

A Special Forum for a World Free of Hunger

Participation is key to stepping up action in the fight against hunger. The Special Forum at FAO headquarters on 30-31 October 2006 will be a multi-stakeholder dialogue where **all** groups will have a chance to contribute to discussions for a **World truly free of Hunger**. Governments, civil society, the private sector, international institutions, and other actors are invited to participate. The causes of hunger are predictable, preventable and can be addressed through collective action. The time has come for ensuring that all voices be heard.

A decade has passed since the World Food Summit in 1996 and the adoption of its Plan of Action for halving hunger by 2015. This is in line with the first Millennium Development Goal of reducing by half the proportion of people living on less than a dollar a day and suffering from hunger.

However, at the current rate, we will not be able to halve hunger in ten years time. Indeed, according to FAO, if current trends continue 600 million people will still be undernourished in 2015.

How is the Special Forum organized?

The Special Forum has two phases:

- an overall assessment and debate amongst stakeholders on the first day; and
- a set of panels on issues crucial to enduring solution to hunger on the second day.

Monday, 30 October	Tuesday, 31 October
<p>The FAO Secretariat will present its reports on assessment of progress in meeting the World Summit Goal and the Seven Commitments of The Plan of Action as the basis of the stakeholder debate.</p> <p>Governments and civil society have prepared their own reviews to share. The purpose is to arrive at a common view on challenges and share a range of proven and promising solutions. Each group may chart individual and collective paths for the future.</p>	<p>Three panel sessions have been organized</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• in the morning:<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Aid and Investment• in the afternoon:<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Agrarian Reform and Rural Development; and- Trade and Globalization. <p>Panellists drawing on the experiences of various stakeholders from different regions will initiate each session's debate. A set of questions (see below) will structure the debate and interventions.</p>

There will be a pre-meeting on Sunday, 29 October 2006, from 15.00 to 18.00 hours, to brief the non-governmental stakeholders on organizational matters for the week and to decide on the structure and spokespersons for interventions during the Special Forum.

Registration will be open on Sunday from 9.00 to 12.00 and 14.00 to 17.00 hours, and again on Monday from 7.00 hours on.

Who will participate in the Special Forum?

FAO's 190 Member Nations can participate. Organizations representing constituencies of farmers, women, youth, Indigenous Peoples, herders, fishers, the landless, agricultural workers and development NGOs, will also attend the forum. All of these groups will have a role to play in ensuring humanity's freedom from hunger. There will also be representatives from the National Alliances against Hunger, private sector associations, local governments, the media and other stakeholders who will come to Rome to chart the way forward in fighting hunger.

Organizations invited to participate in the Special Forum as well as those also attending the CFS can register from 9.00 to 12.00 and 14.00 to 17.00 on Sunday, October 29th, at the Main Entrance of FAO Headquarters and then on the following days of CFS.

All registered non governmental stakeholders are cordially invited to an information and organization meeting on the afternoon of Sunday, October 29th between 15h00 and 18h00 in the Iran Room. Interpretation will be provided in all official languages to allow groups to organize themselves, prepare joint positions and strategies, and select spokespersons, as appropriate, as well as address practical logistical and procedural issues for the week.

What will the Special Forum achieve?

Special Forum participants will identify practical ways to reduce hunger together. Assessment papers and results of the discussions will feed directly into subsequent discussions of FAO's Member Nations during the Regular Session of CFS from 2-4 November 2006. These discussions will sketch FAO's way forward to 2015.

The report of the Special Forum– the Chairperson's Summary - will present the major recommendations and proposals for further action that emerge from stakeholder discussions.

The assessment will be the first global, multi-stakeholder review of progress in arriving at any of the MDGs since the Millennium Declaration in 2000.

Special Forum Panels

Aid and Investment

Tuesday, 31 October, 9:30 – 12:30 h, Plenary Hall

Introduction of the Session: Charles H. Riemenschneider, FAO

Panellists:

- Mr Bernard Bachelier, Directeur, FARM-Fondation pour l'Agriculture et la Ruralité dans le Monde, France
- Ms Mercy Karanja, Development Policy Coordinator, International Federation of Agricultural Producers (IFAP), Kenya
- Ms Marjatta Rasi, Under-Secretary of State (Development Cooperation), Ministry for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Finland
- Ms Patrizia Sentinelli, Vice Ministra agli Affari Esteri con la delega della Cooperazione allo Sviluppo, Republic of Italy
- Mr Antonio Tujan, Jr, Member, Board of Directors, IBON Foundation, Philippines
- Mr André Van Heemstra, Member, Steering Committee, Sustainable Food Laboratory, Netherlands

