



CONFERENCE

Forty-fourth Session

Rome, 28 June – 4 July 2025

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) of the UNJSPF Regulations, 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 Staff Pension Committee of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the World Food Programme (WFP) 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 FAO and WFP participants.

Considering the timeframe of Staff Pension Committee meetings and in order to avoid undue travel costs in connection with attendance at these meetings, which are held in Rome, the Conference has appointed Representatives who are resident in Rome, Italy.

Suggested action by the Conference

The Conference is invited to appoint to the Staff Pension Committee:

- a) one Member to serve from 1 January 2026 to 31 December 2028;
- b) one Alternate Member to serve from 1 January 2026 to 31 December 2028;
- c) one Member to serve from 1 January 2027 to 31 December 2029; and
- d) one Alternate Member to serve from 1 January 2027 to 31 December 2029.

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

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I. Introduction

1. Article 4(a) of the Regulations of the United Nations (UN) Joint Staff Pension Fund 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”.
2. Under Article 6(c) of the Regulations, it is stipulated that 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 [...]”.
3. The Staff Pension Committee of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the World Food Programme (WFP) plays an important role in the general effort to harmonize UN pensions 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.
4. The responsibilities of the FAO/WFP Staff Pension Committee consist of:
 - a) reviewing the Pension Fund Regulations and Administrative Rules with respect to possible amendments thereto in order to formulate the position of the Committee before the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Board, which in turn makes recommendations as appropriate, to the United Nations General Assembly;
 - b) interpreting and applying the Regulations and Administrative Rules of the Pension Fund in cases of contestation by FAO and WFP participants of a decision by the Secretary of the Staff Pension Committee concerning participants’ entitlements and/or status;
 - c) granting disability benefits in payment (approximately 25-30 cases per year), in accordance with the Regulations and Rules of the UN Joint Staff Pension Fund.
5. The Committee 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).

II. Staff Pension Committee

6. The FAO/WFP Staff Pension Committee consists of:
 - i. three members (with three alternates) appointed by the FAO Conference;
 - ii. three members (with three alternates) appointed by the Director-General; and
 - iii. three members (with three alternates) elected by the FAO and WFP participants.
7. The Committee meets in Rome, Italy, as the need arises (normally six to eight times a year for meetings lasting half a day). Given that the meetings of the FAO/WFP Staff Pension Committee do not exceed half a day in length and with a view to curbing the costs of such meetings by avoiding, to the extent possible, the incurring of related travel costs, the Conference has appointed representatives who are resident in Rome.
8. The Conference-appointed members and alternates currently serving on the Committee are listed in the table below, together with an indication of their respective terms. The seat previously held by H.E. Armando Alberto Benedetti Villaneda, former Permanent Representative of the Republic of Colombia, remains vacant and should be filled with a nomination from the Latin America and the Caribbean group to complete the remainder of the term until 31 December 2026.

Term of Office	Members	Alternates
1 January 2023 – 31 December 2025	Mr Christopher Tatum Alternate Permanent Representative of the United States Mission to the UN Agencies	Mr Salah Abdul Razag M. Alkhoder Alternate Permanent Representative of Saudi Arabia to FAO
1 January 2024 – 31 December 2026	[H.E. Armando Alberto Benedetti Villaneda – vacated]	Mr Abdul Rahman Abdul Wahab Alternate Permanent Representative Embassy of Malaysia
1 January 2025 – 31 December 2027	Ms Maria Buttigieg Deputy Permanent Representative Embassy of the Republic of Malta	Ms Stefania Costanza Deputy Permanent Representative of the Republic of Italy to FAO

III. Considerations of Appointment

9. Since the terms of office of the Conference-appointed members and alternates will come to an end within the next two and a half years, the Conference is invited to consider the following appointments to the Staff Pension Committee:

- a) Ms Emma Hatcher, Deputy Permanent Representative of Australia to FAO, to serve as Member from 1 January 2026 to 31 December 2028;
- b) Mr Khare Sixtus Mofilikoane, Alternate Permanent Representative of the Kingdom of Lesotho to FAO to serve as Alternate Member from 1 January 2026 to 31 December 2028;
- c) Mr Ivan Novikov, Alternate Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to FAO and other UN Agencies in Rome, to serve as Member from 1 January 2027 to 31 December 2029;
- d) Mr Naieff SH J M Aldousari, Alternate Permanent Representative of the State of Kuwait to FAO, to serve as Alternate Member from 1 January 2027 to 31 December 2029.