vote once the Chairperson has closed the voting session.

V. Counting of votes

20. The Chairperson will then invite the tellers to leave the Plenary in order to count the votes. The scrutineer appointed by the candidate may attend the count of the votes, but shall not be allowed to participate in the count. The session is temporarily suspended while the vote is counted.

21. All persons entering the counting area will be asked by the Secretariat to hand over electronic recording or communications appliances such as mobile telephones and tablets at the entrance of the counting room, for immediate return at the exit of the counting is over.

22. In the vote counting room, the tellers count the votes, they take decisions on the validity of ballot papers where needed, and they certify the result. Once the tellers have completed the counting, they will inform the Elections Officer of the result of the vote. The Elections Officer will prepare a result sheet accordingly, which the tellers will sign for their certification.

VI. Announcement of result

23. Before leaving the vote counting room, the Elections Officer recalls the explicit obligation laid down in the Basic Texts of all present in the vote counting room to not disclose any information “*which might tend, or be presumed to tend, towards destroying the secrecy of the ballot*” (General Rule XII, paragraph 10(h)).

24. All persons present in the vote counting room make their way to the Plenary Hall. The Elections Officer hands the signed result sheet to the Chairperson of the Conference.

25. The Chairperson announces the result of the election to the Conference.

Annex 1



ورقة اقتراع لانتخاب المدير العام

选举总干事的选票

BALLOT PAPER FOR THE ELECTION OF THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL

BULLETIN DE VOTE POUR L'ELECTION DU DIRECTEUR GENERAL

БЮЛЛЕТЕНЬ ДЛЯ ГОЛОСОВАНИЯ НА ВЫБОРАХ ГЕНЕРАЛЬНОГО ДИРЕКТОРА

PAPELETA DE VOTACIÓN PARA LA ELECCIÓN DEL DIRECTOR GENERAL

1.8.2023 - 31.7.2027

الرجاء وضع علامة "X" في المربع المناسب لخياركم

在与您的选择相对应的框中打“X”

Place an "X" in the box corresponding to your choice

Mettre un X dans la case correspondant à votre vote

Поставьте «X» в графе, соответствующей выбранному варианту голосования

Marque con una "X" la casilla que corresponda a su voto

Candidate: Mr QU Dongyu

نعم

同意

Yes

Oui

3a

Si

لا

反对

No

Non

Против

No

امتناع

弃权

Abstention

Abstention

Воздержался

Abstención

أي ورقة توضع بيضاء في صندوق
الاقتراع تُعتبر بمثابة امتناع عن
التصويت.

未填写的选票将被视为弃权票

Any ballot paper left blank will be
considered an abstention.

Tout bulletin blanc sera considéré comme
une abstention.

Las papeletas en blanco se considerarán
abstenciones.

Все незаполненные бюллетени
рассматриваются как голос
"воздержался".