

## Biographies of candidates for the Presidency of IFAD



**Bambang Brodjonegoro - Indonesia**

Bambang Brodjonegoro has extensive experience in financial management and international development. He is currently the Republic of Indonesia's Minister of National Development Planning where he leads the formulation of the country's development priorities and programmes. Prior to this, he served as Minister of Finance and he is credited with reducing Indonesia's deficit and reallocating funds to infrastructure development and social spending. He has been recognised by the President of Indonesia for his significant contributions to the nation. He has also held various international positions, including Chairman of the World Bank / IMF Development Committee and Chairman of the Board of Governors of the Islamic Development Bank. He has held numerous academic positions, including Dean of the Faculty of Economics at the University of Indonesia. He holds a Ph.D in Urban and Regional Planning from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, USA. He is very familiar with IFAD, serving as IFAD's Governor for Indonesia (2011-2014) and helping to establish IFAD's regional office in Jakarta.

His vision for IFAD is to prioritise achieving the Sustainable Development Goal of ending hunger and ensuring food security with a focus on creating sustainable agricultural systems by harnessing technology and cooperating with a diverse range of partners. He plans to promote efficient energy sources and the development of sustainable water infrastructure. Acknowledging the risky business of agriculture, he proposes a wide-spread introduction of risk management schemes for farmers.



**Maria Eugenia Casar - Mexico**

Maria Eugenia (Gina) Casar has extensive high-level experience in finance, administration and international development. Most recently, she served as the Executive Director of the Mexican Agency for International Cooperation and Development (AMEXCID) where she coordinated food and agriculture programmes across the continent. Previously, she was the Under Secretary General and Associate Administrator at the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) where she oversaw the organization's resource management and ensured its institutional effectiveness. Prior to that, she held the position of Assistant Secretary General, Controller, managing the strategic- and results-based planning and budgeting of the UN Secretariat in New York. Previous positions include Chief Financial Officer at the World Food Programme (WFP) and National Treasurer of Mexico. She holds a Master of Business Administration from the Instituto Tecnológico Autónomo de México.

She recognises that IFAD is in a unique position to help achieve the Sustainable Development Goals to end rural poverty and hunger. She sees IFAD playing a critical role in fostering and promoting innovation in smallholder agriculture and facilitating partnerships that make poverty and hunger alleviation sustainable. She envisages an organization which is better, faster, more efficient and effective so that there is a greater impact on the people IFAD aims to reach. She plans to pursue innovative financing models that could encourage the entry of more private capital in rural development.



**Paolo De Castro - Italy**

Paolo De Castro has vast experience in scientific, academic, managerial and political arenas with an in-depth understanding of food systems and agricultural development. He is currently Professor of Agricultural Economics and Policy at the University of Bologna. Prior to this, he served three times as Italy's Minister of Agriculture. Before this he was special advisor to the president of the European Commission. De Castro has been

a member of the European Parliament since 2009, chairing the Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development for five years. He is the author of over 150 scientific publications on topics ranging from food security to the role of international trade in developing modern society. His experience in academia has enabled him to apply analytical theory to policy design and implementation. He studied Agriculture and Food Sciences at the University of Bologna and specialised in food systems economics at the University of Washington State in Pullman, USA.

He envisages IFAD playing a vital role in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. He will prioritise eradicating extreme poverty and achieving sustainable development through increasing the productivity and resilience of smallholder farmers, especially in the context of a changing climate. He plans to strengthen IFAD's partnerships and cooperation with government, farmers' organisations, the private sector and development partners - particularly the other United Nations agencies based in Rome. He intends to use human and financial resources efficiently and optimally to ensure the success of IFAD's work.



**Ismahane Elouafi- Morocco**

Ismahane Elouafi has extensive experience in science, management and research. She is currently Director General of the International Centre for Biosaline Agriculture – an international research centre which promotes innovative ways to develop agriculture in saline and marginal areas. In this role she has overseen the renewal and diversification of the Centre's core funding and has streamlined policies and procedures to enhance

efficiency and reduce costs. Prior to this, she was the Director of Research Management and Partnerships Division at the Canadian Food Inspection Agency. She has been ranked amongst the 20 most influential women in science in the Islamic World (CEO Middle East Magazine 2014, 2015, 2016), has been awarded the National Reward Medal by His Majesty Mohamed VI, King of Morocco (2014) and the Excellence in Science award by the Global Thinkers Forum (2014). She holds a number of advisory positions, including on the Board of Trustees of the International Food Policy Research Institute. She holds a Ph.D in Genetics from Cordoba University, Spain.

Elouafi says that tackling rural poverty and inequality will lead to a peaceful and prosperous future, and she promotes the integration of science and policy to achieve this. She envisages IFAD as a catalyst which will create vibrant rural areas where young people will find opportunities to prosper. She sees an opportunity for IFAD to operate as a science-based organization, applying robust data analysis and new technologies to foster a culture of excellence.



