



Strategic Dialogue of the WFP Executive Board

Monday, 23 February 2026

10:00-17:00

Aula Delegatis, WFP Headquarters, Rome

Information note

Overview

The WFP Executive Board will convene its annual strategic dialogue with WFP Leadership Team on Monday, 23 February 2026 at WFP headquarters in Rome. It will be an opportunity to informally discuss emerging global trends and strategic issues affecting the work of WFP, and to contribute to the Board's ongoing substantive discussions.

Two strategic topics have been identified by the Executive Board Bureau and WFP management: Achieving sustainable funding in a changing environment and UN80 reform and its implications for WFP. Both topics will be introduced by a "scene setter" outlining the context and key issues.

The dialogue aims to foster dynamic and meaningful engagement through a participatory approach, featuring interactive plenary sessions facilitated by moderators. The dialogue will be held under Chatham House rules, creating an environment that encourages candid and open exchanges. Interpretation will be provided in all WFP Board languages. Background papers will be made available to inform preparations. A non-binding high-level summary of the dialogue will be prepared and shared with participants within two weeks.

Background

WFP's Executive Board held its first strategic dialogue in February 2025, following a recommendation of the governance review approved at the 2024 annual session of the Board.¹ The strategic dialogue is designed to:

- create an informal space for Board members, observers, and WFP Leadership Team to discuss strategic issues early in the year, ahead of the Board's first regular session;
- foster informal, collaborative discussions on critical emerging issues and trends between Board members and WFP management; and
- continue to build relationships and cultivate trust.

¹ "Interim Report of the Executive Board Working Group on the Governance Review: Proposed recommendations for direct implementation by the Secretariat" (WFP/EB.A/2024/12-A/Rev.1), sub-recommendation 1.2.

Participation

In person participation will be limited to one representative per Member State on the Executive Board and one representative per observer Member State. An additional Member State participant will be able to follow the plenary sessions in a “listening room” adjacent to the main venue.

Given the strategic nature of the discussions, member states are encouraged to nominate participants at the level of Ambassador or Permanent Representative. The WFP leadership team will represent WFP management. The discussions will be further enriched by prominent external speakers.

Speaker profiles

Keynote Speaker, Topic 2: “UN80 reform and its implications for WFP”

Mr Guy Ryder, United Nations Under-Secretary-General for Policy



Mr Ryder was appointed as Under-Secretary-General for Policy by United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres on 7 October 2022. He leads global policy coordination and serves as the UN80 Task Force Chair, leading the United Nations Secretary-General's UN80 Action Plan. Prior to his current position, Mr Ryder served as Director-General of the International Labour Organization (ILO) in Geneva for two consecutive terms beginning in October 2012. His tenure at the ILO began in 1998 as Director of the Bureau for Workers' Activities, followed by his role as Director of the Office of the Director-General in 1999. Mr Ryder studied Social and Political Sciences at the University of Cambridge and Latin American Studies at the University of Liverpool. He speaks English, French and Spanish.