


# US puts forward Luke Lindberg to helm World Food Program


04/08/26 12:08 PM

By [Oliver Ward \(/authors/684-oliver-ward\)](#)


 (<http://www.facebook.com/sharer/sharer.php?u=https://www.agri-pulse.com/articles/24495-us-puts-forward-luke-lindberg-to-helm-world-food-program>)

 (<https://twitter.com/intent/tweet?url=https://www.agri-pulse.com/articles/24495-us-puts-forward-luke-lindberg-to-helm-world-food-program&text=US%20puts%20forward%20Luke%20Lindberg%20to%20helm%20World%20Food%20Program>)

 (<https://www.reddit.com/submit?url=https://www.agri-pulse.com/articles/24495-us-puts-forward-luke-lindberg-to-helm-world-food-program>)

 (<https://www.linkedin.com/sharing/share-offsite/?url=https://www.agri-pulse.com/articles/24495-us-puts-forward-luke-lindberg-to-helm-world-food-program>)



 (</articles/print/24495-us-puts-forward-luke-lindberg-to-helm-world-food-program>)



USDA Undersecretary for Trade and Foreign Agricultural Affairs Luke Lindberg arrives at a hearing before the House Agriculture Appropriations Subcommittee. (Agri-Pulse photo)

The Trump administration announced Wednesday it is nominating Undersecretary of Agriculture for Trade and Foreign Agricultural Affairs Luke Lindberg as its candidate to lead the United Nations World Food Program.

In February, Cindy McCain, the widow of late Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz, said she would step down from the executive director post.

*Agri-Pulse*

previously reported

<https://www.agri-pulse.com/articles/24301-lindberg-leading-contender-to-run-un-world-food-program-sources-say>

that Lindberg was the leading contender to fill the position.

The U.S. is the largest WFP donor and has traditionally nominated the executive director to their five-year term. However, the position is formally appointed by UN secretary-general and the director-general of the UN Food and Agriculture Organization following an interview panel.

China's Qu Dongyu is the current FAO director-general. But an administration official granted anonymity to speak candidly about the process said they doubt Lindberg's candidacy would encounter any issues.

The official said they anticipated the appointment process to take several months.

"I'm honored to be nominated by President Trump as America's candidate to lead the United Nations World Food Programme," Lindberg said

in a text to

*Agri-Pulse*

via a spokesperson. "The strength, generosity and leadership of the American people have always played a critical role in supporting WFP's mandate and I look forward to continuing that legacy. The United States doesn't just participate in feeding the world -- we lead it."

Lindberg has been at the forefront of the administration's food aid efforts. He oversaw the McGovern-Dole Food for Education program and the Food for Progress programs, according to a State Department readout.

He was also heavily involved in [USDA's takeover of foreign food aid \(https://www.agripulse.com/articles/24104-usda-eyes-200000-tons-in-food-for-peace-purchases-by-march\)](https://www.agripulse.com/articles/24104-usda-eyes-200000-tons-in-food-for-peace-purchases-by-march) via the Food for Peace program, working with WFP to begin distributing more than 200,000 tons of U.S. food assistance, and was part of efforts to gather feedback (<https://www.agripulse.com/articles/24008-trump-administration-bringing-food-for-peace-under-usda-control>) on how the administration could reform the program.

The move also puts a Trump ally at the heart of global food aid. Prior to entering the Trump administration, Lindberg worked at the America First Policy Institute, the think tank Agriculture Secretary Brooke Rollins founded with Larry Kudlow, Trump's National Economic Council director from his first term.

Christopher Barrett, a development and food economist at Cornell, told

*Agri-Pulse*

## Related Articles

[Lindberg leading contender to run UN World Food Program, sources say \(/articles/24301-lindberg-leading-contender-to-run-un-world-food-program-sources-say\)](/articles/24301-lindberg-leading-contender-to-run-un-world-food-program-sources-say)

[Lindberg: US expects China to meet all of its soybean commitments \(/articles/23999-lindberg-us-expects-china-to-meet-all-of-its-soybean-commitments\)](/articles/23999-lindberg-us-expects-china-to-meet-all-of-its-soybean-commitments)

by email that Lindberg "has a good reputation within USDA" and could excel in the position.

"He has allies in the Congress as well that may be a useful counterweight to the White House, when needed," Barrett said. Barrett also pointed out that Trump's last WFP pick, David Beasley was in charge of the body when it won the Nobel Peace Prize and "oversaw major growth and professionalization in WFP."

In its statement on Lindberg's candidacy, the State Department also thanked McCain. She has cited health concerns for her departure following a stroke in October.

"As she prepares to step down, the United States thanks current WFP Executive Director Cindy McCain for her years of service and dedication," the State Department said. "Our support for Luke J. Lindberg's candidacy demonstrates the U.S. commitment to keeping the WFP focused on its core mission: feeding those in need."

