



# Event Summary



**Title:** Leading Change in United Nations Organizations, Informal Dialogue with Ms. Catherine Bertini

**Venue:** Auditorium, WFP Headquarters

**Date and Time:** Friday, 13 December 2019, from 10:00-11:30 (*a welcome coffee will be served from 9:30 in the Peace Garden*)

**Language:** English

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## Description

Join us as Ms. Catherine Bertini, former head of the World Food Programme (WFP), shares insights from her time in the United Nations system and her recently published report "Leading Change in United Nations Organizations", which provides food for thought for incoming United Nations officials on a range of issues relating to leadership and change. Ms. Bertini will share a range of ideas, including on the key attributes of leadership in the United Nations, the transition from moving outside to inside the United Nations system, preparing for leadership positions, making difficult and principled decisions, and guidance for leading change. The Rome-based diplomatic community and the United Nations staff at all levels are welcome to attend this leadership moment.

## Summary of ideas Ms. Bertini wishes to present

Drawing from her own experience as Executive Director of WFP for ten years, and later as United Nations Under-Secretary-General for Management and including comments from two dozen other former United Nations officials, Ms. Bertini describes key attributes about leadership with the United Nations. She discusses the transitions from outside to inside the United Nations, preparation for the position, leadership style, importance of United Nations staff, making difficult and principled decisions, and, ultimately, guidance for leading change. Changing United Nations organizations does not always require major reform conducted by governing boards; much can be achieved by committed internal leadership with clear missions, goals, and concerted actions.

## Biography

An accomplished leader in international organization reform, Ms. Bertini has a distinguished career, improving the efficiency and effectiveness of organizations serving poor and hungry people, and championing the roles of women and girls. She was awarded the World Food Prize for her transformational leadership in her ten years as Executive Director of the World Food Programme.

Ms. Bertini served as United Nations Under-Secretary-General for Management, twice as Special Envoy of the Secretary-General, Chair of the United Nations System Standing Committee on Nutrition, and in many other roles. She taught about international organizations at the Maxwell School of Syracuse University in Syracuse, Geneva, Rome and New York City. Most recently, as a fellow at the Rockefeller Foundation, she wrote the paper: "Leading Change in United Nations Organizations". She is a Distinguished Fellow at the Chicago Council on Global Affairs and Chair of the Board of the Global Alliance of Improved Nutrition (GAIN).

## Programme

**09:30 – 10:00** **Welcome coffee**, served in the Peace Garden

**10:00 – 10:05** **Welcome remarks: Mr. Amir Abdulla**, Deputy Executive Director of WFP

**10:05 – 11:05** **Presentation: Ms. Catherine Bertini**, former Executive Director of WFP

**11:05 – 11:30** **Q&A with participants**

**11:30** **End of event:** Closing remarks and thanks by Mr. Abdulla