

April 2012



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FINANCE COMMITTEE

Hundred and Forty-fourth Session

Rome, 14 – 15 May 2012

Appointment of Members to the Audit Committee

Queries on the substantive content of this document may be addressed to:

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World Food Programme

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- As the terms of three members of the Audit Committee are coming to an end in 2012, a selection panel was established in order to select new members and/or renew the term of office of outgoing members, and submit its recommendations to the Executive Director.
- The recommendations of the Executive Director for appointment to the Audit Committee are presented in this document.

GUIDANCE SOUGHT FROM THE FINANCE COMMITTEE

- The Finance Committee is requested to review the Executive Director's recommendations for appointment to the Audit Committee and recommend their approval by the Executive Board.

Draft Advice

- **In accordance with Article XIV of the General Regulations of WFP, the FAO Finance Committee noted the competence of the candidates recommended by the Executive Director and recommended that their appointment be approved by the Executive Board.**

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**Executive Board
Annual Session**

Rome, 4–8 June 2012

RESOURCE, FINANCIAL AND BUDGETARY MATTERS

Agenda item 6

For approval



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APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS TO THE AUDIT COMMITTEE

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NOTE TO THE EXECUTIVE BOARD

This document is submitted to the Executive Board for approval

The Secretariat invites members of the Board who may have questions of a technical nature with regard to this document to contact the WFP staff focal points indicated below, preferably well in advance of the Board's meeting.

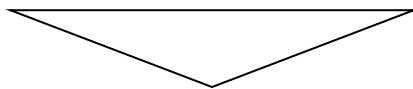
Deputy Executive Director and Chief Operating Officer, ER*: Mr A. Abdulla tel.: 066513-2401

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Should you have any questions regarding availability of documentation for the Executive Board, please contact Ms I. Carpitella, Senior Administrative Assistant, Conference Servicing Unit (tel.: 066513-2645).

* External Relations Department

DRAFT DECISION*



The Board approves the renewal of the terms of three Audit Committee members as follows:

- Ms Elvira Lazzati (Argentina) from 9 June 2012 to 8 June 2015;
- Mr Antoine Antoun (Lebanon and France) from 7 July 2012 to 6 July 2015; and
- Ms Kholeka Mzondeki (South Africa) from 10 November 2012 to 9 November 2015.

It also approves the timeframe for selection of future members outlined in paragraphs 7 and 8 in the document (WFP/EB.A/2012/6-C/1).

* This is a draft decision. For the final decision adopted by the Board, please refer to the Decisions and Recommendations document issued at the end of the session.

BACKGROUND

1. At its First Regular Session in 2012, the Board was informed that the terms of three Audit Committee (AC) members were coming to an end in 2012, as follows:
 - Ms Elvira Lazzati (Argentina) on 8 June 2012;
 - Mr Antoine Antoun (Lebanon and France) on 6 July 2012; and
 - Ms Kholeka Mzondeki (South Africa) on 9 November 2012.
2. In accordance with paragraph 19 of the terms of reference of the Audit Committee, a selection panel was constituted: the Board approved the selection of two Board representatives (see WFP/EB.1/2012/14), the Executive Director selected two senior managers, and the AC selected one of its members to the selection panel, which was composed as follows:
 - H.E. Bérengère Quincy, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of France (Chair);
 - H.E. Hassan Abouyoub, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Morocco;
 - Ms Irena Petruškevičienė, Audit Committee member;
 - Mr Amir Abdulla, Deputy Executive Director and Chief Operating Officer, WFP; and
 - Mr Bishow Parajuli, Director, Office of the Executive Director and Chief of Staff, WFP.
3. The three AC members with terms ending in 2012 expressed interest in serving for another term. The selection panel met on 20 March 2012 to discuss actions and a timeframe in relation to the selection or renewal of AC members.

Conclusions of the Selection Panel

⇒ *Renewal/appointment of Audit Committee members*

4. The selection panel agreed unanimously on the following considerations:
 - the need for continuity, given that the tenure of the remaining members of the AC – Ms Irena Petruškevičienė and Mr James A. Rose III – had started relatively recently, on 30 July 2011, and members' first term constituted an important investment in the effectiveness of the AC;
 - the need for coherence, in that the Board had expressed its satisfaction with the annual report of the AC;
 - the need to keep a collective balance, ensuring that issues such as the mix of skills, geographical distribution and gender balance were taken into account; and
 - the possibility of a straightforward renewal of the terms of AC members who had not served more than one term, as per paragraph 22 of the AC terms of reference; the panel nevertheless considered that such renewal should be informed.
5. Moreover, the three AC members with terms ending in 2012:
 - had served one term as members of the AC and each expressed in writing their interest in the renewal of their tenure;
 - had already undergone a thorough selection process when appointed for the first time;

- had demonstrated strong commitment to WFP by fully participating in three quarterly meetings each year as well as frequent teleconferences convened in preparation for these meetings and to discuss other relevant issues; and
 - formed part of an AC that was functioning well at the individual and collective levels.
6. In view of the above, the selection panel recommended to the President of the Board and the Executive Director that the three AC members with terms ending in 2012 be renewed for a second and final term. The recommendations would then be submitted by the Executive Director to the Board for approval at its Annual Session, as required by paragraph 21 of the AC terms of reference.

⇒ *Timeframe for selection*

7. In order to avoid delays, a general timeframe for the selection of AC members was also proposed to the selection panel, taking into account the terms of the present members:
- A selection panel would meet in October 2013 to decide on the renewal of Ms Irena Petruškevičienė and Mr James A. Rose III, whose terms were scheduled to end on 29 July 2014. If renewal were not an option, there would be sufficient time to go through a selection process as provided in paragraphs 18–21 of the AC terms of reference. Recommendations will be submitted to the Board at its 2014 Annual Session or earlier if possible.
 - A selection panel would meet in October 2014 to confirm the details of the selection procedure of three new members to replace Mr Antoun, Ms Lazzati and Ms Mzondeki, who would – if their renewal is approved at the Annual Session of the Executive Board in June 2012 – have served their second and final term. The selection procedure should specifically outline a process to begin in October 2014. Recommendations for appointment would be submitted to the Board at its 2015 Annual Session or earlier if possible.
 - A selection panel would meet in October 2016 to start the selection procedure for two new members. Recommendations for appointment or renewal would be submitted to the Board at its 2017 Annual Session or earlier if possible.
8. The Board representatives to be appointed to the selection panels would have to be approved by the Board at its 2013, 2014 and 2016 Annual Sessions.
9. The selection panel decided to recommend the above sequence to the President of the Board and the Executive Director.

RECOMMENDATION BY THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

10. On the basis of the AC terms of reference and of the above considerations and recommendations of the selection panel, the Executive Director recommends to the Board that it approve the renewal of the terms of the three outgoing AC members.
11. Career details of the three candidates can be found in WFP/EB.A/2009/6-B/1/Add.1 and WFP/EB.2/2009/5-C/1/Add.1. If their renewal is approved by the Board, the members would each serve a final term of three years, ending as follows:
 - Ms Lazzati on 8 June 2015;
 - Mr Antoun on 6 July 2015; and
 - Ms Mzondeki on 9 November 2015.
12. The Executive Director also recommends adoption of the timeframe presented in paragraphs 7 and 8 of this document.