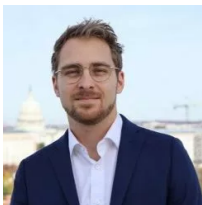
For more news, go to

[Agri-Pulse.com](http://agri-pulse.com/)

(<http://agri-pulse.com/>)

.

KEYWORDS [CINDY MCCAIN \(/KEYWORDS/17100-CINDY-MCCAIN\)](/KEYWORDS/17100-CINDY-MCCAIN) [LUKE LINDBERG \(/KEYWORDS/32022-LUKE-LINDBERG\)](/KEYWORDS/32022-LUKE-LINDBERG)  
[WORLD FOOD PROGRAM \(/KEYWORDS/1042-WORLD-FOOD-PROGRAM\)](/KEYWORDS/1042-WORLD-FOOD-PROGRAM)



[Oliver Ward](mailto:oliver@agri-pulse.com)

(<mailto:oliver@agri-pulse.com>)

Trade Editor

[See Comments](#)

```
//<![CDATA[ var disqus_config = function() { this.page.remote_auth_s3 =  
"eyJpZCI6NzYwMDQsInVzZXJuYW1lIjoiT2xpdmVylFdhcmQiLCJlbWFpbiCI6Im9saXZlckBhZ3Jp  
LXB1bHNlLmNvbSJ9 71129b61d924b425f4d9dd17dod8eade497a7c54 1775672095";  
this.page.api_key =  
"C3zOM2z4yzhiQqS9qs1dNSbhZkjzKCSopsddVROKWKaATBv7QuTDjdAvZC7q6rIW"; this.sso  
= { name: "Agri-Pulse Communications, Inc.", button: "https://www.agri-  
pulse.com/ext/resources/Logos-and-ads/2016Agri-Pulselogo-shrunk.png", icon:
```

```
"https://www.agri-pulse.com/favicon.ico", url: "https://www.agri-pulse.com/user/login?
popup=true", logout: "https://www.agri-pulse.com/user/logout?
referer=%2Farticles%2F24495-us-puts-forward-luke-lindberg-to-helm-world-food-program",
width: "800", height: "400" }; $(document).ready(function() {
$.get("/comments/disqus_sso_authentication", function(data) { DISQUS.reset({ reload: true,
config: function() { this.page.remote_auth_s3 = data.remote_auth_s3; }); }); }); //]]>
```

0 Comments

Login ▼

G

Start the discussion...

LOG IN WITH



OR SIGN UP WITH DISQUS ?

Name

Email

Password

This comment platform is hosted by Disqus, Inc. I authorize Disqus and its affiliates to:

- Use, sell, and share my information to enable me to use its comment services and for marketing purposes, including cross-context behavioral advertising, as described in our [Terms of Service](#) and [Privacy Policy](#), including supplementing that information with other data about me, such as my browsing and location data.
- Contact me or enable others to contact me by email with offers for goods or services
- Process any sensitive personal information that I submit in a comment. See our [Privacy Policy](#) for more information

Acknowledge I am 18 or older

I'd rather post as a guest



Share

Best

Newest

Oldest

Be the first to comment.

```
var disqus_developer = 0; var disqus_shortcode = "agri-pulse"; var disqus_identifier = "article-
24495"; var disqus_url = "https://www.agri-pulse.com/articles/24495-us-puts-forward-luke-
lindberg-to-helm-world-food-program"; var disqus_title = "US puts forward Luke Lindberg to
helm World Food Program"; /* ** DON'T EDIT BELOW THIS LINE ** */ (function() { var dsq =
document.createElement('script'); dsq.type = 'text/javascript'; dsq.async = true; dsq.src = '//'
```

```
disqus_shortcode + '.disqus.com/embed.js'; (document.getElementsByTagName('head')[0] ||
document.getElementsByTagName('body')[0]).appendChild(dsq);})();
// 03.11.19 DISQUS is overwriting the $ variable with this script, breaking lots of frontend fea-
tures // for everyone that uses comment counts. Hopefully in the future we can re-enable this
feature. // https://disqus.com/home/discussion/channel-
discussdisqus/bug_reports_feedback_websites_jquery_overwritten_by_disqus_own_jquery_2
24/ // var disqus_shortcode = "agri-pulse"; // (function () { // var s =
document.createElement('script'); s.async = true; // s.type = 'text/javascript'; // s.src = '/' +
disqus_shortcode + '.disqus.com/count.js'; // (document.getElementsByTagName('HEAD')[0]
|| document.getElementsByTagName('BODY')[0]).appendChild(s); // }());
```

---

## **TOP STORIES**

---

---

## **OPINIONS**

[READ MORE](#)

---

## **DRIVETIME**

[VISIT ARCHIVE](#)

---

## **NEWSMAKERS**

[VISIT ARCHIVE](#)