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COUNCIL

Hundred and Forty-ninth Session

Rome, 16-20 June 2014

Dates for Submission of Nominations for the Office of Director-General

Executive Summary

This document provides information on the dates for submission of nomination for the Office of Director-General for the period 1 August 2015 to 31 July 2019.

Suggested action by the Council

The Council may wish to set 1 November 2014 to 31 January 2015 as the period during which nominations may be made for the office of Director-General, to be elected at the 39th Session of the Conference (6-13 June 2015).

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

Louis Gagnon

Secretary-General of the Conference and Council

Tel: +39 06570 53098

1. Rule XXXVII, paragraph 1(b) of the General Rules of the Organization (GRO) provides that, in consideration of the expiry of the term of office of the Director-General, the Council shall set dates for a period during which Member Nations may submit nominations for the office of Director-General. The nomination period shall have a duration of three months and end at least 30 days prior to the beginning of the session of the Council, scheduled to take place not less than 60 days before the session of the Conference at which the election will take place. The Secretary-General of the Conference and Council is required to circulate these nominations to all Members by the date likewise set by the Council. The Appendix to this document reproduces paragraph 1 of Rule XXXVII of the GRO.

2. The Council may wish to note that the provisional calendar of sessions of the Governing Bodies of FAO submitted to the current session of Council foresees that the 151st Session of the

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Council take place from 23 to 27 March 2015, and that the Thirty-ninth Session of the Conference be held from 6 to 13 June 2015.

3. Therefore, the Council may wish to set 1 November 2014 to 31 January 2015 as the period during which nominations may be made for the post of Director-General to be elected at the 39th Session of the Conference. The Secretary-General of the Conference and Council will communicate this nomination period to all Members immediately after the current session of the Council.

4. It is also proposed that the Secretary-General of the Conference and Council circulate the nominations received to Members by 6 February 2015.

5. The communications referred to in this document shall be made by circular letter and through the Permanent Representatives Website.

6. The Director-General will be elected for a term of four years at the 39th Session of the Conference (6-13 June 2015) and take office on 1 August 2015.

Appendix

Paragraph 1 of Rule XXXVII(GRO)*Appointment of the Director-General*

1. In pursuance of paragraph 1 of Article VII of the Constitution, the Director-General of the Organization shall be appointed under the following conditions:
 - a) When the term of office of the Director-General is due to expire, the appointment of a new Director-General shall be placed on the agenda of the regular session of the Conference immediately preceding the expiry of the term of office; whenever, for other reasons, the office of the Director-General is vacant, or notice is received of a pending vacancy, the appointment of a new Director-General shall be placed on the agenda of the next session of the Conference which opens not less than 120 days from the occurrence or notice of the pending vacancy.
 - b) In consideration of the expiry of the term of office of the Director-General, the Council shall set the dates for a period during which Member Nations may submit nominations for the office of Director-General. The nomination period shall have a duration of three months and end at least 30 days prior to the beginning of the session of the Council referred to in subparagraph (c) of this paragraph. The nomination period shall be communicated to all Member Nations and Associate Members by the Secretary-General of the Conference and Council. Nominations validly made in accordance with Rule XII, paragraph 5 of these Rules shall be communicated to the Secretary-General of the Conference and Council by the date set by the Council. The Secretary-General shall circulate these nominations to all Member Nations and Associate Members by the date likewise set by the Council, it being understood that in the case of an election taking place at a regular session of the Conference, such date set by the Council shall be not later than 30 days before the session of the Council provided for in subparagraph (c) of this paragraph.
 - c) Subject to such arrangements as the Council may make consistent with these Rules aimed at ensuring equality among candidates, candidates shall address the session of the Council which will be scheduled not less than 60 days before the session of the Conference and respond to such questions as may be put to them by Member Nations and Associate Members of the Organization. There shall be no debate and the Council shall not draw any conclusion or recommendation from any of the statements or interventions made.
 - d) As soon as possible after the opening of the Conference session, the General Committee shall determine and announce the date of the election, it being understood that the appointment of the Director-General at a regular session shall begin and be effected within three working days following the opening date of such session. Candidates shall address the Conference and respond to questions that Member Nations and Associate Members may put to them, subject to such arrangements as the Conference may make consistent with these Rules aimed at ensuring equality among candidates.
 - e) Travel expenses of each candidate, properly incurred in travelling, by the most direct route from his/her duty station to the site of the Council and Conference sessions referred to in subparagraphs (c) and (d) of this paragraph and return to his/her duty station, as well as subsistence allowance for up to five days per session, shall be borne by the Organization in accordance with its travel regulations.