



Note on the Seventh Informal Joint Meeting of the FAO Council, IFAD Executive Board and WFP Executive Board

21 June 2024

Background

Over 122 million more people are facing hunger in the world since 2019 due to the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic and repeated weather shocks and conflicts, including the war in Ukraine, according to the latest [State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World \(SOFI\)](#) report published jointly by five United Nations specialized agencies. If trends remain as they are, the Sustainable Development Goal of ending hunger by 2030 will not be reached, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the World Health Organization (WHO) and the World Food Programme (WFP) warn.

A wake-up call for the fight against hunger: The 2023 edition of the report reveals that between 691 and 783 million people faced hunger in 2022, with a mid-range of 735 million. This represents an increase of 122 million people compared to 2019, before the COVID-19 pandemic. While global hunger numbers have stalled between 2021 and 2022, there are many places in the world facing deepening food crises. Progress in hunger reduction was observed in Asia and Latin America, but hunger was still on the rise in Western Asia, the Caribbean and throughout all subregions of Africa in 2022. Africa remains the worst-affected region with one in five people facing hunger on the continent, more than twice the global average.

Objectives and agenda of the informal joint meeting

Objectives: Against this backdrop, the informal joint meeting provides an opportunity to exchange insights on how the Rome-based agencies (RBAs) can collaborate more closely and optimize their response to the many national and international calls for action. FAO will host the next informal joint meeting on 21 June 2024. The meeting will take place from 9:30 to 18:00 and will comprise two sessions. It will be held in a hybrid format, but in-person participation is strongly encouraged.

Agenda: Based on the experience gained and due to time constraints, the meeting will focus on three agenda items:

1. *Achievements/updates following the signing of the new five-year tripartite memorandum of understanding by the RBAs, taking the Joint Sahel Programme as a case study.*
2. *Joint operational update on humanitarian support in Gaza, Haiti and the Sudan.*
3. *Achieving SDG 2 / global-level cooperation: Follow-up on the United Nations Food Systems Summit +2 Stocktaking Moment; and RBA input into other processes, including the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development, the Summit of the Future and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.*

Agenda item 3 will be discussed in the presence of H.E. Amina J. Mohammed, Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations.

Seventh Informal Joint Meeting of the FAO Council, IFAD Executive Board and WFP Executive Board Friday, 21 June 2024 Provisional agenda and timetable	
Time	Item
Morning session 09:30 – 10:30	Introduction: Welcome and opening remarks by the Chairperson of the Informal Joint Meeting, <i>H.E. Hans Hoogeveen, Independent Chairperson of the FAO Council</i> Opening remarks by the Chairperson of the IFAD Executive Board and President of IFAD, <i>Mr Alvaro Lario</i> Opening remarks by the President of the Executive Board of WFP, <i>H.E. Youssef Balla</i> Statement by the Director-General of FAO, <i>Dr Qu Dongyu</i> Statement by the Executive Director of WFP, <i>Ms Cindy McCain</i>
10:30 – 11:30	Agenda item 1: <i>Achievements/updates following the signing of the new five-year tripartite memorandum of understanding by the RBAs, taking the Joint Sahel Programme as a case study</i>
11:30 – 12:30	Agenda item 2: <i>Joint operational update on humanitarian support in Gaza, Haiti and the Sudan</i>
Afternoon session 14:00 – 17:45	Agenda item 3: <i>Achieving SDG 2 / global-level cooperation: a. Follow-up on the United Nations Food Systems Summit+2 Stocktaking Moment; b. RBA input into other processes, including the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development, the Summit of the Future and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change</i> <i>Opening remarks by the Deputy Secretary General, H.E. Amina J. Mohammed</i> Followed by an in-depth discussion with the Members
17:45 – 18:00	<i>Next steps and closing remarks</i>