

# Contenders for IMF top job

Three leading figures from the world of finance have declared their availability to head the International Monetary Fund, a post traditionally held by a European, following the resignation of Dominique Strauss-Kahn

**Agustin Guillermo Carstens** (Mexico)

**Christine Lagarde** (France)

**Stanley Fischer** (Israel/U.S. citizenship)



■ Born Jun 9, 1958, in Mexico City

■ **Education:** Masters, PhD in economics from **University of Chicago**

■ **Career:** Deputy Managing Director of IMF (2003-06), Mexico's Secretary of Finance (2006-09), Governor of **Bank of Mexico** (2009-)

✚ In-depth understanding of developing economies. Earned Mexico extra \$8 billion in oil earnings for 2009 by hedging against price fall

▬ Viewed as free-market ideologue. Lacks backing of regional power, Brazil

■ Born Jan 1, 1956, in Paris, France

■ Graduated in law, MSc in Political Science from Aix-en-Provence

■ Chair of international law firm **Baker & McKenzie** (1999-2004), France's Trade Minister (2005-07), Minister of Finance (2007-)

✚ European backing to handle EU financial crisis. Financial Times voted her Europe's **Best Finance Minister** in 2009

▬ Lacks economic background. Faces possible "abuse of position" inquiry at home

■ Born Oct 15, 1943, in what is now Zambia

■ BSc and Masters in economics at **LSE**, PhD from **MIT**

■ **World Bank** chief economist (1988-90), IMF Deputy Managing Director (1994-2001), Vice Chair of **Citigroup** (2002-05), Governor of **Bank of Israel** (2005-)

✚ Vast experience enabled Israel to weather global financial crisis

▬ Associated with harsh IMF policies during Asian financial crisis of 1990s. Aged over 65 – current limit for IMF chief