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COUNCIL

Hundred and Seventy-sixth Session

Rome, 2 - 6 December 2024

Appointment of Representatives of the FAO Conference to the Staff Pension Committee

Executive summary

Article 4(a) of the Regulations of the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Fund (UNJSPF) provides that “the Fund shall be administered by the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Board, the Chief Executive of Pension Administration, a staff pension committee for each member organization, and a secretariat to each such committee.”

Under Article 6(c), the Staff Pension Committee of each member organization “shall consist of members and alternate members chosen by the body of the organization corresponding to the General Assembly, its chief administrative officer, and its participants in service, [...]”. The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and World Food Programme (WFP) Staff Pension Committee consists of: three members (with three alternates) appointed by the FAO Conference; three members (with three alternates) appointed by the Director-General; and three members (with three alternates) elected by the FAO and WFP participants in the UNJSPF.

In view of the time factor and the coordination requirements in connection with attendance at Staff Pension Committee meetings, which are organized in Rome, the Conference has usually appointed representatives of its Members who are resident in Rome.

Suggested action by the Council

The Council is invited to appoint one member to the FAO/WFP Staff Pension Committee: to replace and complete the term of Mr Denis Cherednichenko, former Alternate Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to FAO and other UN Agencies in Rome, as Member Representative of the FAO Conference to the Staff Pension Committee for the remainder of his term (1 January 2022 – 31 December 2024) and as Alternate Member for the next term (1 January 2025 - 31 December 2027).

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

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1. Article 4(a) of the Regulations of the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Fund (UNJSPF) provides that “the Fund shall be administered by the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Board, the Chief Executive of Pension Administration, a staff pension committee for each member organization, and a secretariat to each such committee”. Under Article 6(c), the Staff Pension Committee of each member organization “shall consist of members and alternate members chosen by the body of the organization corresponding to the General Assembly, its chief administrative officer, and its participants in service [...]”.

2. The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and World Food Programme (WFP) Staff Pension Committee (“the Committee”) plays an important role in the general effort to harmonize pension benefits and their administration with the requirements of organizations of the UN common system and of their staff, who may serve and retire in all countries of the world. The characteristics of the International Civil Service of the UN common system require particular care, as well as in-depth consideration of the pension-related issues that are brought to the attention of the UN General Assembly. The Committee’s responsibilities include:

- a) to review the Pension Fund Regulations and Administrative rules with respect to possible amendments thereto in order to formulate the position of the Committee’s delegation to the UN Joint Staff Pension Board, which in turn makes recommendations, as appropriate, to the UN General Assembly;
- b) to interpret and apply the Regulations and Administrative rules of the Pension Fund in cases of contestation by FAO and WFP participants of the UNJSPF of a decision by the Secretary of the Staff Pension Committee concerning participants’ entitlements and/or status; and
- c) to grant disability benefits in payment (approximately 25-30 cases per year), in accordance with the Regulations and Rules of the UNJSPF.

3. The Committee meets as the need arises (normally six to eight times a year for meetings lasting half a day). It appoints three members and three alternates (one member and one alternate from among the members designated by the FAO Conference, the Director-General and FAO/WFP participants respectively) to represent the Organization in the UN Joint Staff Pension Board, the higher administrative body of the Fund, reporting directly to the UN General Assembly. Regular sessions of the Board are held not less frequently than once every two years. However, since 2022, the Board has held meetings three times per year (two virtual sessions in February and April and one in-person session in July).

4. The FAO/WFP Staff Pension Committee consists of:

- a) three members (with three alternates) appointed by the Conference of FAO;
- b) three members (with three alternates) appointed by the Director-General; and
- c) three members (with three alternates) elected by the FAO and WFP participants.

5. The Conference-appointed members and alternates at present are:

Term of Office	Members	Alternates
1 January 2024 - 31 December 2026	H.E. Armando Alberto Benedetti Villaneda Permanent Representative of Colombia to the United Nations Agencies	Mr Abdul Rahman Abdul Wahab Alternate Permanent Representative Embassy of Malaysia
1 January 2023 - 31 December 2025	Mr Christopher Tatum Alternate Permanent Representative of the United States of America to FAO	Mr Salah Abdul Razag M. Alkhoder Alternate Permanent Representative of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to FAO
1 January 2022 - 31 December 2024	[Mr Denis Cherednichenko – vacated]	Ms Eleni Papasolomontos Deputy Permanent Representative of the Republic of Cyprus to FAO

6. In view of the time factor and coordination requirements in connection with attendance at Staff Pension Committee meetings, which are organized in Rome, the Conference has usually appointed representatives who are resident in Rome.

7. In view of the fact that the Conference holds biennial sessions and situations may arise where members or alternates appointed by the Conference may cease their functions, in November 1955 “the Conference authorized the Council to appoint replacements of its representatives on the Staff Pension Committee should any representative resign or be transferred [...]”. Accordingly, the Council has been asked, on several past occasions, to appoint replacements for representatives having resigned or been transferred for the remainder of the term of office.

8. The Council is invited to appoint one member to the FAO/WFP Staff Pension Committee. Nominations were received for:

- a) Mr Ivan Novikov, First Secretary, Permanent Mission of the Russian Federation to FAO and other UN Agencies in Rome
- b) Ms Stefania Costanza, First Counsellor, Permanent Representation of the Republic of Italy to FAO

to replace and complete the term of Mr Denis Cherednichenko, former Alternate Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to FAO and other UN Agencies in Rome, as Member Representative of the FAO Conference to the Staff Pension Committee for the remainder of his term (1 January 2022 – 31 December 2024) and as Alternate Member for the next term (1 January 2025 - 31 December 2027).