

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

Thursday, 17 September 2026
9:30–17:00

FAO Headquarters (Plenary Hall), 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 rapid change in the global landscape and profound transition for the multilateral system. The UN80 Reform 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 persists, while resources are under unprecedented strain.

According to the State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World (SOFI) 2026 report, around 645 million people – or 7.8 percent of the global population – faced hunger in 2025, down from 8.1 percent in 2024. Broader food insecurity remains widespread: an estimated 2.1 billion people, or 25.8 percent of the global population, experienced moderate or severe food insecurity in 2025, representing a slight decline from 2024, though still above pre-pandemic levels. Regional disparities remain stark, with Africa now home to approximately 309 million hungry people and more than half of its population facing moderate or severe food insecurity. In this context, the [RBA Blueprint](#) – as presented to RBA Membership at the Ninth Informal Joint Meeting – provides a practical framework for renewing and scaling up RBA collaboration, particularly in fragile settings, by translating the three agencies' complementary mandates and capacities into stronger joint analysis, clearer country-level pathways, operational efficiencies, and more coordinated and aligned programming.

Past meetings

In line with the rotation of the host organization among the RBAs, the Informal Joint Meetings of the RBA Governing Bodies are normally convened on an annual basis and chaired by the Chair or President of the respective Council or Executive Board. FAO last hosted the meeting in June 2024, while the most recent meeting, the Ninth Informal Joint Meeting, was hosted by WFP on 27 April 2026. At that meeting, Members explicitly requested for an update on the implementation of the RBA Blueprint at the next Informal Joint Meeting, to be held on an extraordinary basis in the second half of 2026, including reporting from the pilot countries and further clarification of the respective mandates and roles of the RBAs. The high-level summary of the Ninth Informal Joint Meeting can be accessed here: https://executiveboard.wfp.org/document_download/WFP-0000175144

Host, chair, date and venue of the September 2026 meeting

FAO will host the Tenth Informal Joint Meeting on Thursday, 17 September 2026, at its headquarters, following the request of Members at the Ninth Informal Joint Meeting for a follow-up meeting within 2026. The meeting will be a full-day event under the overarching theme of RBA collaboration in the field, building on the discussions from the Ninth Informal Joint Meeting and the ongoing implementation of the RBA Blueprint. It will provide another opportunity for open dialogue with RBA Membership on progress made in the pilot countries and for further clarification of the respective roles of each RBA, based on their distinct yet complementary mandates. The Independent Chairperson of the FAO Council, Mr Mina Rizk, will chair the overall meeting.

Objectives

Against this backdrop, the September meeting will provide an opportunity for Members to take stock of progress in implementing the RBA Blueprint, with particular attention to collaboration in fragile settings, pilot-country experiences, and the clarification of respective RBA mandates and roles, including the consideration of clear options to address potential overlap and duplication. Building on the outcomes of the Ninth Informal Joint Meeting, the meeting aims to move beyond a general exchange on collaboration towards identifying concrete, actionable steps to strengthen joint RBA impact at country level, enhance synergies, and support greater coherence with the UN80 Reform and the Humanitarian Reset. The meeting will also provide an opportunity to present the forward-looking proposal of the Independent Chairperson of the FAO Council on Strengthening the Informal Joint Meeting of the RBA Governing Bodies.

Member participation

In-person participation in the FAO Plenary Hall will be possible for two representatives of each of the Members and Observers of the FAO Council, IFAD Executive Board, and WFP Executive Board.

Format and interpretation

While the meeting will be held in-person, representatives unable to be physically present 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 virtual) by **14 September 2026** using the following Zoom registration link: https://fao.zoom.us/meeting/register/gk_GXdi3SWqpRPYaZ6ALlg. The meeting will be conducted in English, with interpretation into the other UN official languages.

Structure and topics

The proposed agenda is designed to provide space for constructive and informal interaction among participants. In line with the objectives outlined above, the meeting will focus on three agenda items:

- 1) RBA Collaboration in Fragile Settings: Progress on Blueprint Implementation;
- 2) RBA Mandates, options to eliminate overlap and duplication, and efforts to address them;
- 3) Concept Note by the Independent Chairperson of the FAO Council on Strengthening the Informal Joint Meeting of the RBA Governing Bodies.