

# World Food Programme 2021 Executive Board Bureau List D Convenor



**H.E. Mr. Thomas (Tom) Kelly**  
Ambassador and Permanent  
Representative United Kingdom



Thomas Kelly was appointed by the Foreign Secretary in August 2021 as the UK Ambassador and Permanent Representative to the United Nations Food and Agriculture Agencies in Rome. He took up his post on 6 September 2021.

Mr. Kelly joined the UK's Department for International Development (DFID) as an economist in 1996 and has over 25 years' experience working on international development policy and programmes. His previous international UN experience includes working as Deputy Permanent Representative in UKRep Rome (1998-2000) and in the UK Mission to the UN in New York (2000-2003), where he advised on policy and programme support. In response to humanitarian aid provided across Southern Africa in the early 2000s, Mr. Kelly worked in DFID's Southern Africa office (2003-2007), leading the development of a regional food security programme which helped to firm up the evidence base for more sustainable responses to chronic food insecurity across the region. He was Head of DFID's UN Policy Unit from 2009-2011, and Head of Overseas Territories Department from 2011-2013.

Before being appointed to his current position, Mr. Kelly spent six years in the United States, first on secondment to the United States Agency for International Development, before taking up the position of Development Policy Counsellor in the British Embassy in Washington. Before he joined Government, Mr. Kelly was an Overseas Development Fellow in the Bank of Uganda and worked for a time as a grain trader in the UK. He holds a BA degree in business economics and an MPhil degree in development economics.