



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



World Food
Programme

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

Monday 27 April 2026

14:00 – 18:00

WFP Headquarters (Auditorium), Rome

Information Note

Context

The Rome-based agencies (RBAs) – the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and the World Food Programme (WFP) – are convening at a moment of rapidly evolving global landscape and profound transition for the multilateral system. The UN80 Reform agenda and the Humanitarian Reset are reshaping expectations for enhanced coherence, efficiency and impact across the United Nations system, while the world faces an increasing number of compounding and concurrent shocks and crises – from protracted conflicts and climate extremes to economic instability and supply-chain disruptions. Global food insecurity continues to rise sharply while resources are under unprecedented strain. According to the State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World (SOFI) 2025 report, between 638 and 720 million people are experiencing hunger, a significant increase from pre-pandemic levels. Of these people, according to the 2025 Global Report on Food Crises, nearly 295 million are facing acute food insecurity across 53 countries. In 35 of these countries, food crises have recurred every year since 2016. These converging pressures underscore the urgent need for closer collaboration, stronger synergies and more integrated approaches among the RBAs, particularly by leveraging their complementary mandates, comparative advantages and operational modalities to deliver more efficiently and effectively for countries and communities most at risk.

Objectives

Against this backdrop, while the broad aim of this meeting is to exchange insights on RBA collaboration and discuss issues of common concern to the three organizations, this year's meeting will strive for identifying concrete, actionable steps to enhance joint RBA impact at country level, strengthen synergies and enhance coherence within the ongoing UN80 Reform Process, while supporting more efficient, effective, and aligned RBA collaboration in response to rising global needs and growing food insecurity.

Past meetings

In line with the annual rotation of host organizations among the Rome-based Agencies, the Informal Joint Meetings of the RBA Governing Bodies are convened once a year and chaired by the Chair/President of the respective Council or Executive Board. The first meeting was held at FAO headquarters in September 2017. WFP last hosted the meeting on 30 November-1 December 2022, and the most recent meeting was hosted by IFAD on 14 February 2025.

Host, chair, date and venue of the 2026 meeting

WFP will host the Ninth Informal Joint Meeting on Monday 27 April 2026, at its headquarters. The meeting will be a half-day event focused on strategic priority topics and interactive dialogue across the three governing bodies, the respective memberships, and management, and with the principals of the RBAs. The President of the WFP Executive Board, Her Excellency Carla Barroso Carneiro, will chair the overall meeting.

Member State participation

In-person participation in the WFP auditorium will be possible for two representatives of each of the members and observers of the FAO Council, IFAD Executive Board, and WFP Executive Board. Provision will also be made for other representatives to follow the proceedings of the session from the Aula Delegatis meeting rooms on the ground floor of WFP headquarters.

Format and interpretation

While the meeting will be held in-person, representatives unable to be in Rome on the day of the meeting will have the option of virtual participation. Delegations are kindly requested to confirm their mode of participation (in person or remote) by Monday 20 April 2026 by email to: wfpsecretarytotheeb@wfp.org. The meeting will be conducted in English, with interpretation into the other United Nations languages.

Structure and topics

The proposed agenda aims to provide a space for constructive interaction among participants in an informal manner. The meeting will focus on two agenda items: 1) **The RBAs in the UN80 Reform Process: Renewing and Scaling-Up Collaboration**, and 2) **RBA Collaboration on School Meals**.

Proposed provisional agenda:

Time	Item
14:00–14:20	<p>Opening</p> <p>Introduction by the Master of Ceremony</p> <p>Welcome and opening remarks by Her Excellency Carla Barroso Carneiro, President of the WFP Executive Board</p> <p>Statement by Dr. Qu Dongyu, Director-General of FAO</p> <p>Statement by Mr Alvaro Lario, President of IFAD and Chairperson of the IFAD Executive Board</p> <p>Statement by Ms Cindy McCain, Executive Director of WFP</p>
14:20–16:00	<p>Agenda Item 1 - The RBAs in the UN80 Reform Process: Renewing and Scaling-Up Collaboration</p> <p><i>Chair/Moderator:</i> Mr Mina Rizk, Independent Chairperson of the FAO Council</p> <p><i>The Chair will moderate a panel discussion between the RBAs and Member States (panellists to be confirmed).</i></p> <p>Discussion</p> <p><i>Member States and the RBAs will take stock of the UN80 reforms, including operational efficiencies, and discuss the RBA blueprint for enhanced field-level collaboration and its rollout.</i></p>
16:00–16:30	<p>Break</p>
16:30–17:45	<p>Agenda Item 2 - RBA Collaboration on School Meals</p> <p><i>Chair/Moderator:</i> Her Excellency Carla Barroso Carneiro, President of the WFP Executive Board</p> <p><i>The Chair will moderate a panel discussion between the RBAs and Member States (panellists to be confirmed).</i></p> <p>Discussion</p> <p><i>This agenda item is intended to complement the blueprint – within which school meals are a core area of collaboration – by enabling a focused discussion on the distinct comparative advantages of each RBA and the added value of working together. The session will highlight how collaboration contributes to integrated, cost-effective, and sustainable country-level outcomes in support of SDG 4. The discussion will provide an opportunity for the RBAs to clearly articulate their partnership, showcase ongoing joint initiatives, and engage with Member States to identify practical areas for enhanced collaboration and agree on next steps for collective action.</i></p>
17:45–18:00	<p>Closing</p> <p>Closing remarks by Her Excellency Carla Barroso Carneiro, President of the WFP Executive Board</p> <p>Conclusion of the meeting and reception</p>