



World Food Programme  
Programme Alimentaire Mondial  
Programa Mundial de Alimentos  
برنامج الأغذية العالمي

**Executive Board**  
First regular session  
Rome, 25–27 February 2019

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Distribution: General

Agenda item 10

Date: 12 February 2019

WFP/EB.1/2019/10-A

Original: English

Administrative and managerial matters

For approval

Executive Board documents are available on WFP's website (<https://executiveboard.wfp.org>).

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## Appointment of one member to the Audit Committee

### Draft decision\*

The Board approves the appointment of one Audit Committee member as follows:

- Mr Robert Samels (Canada), from 1 March 2019 to 28 February 2022.

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\* This is a draft decision. For the final decision adopted by the Board, please refer to the decisions and recommendations document issued at the end of the session.

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### Focal points:

See selection panel membership in paragraph 2

Ms H. Spanos  
Secretary to the Executive Board  
Executive Board Secretariat Division  
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1. Under the Audit Committee terms of reference,<sup>1</sup> the Board approves the appointment of Committee members on the recommendation of a selection panel consisting of five representatives, one from each of the electoral lists of the Executive Board, appointed by the Board.
2. The composition of the selection panel was approved by the Board at its 2018 second regular session to include:
  - Her Excellency Lineo Irene Molise-Mabusela, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Lesotho, as representative of List A;
  - Mr Yousef Juhail, Counsellor and Permanent Representative of Kuwait, as representative of List B;
  - Ms Mónica Fonseca Jaramillo, Minister Counsellor and Deputy Permanent Representative of Colombia, as representative of List C;
  - Ms Elizabeth Petrovski, Alternate Permanent Representative of the United States of America, as representative of List D; and
  - Mr Evgeny Vakulenko, First Secretary and Alternate Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation, as representative of List E.
3. Following the resignation of one Audit Committee member – Mr Pedro Guazo (Mexico) – effective 9 September 2018, on the recommendation of the Chairperson of the Audit Committee and the Bureau the selection panel held consultations to assess whether the next best ranked candidate who was considered during the last selection process in 2017 was available and willing to take up the duties of the vacant position.
4. After careful consideration and a detailed review of the qualifications and experience of the candidate by the selection panel, as well as a thorough assessment by the Chairperson of the Audit Committee, the selection panel concurred to recommend to the Board the appointment of Mr Robert Samels (Canada) as a member of the Audit Committee with a renewable term of three years from 1 March 2019 to 28 February 2022.
5. The curriculum vitae of the candidate is set out in the annex.

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<sup>1</sup> See: [WFP/EB.2/2018/10/1](#).

**ANNEX****CURRICULUM VITAE****Robert Samels, CPA, CA****Professional summary**

Expertise in presenting audit committee issues to the Executive Board and Member States of a United Nations Specialized Agency. Accomplished professional with proficiency in financial reporting, governance, risk management, ethics and internal controls. Complete understanding of the role of internal and external auditors as an associate partner with PricewaterhouseCoopers and as the Director of Internal Audit for a publicly traded company. Experience in cyber security and information technology as Vice President and Chief Information Officer.

**Skills**

- Operations and finance expert
- Operations management
- Financial management
- Non-profit management
- Contract negotiations
- Strategic objective execution
- Public speaking
- Research and analysis

**Work history****Chair, Independent Expert Oversight Advisory Committee, 04/2014 to 2018**

World Health Organization – Geneva, Switzerland

- Reviewed annual financial statements and significant financial reporting policy issues.
- Advised on the adequacy of the internal controls and risk management systems.
- Reviewed the effectiveness of the internal audit, evaluations and investigation work.
- Monitored the timely, effective and appropriate implementation of all audit findings and recommendations.
- Presented interim and annual report to the Governing Body of Member States.

**Vice President Business Planning & Engineering, 06/2010 to 03/2012**

FortisBC – Vancouver, Canada

- Negotiated complex construction contracts and managed major projects for a natural gas pipeline and distribution utility with over 1 million customers and \$1 billion in revenue.
- Led a team to negotiate and construct a \$220 million liquefied natural gas storage facility.
- Director of a joint venture company that provided outsourced call centre services and customer billing.
- Managed the activities, including human resources, for a staff of 200.

**Vice President Business Services and Chief Information Officer, 09/2001 to 06/2010**

FortisBC – Vancouver, Canada

- Provided the foundation for productivity, collaboration and business process support including network and architecture for 2000 employees.
- Enabled faster and better decision making leveraging business intelligence technologies, advanced analytics and digital dashboards.
- Developed secure, resilient, cost effective platforms to support enterprise-wide business processes including the successful implementation of SAP Customer Relationship Management software.
- Provided resilient information services including prevention, risk management and disaster recovery.

**General Manager, Pipeline Operations, 11/1997 to 09/2001**

FortisBC – Vancouver, Canada

- Managed, operated and maintained over 800 kilometers of high-pressure natural gas pipelines and compressor stations in urban and rural environments.
- Led a team to negotiate and construct a \$420 million high-pressure natural gas pipeline.
- Developed a pipeline integrity program, which identified and managed operational risk management issues.

**Director of Taxation and Risk Management, 05/1995 to 11/1997**

FortisBC – Vancouver, Canada

- Implemented the overall corporate tax strategy.
- Developed the corporate insurance program including a risk identification/mitigation process.

**Controller & Treasurer (Chief Financial Officer), 03/1993 to 05/1995**

Trans Mountain Pipeline (oil pipeline subsidiary of FortisBC) – Vancouver, Canada

- Responsible to the CEO and Board of Directors on all financial matters.
- Managed relationships with public bond rating agencies and investor analysts.
- Operated short and long term borrowing facilities.
- Prepared financial statements for a consolidated group of companies.

**Director of Internal Audit, 09/1991 to 03/1993**

FortisBC – Vancouver, Canada

- Prepared and executed the internal audit plan.
- Reviewed and provided recommendations on the appropriate accounting policies.
- Advised the Audit Committee on the effectiveness of the internal control structure.

**Principal (Associate Partner), 09/1978 to 09/1991**

PricewaterhouseCoopers – Stockholm, Sweden and Vancouver, Canada

- Completed financial and operational audits of various public companies.
- Provided assurance to Audit Committees and Board of Directors on financial reporting issues.
- Completed multinational audits in Sweden, Norway, Finland and Germany.

**Education/certifications****Corporate Director: Governance, 2011**

Institute of Corporate Directors – Vancouver, Canada

**CPA, Chartered Accountant: Auditing and Accounting, 1981**

Institute of Chartered Professional Accountants – Winnipeg, Canada

**Bachelor of Commerce (Honours): Accounting, 1978**

University of Manitoba – Winnipeg, Canada

**Bachelor of Arts: Economics, 1975**

University of Manitoba – Winnipeg, Canada