



IFAD, Oval Room
Rome, Tuesday 30 September 2025
10.00 a.m – 12.30 p.m.

The Permanent Mission of the Holy See to the United Nations Rome-based agencies and the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) will co-host a seminar to which members of Rome-based diplomatic representations, the staff of United Nations agencies, representatives from non-governmental organizations and civil society organizations, university students and other interested parties are cordially invited.

The event aims to contribute to increasing public awareness and promote collective action to address the devastating impact of poverty and growing inequalities on the lives of many millions of people in the world. Thus, it will provide an important opportunity for dialogue and exchange on IFAD's mission to sustain dynamic, inclusive, effective and sustainable rural economies to combat hunger and poverty in developing countries – through the lens of the fundamental concept of an *integral ecology* as set forth in the encyclical *Laudato Si'* and recognizing the complex system of interactions between and among the natural environment, society, cultures, institutions and economies.

Within this framework, discussions will consider the structural impediments to realizing a development model that focuses on equality and safeguarding the planet. The importance of promoting a subsidiary economy – one primarily driven by civil society organizations - will be proposed as a means of favouring dialogue and peace.

Participants will also be called upon to explore the importance of multilateral action, more necessary today than ever before. The United Nations agencies working in the field of food and agriculture –, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), IFAD and the World Food Programme (WFP) – will present concrete examples of ways in which complementarities and synergies between governments and multilateral organizations can strengthen the effectiveness and impact of for the benefit of all.

With conflicts spiralling and escalating military expenditure, reaching a record high in 2023 of US\$2,433 billion - more than 10 times the expenditures related to official development assistance – this event intends to underscore the urgent need to consolidate effective partnerships to achieve the goals of the 2030 Agenda. Only through multilateral and collective action will it be possible to move towards “a *global juridical, political and economic order [...] which can increase and give direction to international cooperation for the development of all peoples in solidarity*” (Encyclical Letter *Fratelli Tutti* no. 138), and transform rural economies and food systems to make them more inclusive, productive, resilient and sustainable, in accordance with the noble mandates of the three United Nations Rome-based Agencies to eliminate hunger and poverty.

Registration

The seminar will take place in English and Italian with interpretation in the two languages only. The event will be in person. A link for following the discussions online may be shared upon request. Participants must register **by 22 September 2025** through the following link: [online registration form](#). For any questions, please contact a.valentini@ifad.org and l.mazzoni@ifad.org

Agenda

The event will be moderated by Dr Claudia ten Have, Secretary of IFAD

- 10.00-10.10** Welcome coffee
- 10.10-10.15** Welcoming remarks by Dina Saleh, Director and Chief of Staff Office of the President and Vice President, IFAD

Speakers

- 10.15-10.30** Mr Maximo Torero, Chief Economist, FAO - *“Challenges of the agri-food systems”*
- 10.30-10.40** Mr Alistair Dutton, Secretary General of Caritas Internationalis - *“An X-ray of poverty in the world of today”*
- 10.40-11.00** Mr Angelo Frascarelli, Professor of Agricultural Economics and Policy at the Faculty of Agriculture of the University of Perugia - *“Promoting a subsidiary economy”*
- 11.00-11.10** Mr Ron Thomas Hartman, Director, Global Engagement, Partnership and Resource Mobilization, IFAD - *“Challenges and strengths of multilateralism”*
- 11.10-11.25** Her Excellency Nosipho Nausca-Jean Jezile, Chair of the Committee on World Food Security and Permanent Representative of the Republic of South Africa to the United Nations Rome-based agencies - *“Integrating multilateral and civil society governance”*
- 11.25-12.00** Four case studies by the three United Nations Rome-based agencies:
WFP: Dott. Arif Husain, Chief Economist
FAO: Ms Lauren Phillips, Deputy Director of the Rural Transformation and Gender Equality Division
IFAD: Ms Yukta Kumar, Senior Specialist, Fragility, Department for Country Operations
Awardee of the Rome-based Agencies Award of Excellence – RBA country team in Peru - an example of *Bridging social protection and family farming* [by Marco Camagni, Lead Global Technical Specialist, Rural Institutions, Sustainable Production, Markets and Institutions Division]
- 12.00-12.20** Q/A
- 12.20-12.30** Concluding remarks by Mons. Fernando Chica Arellano, Permanent Observer of the Holy See to the United Nations Rome-based agencies