

**INFORMAL JOINT MEETING OF THE FAO COUNCIL,  
IFAD EXECUTIVE BOARD AND WFP EXECUTIVE BOARD  
13 September 2019**

**CONCEPT NOTE  
Revision 3**

1. **Background:** Within the context of United Nations reform to promote a more effective and efficient United Nations system, the ongoing collaboration between the Rome-based agencies (RBAs) – FAO, IFAD and WFP – is of particular significance in achieving the objectives of 2030 Agenda 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, Member State representatives called upon the three RBAs to organize a joint informal meeting of the FAO Council and the Executive Boards of IFAD and WFP. The broad aim of such a meeting was to exchange insights on RBA collaboration and discuss issues of common concern to the three organizations with the Principals of the RBAs.
3. **Past meetings:** The first such meeting took place at FAO Headquarters, hosted by FAO, in September 2017, and the second one was hosted by IFAD in 2018, also at FAO premises. These informal meetings were 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 Council/Executive Boards.
5. **Host, chair, date and venue of the 2019 meeting:** WFP will host the next joint informal meeting on 13 September 2019. Building on the feedback of Member State from the first two informal meetings, the third meeting will be a whole-day meeting, to allocate ample time for interactions between Board and Council members and the Management of the three organizations. The informal meeting will be held in the WFP Auditorium.
6. The President of the WFP Executive Board will chair the overall meeting, while specific segments will be chaired by the Independent Chairperson of the FAO Council and the Chairperson of the IFAD Executive Board. Each segment will involve interactive discussions with the Principals of the RBAs.
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 President of the WFP Executive Board for the Third Annual Meeting) will open the meeting and welcome participants.
  - b. **Morning segment Part I:** Statement by Ms. Amina J. Mohammed, Deputy Secretary-General, as the representative of the Secretary-General, with a particular focus on the United Nations development system reform, including its implications for the RBAs, recognizing that they are major actors with regard to the Sustainable Development Goals.

In order to make good use of this unique opportunity, the floor will be open to participants for an interactive question and answer (Q&A) session with the Deputy Secretary-General, focusing on United Nations development system reform and with involvement of the RBA representatives so that they may report back to the Secretariat and provide their own perspective in this area. This Q&A session will be moderated by the Chairperson of IFAD Executive Board. Guiding questions may include the following:

- What are the experiences with the country teams under the new Resident Coordinator (RC) system after the first nine months?
- How do RCs and country team members (including the RBAs) assess the new arrangement?
- Since the work of the RBAs is part development-related, and part humanitarian-related: Is the nexus between both taken into account sufficiently? Does the RC [in cases where he/she is Humanitarian Coordinator (HC) at the same time] live up to his/her double-hatted function?
- Any experiences with common premises and back offices?
- Has anything changed for the RBAs concerning the new composition of the country teams?
- What is the potential for institutionalizing joint RBA contributions to the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) (new UNDAF) where possible?

c. **Morning segment, Part II:** For the second part of the morning, a focused conversation on the Sahel would take place to provide an update on progress since the 2018 joint informal meeting of the RBAs governing bodies. A Resident Coordinator from the Sahel will present an update on the current situation.

d. **Afternoon segment:** After the lunch break, the following topics under the Management Services umbrella would be covered:

- Part I: Review of ERP systems including potential compatibility and cost savings
- Part II: Private sector strategy coherence

An information note on existing and future collaboration in the administrative and financial fields between the three RBAs, including *inter alia* potential cost savings, would also be disseminated in advance of the meeting and posted to the respective agency websites.

Each topic will be presented by one of the Principals and the floor will be open to participants for a Q&A session. This Q&A will be moderated by the Independent Chairperson of the FAO Council.

e. **Closing of the informal meeting:** As part of the closing segment, the 2018 RBA Award of Excellence for country-level collaboration will be provided to the best RBA country team. The President of the WFP Executive Board will, thereafter, deliver closing remarks.

8. **Participation:** The audience will be composed of Member States along with selected staff from all three RBAs.

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. An informal note for the record however, should be produced and circulated among the Memberships, as per previous practice applied by WFP.



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

13 September 2019

9:30-17:00

WFP Headquarters, Auditorium

**Provisional agenda**

<b>Time</b>	<b>Item</b>
9:00 – 9:30	<i>Welcome coffee in the Peace Garden</i>
9:30 – 10:00	Opening and welcome by H.E. Hisham Mohamed Badr, President of the WFP Executive Board Remarks by WFP National Goodwill Ambassador from Jordan, Ms Amal Al-Dabbas Short video by FAO Special Goodwill Ambassador from Lebanon, Ms Darine el Khatib Short video showing success stories of collaboration in the field
10:00 – 12:00	Morning segment, Part I: Statement by Ms Amina J. Mohammed, Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations, as representative of the Secretary-General of the United Nations Statements by: Dr QU Dongyu, Director-General of FAO; Mr Gilbert F. Hounqbo, President of IFAD; and Mr David Beasley, Executive Director of WFP Discussion on the implementation of United Nations reform and how the RBAs support Member States in achieving the 2030 Agenda Q&A session with Member States, chaired by Mr Gilbert F. Hounqbo, Chairperson of the IFAD Executive Board
12:00 – 12:30	Morning segment, Part II: Focused conversation on the Sahel Special statement by the Deputy Secretary-General on the United Nations' strategic engagement in the Sahel Update on progress since the 2018 joint informal meeting of the RBAs governing bodies and report on the current situation by Ms Mbaranga Gasarabwe, Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General for the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA) and Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator in Mali Q&A session with Member States, chaired by Mr Gilbert F. Hounqbo, Chairperson of the IFAD Executive Board
12:30 – 14:00	<i>Buffet luncheon in the Peace Garden</i>
14:00 – 15:00	Morning segment, Part II: Focused conversation on the Sahel (continued)
15:00 – 16:40	Afternoon segment on the topics of collaboration in management services as well as approaches to private sector partnerships
15:00 – 15:50	Part I on management services: Review of ERP systems including potential compatibility and cost savings
15:50 – 16:40	Part II on private sector: Approaches by the three agencies and potential for strategy coherence Each part will have a Q&A session with Member States, chaired by Mr Khalid Mehboob, Independent Chairperson of the FAO Council
16:40 – 17:00	Closing segment:
16:40 – 16:55	2018 RBA Award of Excellence for Best Country-Level Collaboration
16:55 – 17:00	Closing of the meeting by H.E. Hisham Mohamed Badr, President of the WFP Executive Board