



Ambasciata della Repubblica  
del Sudafrica In Italia



## NELSON MANDELA CENTENARY

Side event on the margins of the annual session of the Executive Board

Monday, 18 June 2018 from 9:30 – 9:45

Seed to Feed Area, WFP Headquarters

### Context

2018 marks the centenary of the birth of South Africa's first democratically-elected President, Nelson Mandela. Nelson Mandela spent 27 years in prison because of his struggle for the freedom of South Africa's majority Black population. He was eventually released in February 1990. Although Nelson Mandela was a global icon, even while in prison, he was, and will always be, an African. He believed strongly in the African value system of "Ubuntu", meaning "oneness". "Ubuntu" basically means "I am, therefore you are".

Nelson Mandela was an ordinary man who elected to do extraordinary things with his life. Compelled by the unjust conditions of his life in the country of his forebears, he decided to dedicate his entire life to the emancipation of his people from the manacles of a brutal political and socio-economic system. His bravery in the face of calamity inspires all of us to give our all and fight for justice whenever it is trampled upon. Nelson Mandela remains the epitome of peace, hope, humility and reconciliation, despite his having passed on.

The collection of thirty photographs portraying highlights from his life following his release from prison in 1990 helps us better understand the type of person he was and the values and aspirations that he stood for. Nelson Mandela was the ultimate "Humanitarian", showing love and forgiveness to everyone, even his erstwhile oppressors.

### Objectives

The Nelson Mandela Centenary is the perfect opportunity for everyone in the world to reflect and share ideas on how we can positively change the world for the better. Despite having spent 27 years in prison, Nelson Mandela felt no bitterness or hatred towards his oppressors, but instead elected to work with everyone in order to build a democratic, non-racist and non-sexist South Africa.

Nelson Mandela's life story is a classic example of the triumph of the human spirit. More than ever, it is one that is relevant today and should inspire us all to do more in the service of our fellow human beings.

The theme for the Nelson Mandela Centenary is "Be the Legacy". During the year-long programme, numerous events will be held in South Africa and the rest of the world to honour this remarkable man. This small exhibition is one such event which will be on display during the week of the annual session.

Nelson Mandela was always hopeful that the day would come when Africa would be free of the scourge of conflict and underdevelopment and be in a position to focus its energies and resources on the creation of a better and sustainable livelihood for all. This is an ideal we can and should still strive towards. Be the legacy!

**Agenda for ribbon-cutting and launch**

- 9:30 Welcome remarks by Mr David Beasley, Executive Director of WFP
- 9:35 Remarks by Dr Sheldon Clive Moulton, Chargé d’Affaires a.i., Embassy of the Republic of South Africa
- Photo Opportunity

