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## **Industrial Development Board**

### **Forty-eighth session**

Vienna, 23–25 November 2020

Item 18 of the provisional agenda

### **Preparations for the selection process for the post of the Director General**

## **Selection process for the post of Director General**

### **Note by the Secretariat**

This document contains information on the legislative procedures and timelines relating to the selection process for the post of Director General and recommends a draft decision convening a candidates' forum.

## **I. Introduction**

1. To ensure a smooth and timely process for the selection of the next Director General in accordance with the recommendations of the Joint Inspection Unit in its report on the “Selection and conditions of service of executive heads in the United Nations system organizations” (JIU/REP/2009/8), the present document provides background information on the legislative procedures of UNIDO governing the appointment of the Director General and on arrangements for holding a candidates' forum based on decisions IDB.40/Dec.10 and IDB.44/Dec.15.

## **II. Legislative procedures of UNIDO**

2. Article 11.2 of the Constitution stipulates that the Director General shall be appointed by the General Conference upon recommendation of the Board for a period of four years. Article 11.2 also provides that the Director General may be reappointed for a further term of four years, after which he or she shall not be eligible for reappointment.

3. At its seventeenth session on 27 November 2017, the General Conference reappointed Mr. LI Yong as Director General of UNIDO for a period of four years from 28 November 2017 or until the Director General to be appointed at the nineteenth regular session of the General Conference assumes office, whichever is later (decision GC.17/Dec.9). The nineteenth session of the General Conference will take place in Vienna from 29 November to 3 December 2021.

For reasons of economy, this document has not been printed. Delegates are kindly requested to bring their copies of documents to meetings.



4. Rule 61.2 of the rules of procedure of the Board provides that a candidate for the post of Director General shall be nominated in writing by his or her Government to the President of the Board. Rule 61.2 goes on to stipulate that, to be eligible for consideration, nominations of candidates must be received by the President of the Board at the latest two months prior to the opening date of the last regular session of the Board before the General Conference which is to appoint the Director General.
5. The forty-ninth session of the Board will be the last regular session of the Board before the nineteenth session of the General Conference. It should therefore consider nominations for the post of Director General and make a recommendation to the General Conference on the appointment of the next Director General.
6. The forty-ninth session of the Board is tentatively scheduled to take place from 12 to 15 July 2021. The Board will decide the exact dates of the forty-ninth session at its current session. If the forty-ninth session commences on 12 July 2021, the deadline for receipt of nominations by the President of the Board will be 12 May 2021.
7. In line with past practice, the Secretariat will circulate a note verbale on the subject to the Ministries of Foreign Affairs of Member States in December 2020. The note will explain the legislative procedures of UNIDO governing the appointment of the Director General and will invite interested Governments to inform the President of the Board of the names and curricula vitae of candidates they wish to nominate for the position. As provided for in rule 61.2 of the rules of procedure of the Board, the President will request the Secretariat to circulate such nominations to all Member States without delay.
8. A document containing the names and curricula vitae of all candidates nominated within the established deadline will be presented to the forty-ninth session of the Board for its consideration. Pursuant to rule 61.2, a candidature may be withdrawn at any stage by the candidate or by the nominating Government. However, a candidate may not be exchanged after the deadline by the nominating Government.
9. If balloting is required for the Board to recommend a candidate to the General Conference, secret ballots will be conducted in accordance with the procedures set out in rules 61.4 to 61.9 of the rules of procedure of the Board and appendix B to those rules. The Board's recommendation on the appointment of the Director General will be considered by the General Conference at its nineteenth session, in accordance with rule 103 of the latter's rules of procedure.

### **III. Procedures for the candidates' forum**

10. The first forum of candidates for the post of Director General of UNIDO was convened on 21 May 2013 (decision IDB.40/Dec.10). To minimize costs, the candidates' forum was scheduled back-to-back with the twenty-ninth session of the Programme and Budget Committee. The costs of each candidate's participation in the forum were borne by the nominating Member State.
11. At its forty-fourth session, the Board decided that a forum of candidates for the post of Director General would be held in those years in which a Director General was to be appointed, except that no candidates' forum would be held if the only candidate was a Director General who was nominated for reappointment in terms of Article 11.2 of the Constitution. The Board also decided that future candidates' forums will be conducted in accordance with the modalities reproduced in the annex to document IDB.44/17 (decision IDB.44/Dec.15).
12. For ease of reference, the modalities are reproduced in the annex to the present document.

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## IV. Action required of the Board

13. It is proposed that the Board convene a forum of candidates for the post of Director General on 25 May 2021, i.e. one day before the opening date of the thirty-seventh session of the Programme and Budget Committee (26 to 28 May 2021). In view of the ongoing pandemic, it would be advisable for the IDB to authorize virtual participation in the candidates' forum, if circumstances so require.

14. The Board may wish to consider adopting the following draft decision:

“The Industrial Development Board:

(a) Takes note of the information contained in document IDB.48/27;

(b) Decides to convene a candidates' forum on 25 May 2021, which will be conducted in accordance with the modalities reproduced in the annex to document IDB.48/27, subject to the proviso that candidates and representatives of Member States may participate virtually if circumstances so require.”

## Annex

### **Procedures for the candidates' forum for the selection of the Director General<sup>1</sup>**

(a) Each candidate, nominated by his/her Government in accordance with rule 61.2 of the rules of procedure of the Board, will make a presentation to a meeting open to all Member States. The observers (Holy See, Sovereign Order of Malta), accredited intergovernmental organizations that express interest as well as the Staff Council representatives (President and two Vice-Presidents) may also attend the forum;

(b) The meeting will be chaired by the President of the Board and scheduled after the deadline for receipt of candidatures and well in advance of the last regular session of the Board before the session of the Conference which is to appoint the Director-General. To minimize costs, it is proposed to schedule the candidates' forum back-to-back with the session of the Programme and Budget Committee;

(c) All candidates will be seated at the podium. Each will make a statement of up to 20 minutes. The candidates will speak from a lectern in the order, following the English alphabet, of the names of their nominating countries. The statements should include a presentation of the candidate's vision for the Organization and the strategic direction he/she would pursue in the event of appointment. Candidates who wish to do so may use PowerPoint;

(d) After all candidates have delivered their statements, the chair will invite Member States wishing to ask questions to write the name of the delegation on a piece of paper and drop it into a box for a draw. When the name of a Member State is drawn, that delegation will ask its question and each candidate will have a maximum of three minutes to respond to it;

(e) The order of responses by candidates will be in the reverse order of the presentations, starting with the last candidate who made his/her presentation;

(f) The chair should ensure that all regional groups are given an opportunity to ask questions. Thus, if several members of one group are drawn, the chair could suggest that another name be drawn from the box;

(g) At the end of the meeting, each candidate will be given three minutes to sum up. The order will continue to be that which applies to answers to questions;

(h) The chair, with the assistance of the Secretariat, will ensure that the allocated time, for the statements, answers and the summing up, is respected;

(i) Candidates may speak in any of the UNIDO languages. Full interpretation services will be provided;

(j) Copies of the presentations of candidates will be placed on the Permanent Missions Extranet.

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<sup>1</sup> As reproduced in the annex to document IDB.44/17