#### **Gilbert Fossoun Hounbo- Togo**

Formerly the Prime Minister of the Republic of Togo (2008-2012), Gilbert Fossoun Hounbo has more than 30 years of varied experience in political affairs, international development, diplomacy and financial management. He has served as Deputy Director General of the International Labour Organization (ILO) since 2013, where he has been responsible for external programmes and partnerships. Prior to that he

was Assistant Secretary General, Africa Regional Director and Chief of Staff at the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). A Chartered Professional Accountant (CPA), he has extensive experience in financial management. His candidacy was unanimously endorsed by the governments of the African Union.

As someone who was born and raised in a rural family, Hounbo believes that the inequality in today's world should never be accepted, and that IFAD has a crucial role to play in bringing opportunities to the poor and excluded. His vision is for IFAD to harness and maximise new technologies and to become an incubator for innovations that will enhance the productivity of smallholder farmers. On a policy-level, he plans to focus on work that reduces barriers to free movement of goods so that farmers can access local, regional and international markets. To address youth employment and migration challenges, he will focus special attention on rural youth, based on a life cycle approach: ensuring nutrition-rich food for babies, improved education for school-age children and the provision of skills and economic opportunities for youth entering the labour market.



#### **Raşit Pertev - Turkey**

Raşit Pertev has more than 30 years' experience in agricultural and rural development. Since 2013 he has served as Secretary of IFAD where he was responsible for the decision-making mechanisms of the organisation. Prior to this he held government and diplomatic posts including Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Energy in North Cyprus and Chief Negotiator for the UN Peace Talks in Cyprus. He has extensive operational experience, including at the World Bank where he was a

Senior Agriculture Economist based in Kampala, Uganda. He also served as Assistant Secretary General of the International Federation of Agricultural Producers where he led the process of strengthening farmers' organisations worldwide and pioneered linkages between African farmers' organisations and agricultural research. Pertev is a graduate from the University of Cambridge with a Master of Science in Development Economics from the University of London. His candidacy was endorsed by the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC).

His vision for IFAD is to develop a global roadmap to end extreme poverty and hunger, coordinating and collaborating with governments and other development organisations to achieve the associated Sustainable Development Goals. He envisages a more transparent, effective and open organisation which is a leader in innovation. He sees IFAD as an ideas hub, promoting cutting-edge development and fostering new initiatives and best practices. With first-hand experience of growing up with war and living as a refugee, Pertev plans to make additional resources available to countries in fragile situations.



#### **Josefina Stubbs – Dominican Republic**

Josefina Stubbs has more than 35 years of experience in international development. She has held leadership positions at Oxfam International, where she was Regional Director and Program Specialist; the World Bank, where she was Sector Leader for Rural, Environment and Social Development; and at IFAD where she was Director of the Latin America and Caribbean Division and later the Associate-Vice President, Knowledge and Strategy Department. In this role she led the design of a

new impact measuring framework for improved aid effectiveness and helped position smallholder farmers as central to the Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development. She holds an M.S. in Political Science and International Development from the Institute of Social Studies in Den Haag, the Netherlands.

Her vision for IFAD is to increase investments to expand the asset base of smallholder farmers. She sees partnerships as the key to transforming rural areas and she would like to see IFAD grow its partnerships with national credit institutions and private sector banks to facilitate access to credit for farmers' organisations. She also plans to increase farmers' access to national and international markets by exploiting mobile phone technology to deliver information and services. She envisages IFAD as a knowledge-based institution where investments have a demonstrable impact on the lives of the rural poor.



#### **Pio Wennubst - Switzerland**

Pio Wennubst is an agro-economist with vast experience in rural development and food security across the world. He has served as the Vice-Director General of the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) since 2014. Prior to that he was the Head of Development and Humanitarian Affairs in the Swiss Representation to the United Nations in New York. He has held a number of other posts at the SDC, including Head of Global Programme Food Security and

Country Director of Tanzania and Madagascar. He is very familiar with IFAD's work, having served as Deputy Permanent Representative of the Swiss Mission to the UN's Rome-based agencies as well as Executive Board member and Governor at IFAD.

Wennubst sees IFAD playing a pivotal role in building a world where rural women and men are free of poverty and hunger. To do this, he plans to create a greater presence for the organisation in rural areas of developing countries to respond more efficiently to their needs; encourage rural innovations and tailor technological advances to different contexts; advocate for gender equality and women's empowerment; focus on access to land, water and energy; and ensure IFAD has financial stability. Moreover, in a world of wars, migration and political instability, he sees IFAD playing a stronger role in fragile contexts, helping to transform migration into a process that contributes positively to food security and nutrition for both migrants and host countries.