



## **INFORMAL JOINT MEETING OF THE RBA PRINCIPALS WITH THE MEMBERS OF THE FAO COUNCIL, IFAD EXECUTIVE BOARD AND WFP EXECUTIVE BOARD**

**14 September 2018**

1. **Background.** Within the context of the UN reform to promote a more effective and efficient UN system, the ongoing collaboration between the Rome Based Agencies (RBAs) – FAO, IFAD and WFP – is of particular significance in achieving the objectives of Agenda 2030 and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). This is because, *inter alia*, the RBAs complementary mandates and specializations in the areas of food and agriculture are at the core of achieving the SDGs, in particular SDGs 1 and 2.
2. **Objectives.** Against this backdrop, the Principals of the three RBAs agreed to organize a joint informal meeting of the Executive Boards of IFAD and WFP and the FAO Council. The broad aim of such a meeting was to exchange insights on RBA collaboration and discuss issues of common concern to the three organizations.
3. **Past meetings.** The first such meeting took place at FAO headquarters, hosted by FAO, in September 2017. Being hosted by FAO, it was chaired by the Independent Chairperson of the FAO Council. The informal meeting lasted half a day and was appreciated by Member States and the Management of the RBAs. It was agreed that further similar informal meetings would be held on an annual basis.
4. It was also agreed that such events should be hosted on a rotational basis by the RBAs, and chaired by the Chair/President of the respective Executive Boards/Council.
5. **Host, chair, date and venue of the 2018 meeting.** IFAD will host the next joint informal meeting on 14 September 2018. Building on Members' feedback from the first informal meeting, the second meeting will allocate ample time for interactions between Board and Council members and the Management of the three organizations. To ensure all Member States can be adequately represented and given capacity constraints at IFAD headquarters, the informal meeting will be held in the FAO Plenary Hall.
6. In his capacity as the Chair of the IFAD Executive Board, the President of IFAD will chair the overall meeting, while specific segments will be chaired by the Independent Chair of the FAO Council and the President of the WFP Executive Board.

7. **Structure and topics for the next meeting.** The proposed agenda aims to provide a space for constructive interaction with the audience in an informal manner. As such, a draft agenda is attached hereto, reflecting the following structure:

- a. **Welcoming and opening statements:** The Chair (i.e., the Chairperson of the IFAD Executive Board and President of IFAD) will open the meeting and welcome participants.
- b. The opening of the session will be followed by two sequential interventions. These are: (i) a summary of the recent RBA Principals' visit to Niger by the WFP Executive Director - This item will also include a brief presentation/summary of the findings of the visit to Niger highlighting lessons learned, success stories, challenges and opportunities for future RBA collaboration in the country, with the aim of strengthening cooperation and alignment to the emerging priorities of the Government of Niger; and (ii) the proposed **RBA regional approach in the Sahel**, introduced by the FAO Director General. The Sahel has long been vulnerable to extreme poverty, recurrent food crises, and repeated climatic shocks, including droughts and floods, leading to the disruption of the livelihoods of the most vulnerable. At a time of strong demographic growth, these hazards remain key drivers of youth unemployment, forced migration, political instability and growing humanitarian needs. If these challenges remain unaddressed, and innovative solutions are not identified, developed and introduced, the prospects for the region will continue deteriorating. The RBAs recognize the importance of advancing collective approaches in the region, ensuring coordinated, common and complementary approaches. The discussion would outline the RBAs proposed regional approach in the Sahel, with the aim of promoting an integrated response to both humanitarian and development needs.

Following the two introductions, the floor will then be open to participants for a Q&A session. This Q&A will be moderated by the Independent Chairperson of the FAO Council.

- c. After lunch break, IFAD will intervene on "The UN system coherence: the case of the Rome-Based Agencies". Anchored within the overall UN reform process and the related General Assembly resolution, the aim of the intervention is to stimulate a dialogue with the Governing Bodies on the mutually reinforcing role and synergies the RBAs may leverage in strengthening multilateralism and better coherence within the UN system, as well as in serving as a model for cooperation at different levels to deliver on the objectives of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs.



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- d. The floor will then be open to participants for a Q&A session. This Q&A session will be moderated by the President of the WFP Executive Board.
  - e. **Closing of the informal meeting.** Mr Gilbert F. Houngbo, Chair of the IFAD Executive Board, will deliver closing remarks.
8. **Participation.** The audience will be composed of Member States along with selected staff from all three the Rome-based agencies.
  9. **Outcome.** The outcome of the joint informal meeting will not be formalized through a report, as the joint meeting is not a decision-making platform/body.



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## **Informal Joint Meeting of the FAO Council, IFAD Executive Board and WFP Executive Board**

14 September 2018  
9:30-16:00

FAO headquarters, Plenary Hall

### **Provisional agenda**

Time	Item
9:00 – 9:30	Welcome coffee (Tree of Life, Atrium)
9:30 – 9:35	Opening and welcome by Gilbert F. Hounbo, Chairperson of the IFAD Executive Board and President of IFAD
9:35 – 9:50	Video – Niger visit
9:50 – 10:05	Joint visit of the Rome-based agencies' (RBA) Principals to Niger, introduced by David Beasley, Executive Director of WFP
10:05 – 10:20	Regional approach of the RBAs in the Sahel, introduced by José Graziano da Silva, Director-General of FAO
10:20 – 10:30	Statement by Permanent Representatives who accompanied the RBA Principals to Niger
10:30 – 12:30	Q&A session with Member States, chaired by Khalid Mehboob, Independent Chairman of the FAO Council
12:30 – 14:00	Light luncheon (Tree of Life, Atrium)
14:00 – 14.15	United Nations system coherence: the case of the RBAs, introduced by IFAD
14:15 – 15:55	Q&A session with Member States, chaired by Zoltán Kálmán, President of the WFP Executive Board
15:55 – 16:00	Closing of the meeting by Gilbert F. Hounbo