

FOR ACTION

Election of Vice-Chair

Purpose

To elect a Vice-Chair for 2010.

Background

The Rules of Procedure of the Executive Board indicate that the Vice-Chair should be elected annually and hold office until a successor is elected. In 2007 Wangari Maathai was elected as Vice-Chair to the Executive Board. No further elections were held in 2008; therefore, Wangari Maathai has retained the Vice-Chair.

The rules governing the election of the Vice-Chairperson are set out in Rules 7 and 11 of the Rules of Procedure of the Executive Board attached at [Annex A](#) hereto. The Chair shall call for nominations for the post of Vice-Chairperson and these nominations should be seconded. The normal rule is that decisions are taken by consensus. The Chair may wish to hold informal discussions to see if there is consensus. If there is only one candidate for the Vice-Chairperson, then the person can be elected by consensus without voting. If there is no immediate consensus, then the Chair may wish to delay the election procedure pending informal discussions to obtain a consensus.

If there is more than one candidate and no consensus on a single person, then the Board should proceed to a secret ballot. There is no set procedure for secret ballots. At EB1 the Board followed the FAO procedures as set out in the Basic Texts of FAO ([Annex B](#)). If necessary, it is recommended the Board follow this same procedure this time. Note that the majority required is a two-thirds majority of those voting members casting an affirmative or negative vote.

Action

That Members nominate and elect a Vice-Chair for 2010.

Annex A	Relevant sections from Rules of Procedures of the Executive Board (2 pages)
Annex B	FAO Rules regarding elections to a single office - Rule XII.12 (GRO) (1 page)

Relevant sections from Rules of Procedure of the Executive Board

8. Chairperson of the Executive Board

8.01. Elections and term of office:

- (i) The Chairperson shall normally be elected for a three-year term from among the voting Members other than the Executive Secretary. The Board shall aim to accommodate this three-year term as Chairperson within the two terms of three years each as a Board member.
- (ii) The Board may re-elect the Chairperson for a second term of not more than an additional three years.
- (iii) The Board shall, where possible, identify and elect its future Chairperson at a meeting of the Board approximately one year in advance of the date that the person shall assume office as Chairperson of the Board.
- (iv) The Vice-Chairperson shall be elected annually by the Board.
- (v) The Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson shall hold office until their successors are elected.

8.02. Functions of the Chairperson:

- (i) The Chairperson shall perform the functions assigned to her or him by the Constitution, by these rules and by the Board.
- (ii) The Chairperson shall preside over all meetings of the Board and shall supervise all matters with which the Board is concerned. He or she shall provide leadership to the Board and ensure its proper performance.

8.03. Functions of the Vice-Chairperson of the Executive Board:

- (i) The Vice-Chairperson shall perform the functions assigned to her or him by these rules or by the Board, as well as those delegated to her or him by the Chairperson.
- (ii) The Vice-Chairperson shall preside at meetings of the Board in the event that the Chairperson cannot be present or is otherwise unable to act as Chairperson, and in such an event shall have the same powers and responsibilities as the Chairperson.

8.04. Acting Chairperson of the Executive Board:

If both the Chairperson and the Vice-Chairperson of the Board cannot be present at a meeting of the Board or are otherwise unable to act, the Board shall elect an Acting Chairperson, who shall preside over the meeting and shall exercise the same powers and responsibilities as the Chairperson at that meeting.

13. Voting

13.01. **Majority required:**

- (i) All decisions shall normally be reached by consensus. If all efforts to reach a consensus on a particular matter have been exhausted and no agreement has been reached, the Chairperson may either adjourn the debate on the matter or put the proposal to a vote.
- (ii) Where the Chairperson of the Board puts a proposal to a vote, the majority required shall be a two-thirds majority of those voting members casting an affirmative or negative vote. Members who abstain from voting are considered as not voting.

13.02. **Method of voting:**

- (i) Subject to paragraph (ii) of this Section, the Board shall normally vote by show of hands, but any member may request a roll call.
- (ii) Voting in the case of elections shall be by secret ballot.

13.03. **Conduct during voting.** The Chairperson shall announce the commencement of voting, after which no member shall be permitted to intervene until the result of the vote has been announced, except on a point of order in connection with the process of voting.

13.04. **Voting without meeting.** Whenever the Chairperson, after consultation with the Vice-Chairperson, considers that a decision on a particular question should not be postponed until the next regular meeting of the Board and does not warrant the calling of a special meeting, the Secretary to the Board shall transmit to each member, by any rapid means of communication, a motion embodying the proposed decision with a request for a vote. Votes shall be cast during such period as the Chairperson prescribes. At the expiration of the established period, or of any extended period the Chairperson may prescribe, the Secretary to the Board shall record the results and notify the members. The motion shall be considered adopted by the Board only if it receives the positive vote of all members of the Board entitled to vote.

FAO Rules regarding elections to a single office - Rule XII.12 (GRO)

- a. The appointment of the Chairman of the Council and of the Director-General, the admission of additional Member Nations and Associate Members shall be decided by secret ballot. Other elections shall likewise be decided by secret ballot, except that in the case of an election in which there are not more candidates than vacancies the Chairman may submit to the Conference or Council that the appointment be decided by clear general consent.
 - b. Any other matter shall be decided by secret ballot if the Conference or Council so determines.
 - c.
 - i. For the purpose of a secret ballot the Chairman of the Conference or Council shall appoint two tellers from among the delegates or representatives, or their alternates. In the case of a secret ballot for an election, the tellers shall be delegates or representatives, or their alternates, who are not parties directly interested in the election.
 - ii. The duties of the tellers shall be to supervise the balloting procedure, count the ballot papers, decide on the validity of a ballot paper in any case of doubt, and certify the result of each ballot.
 - iii. The same tellers may be appointed for successive ballots or elections.
 - d. Ballot papers shall be duly initialled by an authorized officer of the secretariat of the Conference or Council. The elections officer shall be responsible for ensuring compliance with this requirement. For each ballot only one blank ballot paper shall be given to each delegation entitled to vote.
 - e. For a vote by secret ballot, one or more voting booths shall be set up, supervised in such a manner as to ensure complete secrecy of the ballot.
 - f. Should any delegate invalidate his ballot paper, he may, before leaving the precinct of the polling booths, request a new blank ballot paper, which shall be delivered to him by the elections officer on the surrender of the invalidated ballot paper. The invalidated ballot paper shall remain in the custody of the elections officer.
 - g. Should the tellers withdraw from the presence of the delegates or representatives in order to carry out the count of the votes, only the candidates or scrutineers appointed by the candidates may attend the count, but they shall not take part in the count.
 - h. Members of delegations and of the secretariat of the Conference or Council who are responsible for the supervision of any vote by secret ballot shall not disclose to any unauthorized person any information which might tend, or be presumed to tend, towards destroying the secrecy of the ballot.
 - i. The Director-General shall be responsible for the safe custody of all ballot papers until the elected candidates take office or for three months after the date of the ballot, whichever is the longer period.
11. In any election for one elective place, other than that of the Director-General, if a candidate fails on the first ballot to obtain a majority of the votes cast, successive ballots shall be taken at such time or times as the Conference or Council shall decide, until a candidate obtains such a majority.