Agrarian Reform and Rural Development

Tuesday, 31 October, 13:00 – 16:00 h, Red Room

Introduction of the Session: Parviz Koohafkan, FAO

Panellists:

- Ms Nemesia Achacollo, Member of Parliament; Secretary General, Federación Nacional de Mujeres Campesinas de Bolivia Bartolina Sisa, Bolivia
- Mr Rafael Alegria, Coordinator, Global Campaign for Agrarian Reform, La Via Campesina, Honduras
- Mr Jean-Philippe Audinet, Acting Director, Policy Division, IFAD, Rome
- Mr Thomas Kocherry, World Forum of Fisher Peoples (WFFP), India
- Mr Abdul Mamalo, Secrétaire Permanent du Code Rural, Niger
- Ms Ruth Meinzen-Dick, Senior Research Fellow, Environment and Production Technology Division, International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), USA
- Lic. José Francisco Fúnez Rodríguez, Ministro-Director INA-Instituto Nacional Agrario, Honduras
- Mr Walter Schmied, Président de la Commission parlementaire de l'environnement, de l'agriculture et des questions territoriales du Conseil de l'Europe, Switzerland
- Mr Saul Vicente, International Indian Treaty Council (IITC), Mexico
- H.E. Ms Lulama Xingwana, Minister for Agriculture and Land Affairs, Republic of South Africa (to be confirmed)

Trade and Globalization

Tuesday, 31 October, 15:00 – 18:00 h, Plenary Hall

Introduction of the Session: Alexander Sarris, FAO

Panellists:

- Mr Pedro Avendaño, Executive Director, World Forum of Fish Harvesters and Fishworkers, (WFF), Chile
- Mr Ndiogou Fall, President, Réseau des Organisations Paysannes et Producteurs Agricoles de l'Afrique de l'Ouest (ROPPA), Sénégal
- Mr Tassos Haniotis, Head of Agricultural Trade Policy Analysis, Directorate General for Agriculture and Rural Development, European Commission, Belgium
- Mr Robbin Johnson, Senior Vice President, Director of Corporate Affairs for Cargill, Inc, USA
- Mr Paul Nicholson, Chargé External Affairs, La Via Campesina, Spain
- Mr Abhijit Sen, Member, Planning Commission, Government of India (to be confirmed)
- Mr Jack Wilkinson, President, International Federation of Agricultural Producers (IFAP), Canada

Panel Questions

Panel on Aid and Investment

1. How can the FAO and other development organizations help so that investments in agriculture and rural development are allocated in ways that maximize their contribution to food security and poverty reduction?
2. What can be done to ensure that the promised increase in development assistance for agriculture and food security can be effectively absorbed and utilized, given past experience with aid overwhelming governments' ability to manage a large injection of resources? What is needed besides more funds to assure productive use of available resources?
3. What should be done so that small farmers can apply improved farm technologies in a sustainable way? What is the importance of the broader "enabling environment"?

Panel on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development

1. What do you see as the main changes that are reflected in ICARRD that were not prominent at the time of World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development in 1979? In other words, how have these challenges changed/evolved in the last 27 years?
2. The 92 Governments at ICARRD pledged a more active role in promoting Agrarian Reform and Rural Development policies in a way which is "more focused on the poor and their organizations, socially-driven, participatory, and respectful of gender equality". How can this Vision and the Principles become reality in practical terms, particularly at the field level?
3. What mechanisms could be used, strengthened or created to establish a *lasting platform* to "institutionalise social dialogue" amongst all stakeholders? How could such a platform be organized and function?

Panel on Trade and Globalization

1. How will trade liberalization, including through the Doha Round, affect food security, rural poverty and economically and socially sustainable farming systems? What policies and programmes are necessary given imperfect markets and institutional constraints?
2. How to ensure that *small family farming* in both the North and the South is safeguarded in an era of legally binding multilateral agricultural trade rules and of rapid globalization?
3. What role could organizations like FAO, IFAD, World Bank etc. play on trade and globalization issues in fostering policies favourable to the *food security* of farmers, fishers and herders? (For example, can the current proposals of "Aid for Trade" address these issues?)