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## **Industrial Development Board**

### **Fifty-second session**

Vienna, 25–27 November 2024

Item 16 of the provisional agenda

### **Preparations for the selection process for the post of 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 on a candidates' forum, if required.

## **I. Introduction**

1. To ensure a smooth and timely selection process for the selection of the Director General in accordance with 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, in case one is required (decisions IDB.40/Dec.10, IDB.44/Dec.15 and IDB.48/Dec.12 refer).

## **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 Industrial Development 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 nineteenth session on 30 November 2021, the General Conference appointed Mr. Gerd Müller as Director General of UNIDO for a period of four years from 10 December 2021 or until the Director General to be appointed at the twenty-first regular session of the General Conference assumes office, whichever is later (decision GC.19/Dec.7). The twenty-first session of the General Conference will take place in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, from 23 to 27 November 2025 (decision GC.20/Dec.17).

For reasons of sustainability, this document has not been printed. Delegates are kindly requested to refer to electronic versions of all documents.



4. The procedures for the appointment of the Director General are set out in rule 61 of the rules of procedure of the Board. 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 session of the General Conference which is to appoint the Director General.
5. The fifty-third session of the Board is the last regular session of the Board before the twenty-first 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 or reappointment of the Director General, as the case may be.
6. The fifty-third session of the Board is tentatively scheduled from 30 June to 3 July 2025. The Board will decide on the exact dates at its current session. If the fifty-third session commences on 30 June 2025, the deadline for receipt of nominations will be 30 April 2025.
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 2024. 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 fifty-third 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 twenty-first session, in accordance with rule 103 of the latter's rules of procedure.

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

10. A first forum of candidates for the post of Director General of UNIDO was convened on 21 May 2013 and a second forum was convened on 25 May 2021 (decisions IDB.40/Dec.10 and IDB.48/Dec.12 refer). To minimize costs, the forums were scheduled back-to-back with the twenty-ninth and thirty-seventh sessions of the Programme and Budget Committee respectively. The costs of each candidate's participation in the forums 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 would 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.

#### IV. Action required of the Board

13. Should it be required, it is proposed that a forum of candidates for the post of Director General be convened on 12 May 2025, i.e. one day before the opening date of the forty-first session of the Programme and Budget Committee (13 to 15 May 2025).

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.52/27;

(b) In line with decision IDB.44/Dec.15, decides to hold a forum of candidates nominated for the post of Director General, should there be any nomination in addition to that of the current Director General;

(c) Also decides that this candidates’ forum will be conducted in accordance with the modalities reproduced in the annex to document IDB.52/27;

(d) Further decides to convene a candidates’ forum on 12 May 2025, if required pursuant to paragraph (b) above.”

## 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 annexes to documents [IDB.44/17](#) and [IDB.48/27](#).