

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

30 November–1 December 2022 — Annotated Agenda

Background: The COVID-19 pandemic, interruption in international supply chains, and conflict have severely impacted global food security and have disrupted food, fuel, and fertilizer markets, which are interlinked. By June 2022 the number of acute food insecure people – whose access to food in the short term has been restricted to the point that their lives and livelihoods are at risk – increased to 345 million in 82 countries, according to WFP. Making matters worse, around 25 countries have reacted to higher food prices by adopting export restrictions affecting over 8 percent of global food trade.¹ In addition, complicating the food supply response is the doubling of fertilizer prices over the last twelve months, reflecting record-high costs of inputs such as natural gas. Global stocks, which steadily increased over the last decade, need to be released to bring prices down. All this is happening at a time when fiscal space for government action is already severely constrained following the COVID-19 pandemic. Beyond the short term, climate change is structurally affecting agriculture productivity in many countries.

In response, the United Nations Rome-based agencies (RBAs) are working together, including with the United Nations system and International Financial Institutions (IFIs), and in collaboration with governments, to develop coordinated solutions to the interlinked crises and to avoid further setbacks to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. In this regard, collaboration between FAO, IFAD and WFP is of particular significance in achieving the objectives of the 2030 Agenda because, inter alia, the RBAs complementary mandates and specializations in the areas of food and agriculture are at the core of achieving the SDGs, in particular SDGs 1 and 2.

Objectives: Against this backdrop, Member State representatives called upon the three RBAs to organize an annual informal joint meeting of the FAO Council and the Executive Boards of IFAD and WFP. The broad aim of such a meeting is to exchange insights on RBA collaboration and discuss issues of common concern to the three organizations with the RBA principals and management. WFP will host the next informal joint meeting on 30 November–1 December 2022. The meeting will start on the afternoon of 30 November, followed by an extended day session on 1 December, to allocate ample time for interactions between Board and Council members and RBA management. The informal meeting will be held in a virtual format due to renovations of the WFP Auditorium. The President of the WFP Executive Board will chair the overall meeting, while specific segments will be chaired by the Independent Chairperson of the FAO Council and the Chairperson of the IFAD Executive Board.

¹ As of June 30, 2022 and based on the WTO, Global Trade Alert and World Bank monitoring of trade policy changes since February 2022.

Structure and topics for the meeting: The proposed agenda aims to provide a space for constructive interaction with the audience in an informal manner. As such, the draft agenda reflects the following structure:

Wednesday, 30 November

- Welcoming and opening statements (15:00–15:40): The President of the WFP Executive Board will open the meeting and welcome participants, followed by opening statements by the Independent Chair of the FAO Council, the Chairperson of the IFAD Executive Board, the Director-General of FAO and the Executive Director of WFP.
- Afternoon segment (15:40–18:00): An update will be provided (10 mins) by a resource person from the RBAs on their coordinated efforts, including with the United Nations system and IFIs, and in collaboration with governments, to develop joint solutions to the current **Global food security, fuel and fertilizer crisis and related challenges**. Following the update, ample time will be available for Member States to provide their comments and feedback on the presentations.

Thursday, 1 December

- Morning segment 1 (9:30–10:30): Continuation from the previous day, as needed.
- Morning segment 2 (10:30–12:30): A representative from the RBAs will provide an overview of their joint work in **Gender** (10 mins) which will include updates on the **Joint Programme on Accelerating Progress Towards the Economic Empowerment of Rural Women (JP RWEE)** and the **EU-RBA Joint Programme on Gender Transformative Approaches for Food Security and Nutrition (JP GTA)**. Member State interventions and RBA management responses will follow the presentation.
- Lunch break (12:30–14:00)
- Afternoon segment 1 (14:00–15:00): Continuation from the previous segment, as needed.
- Afternoon segment 2 (15:00–17:00): **Update on the 2021 Joint Evaluation on the Collaboration among the United Nations Rome-Based Agencies**. A representative from the RBAs will update Member States on the status of the implementation of the 5 recommendations of the RBA Evaluation, including the **Joint Programme for the Sahel** in Response to the Challenges of COVID-19, Conflict and Climate Change (SD3C) (10 mins). Member State interventions and RBA management responses will follow the presentation.
- Afternoon break (17:00–17:30)
- Evening segment 1 (17:30–18:30): Continuation from the previous segment, as needed.
- Evening segment 2 (18:30–20:25): **Update on the United Nations Food Systems Coordination Hub**. The Director of the Hub will provide Member States with an update on the work undertaken by the Hub (10 mins). Member State interventions and RBA management responses will follow the presentation.
- Closing remarks (20:25–20:30): The President of the WFP Executive Board will deliver closing remarks.



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Outcome: The outcome of the joint informal meeting will not be formalized through a report, as the joint meeting is not a decision-making platform/body.

Time Management: In light of the virtual format of the meeting, five minutes will be allocated for interventions by the three Principals and Chairpersons of the executive governing bodies of the RBAs, and three minutes for the Members of the three RBA executive governing bodies. The time limits will be enforced strictly by the Chairperson, with the aid of associated audio-visual tools. Such time management will support efficient conduct of the meeting and a more effective participation of Member States.