



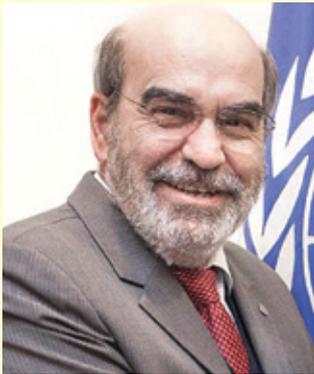
FAO's GATEWAY NEWS

<http://www.fao.org/members-gateway>

Issue

May 2015 - New York

A message to the diplomatic community



By FAO's Director-General, José Graziano da Silva

Distinguished Ambassadors, Permanent Representatives, dear friends,

In 2015, FAO turns 70. This is a very special year for the Organization. Particularly in the past 3 years, we have undertaken major transformational changes in FAO, through which it has been possible to increase its efficiency and to deliver concrete results by sharpening our focus around five strategic objectives: ending hunger; promoting sustainability; reducing rural poverty; improving markets, and building resilience.

During this time, we have also strengthened the relationship with each one of our 194 Member Countries. Improving the dialogue with the diplomatic community is not only an essential interface for this relation but also a key strategy for this improvement.

I would like to extend my deep appreciation for your continued support to all initiatives of FAO. The reviewed strategic framework, which sharpened the focus of our mandate; the elevation of our global goal from reducing to eradicating hunger, food insecurity and malnutrition; as well as an early budget-level agreement for the forthcoming Program of Work and Budget for 2016-2017 are just some of the many results of the constructive relationship we have forged.

The FAO Conference, from 6 to 13 of June, is an important step in consolidating our efforts and in advancing towards the future we want. As you are aware, I am the only candidate for re-election for the office of Director-General of FAO, at the elections to be held during the Conference. A strong turnout in June, the vote of your Governments and the final approval of the PWB will send solid messages that FAO is in the right direction. A lot remains to be done to promote food security, adequate nutrition for all and sustainable development. But that is what we are working on: a stronger FAO to respond to your needs.

FAO's *Gateway News* will present some of our most recent activities and convey to your Governments some of what we have been doing. I hope you enjoy it.

39th session of the FAO Conference: Rome, 6-13 June 2015

<http://www.fao.org/bodies/conf/c2015>

How to participate (see reverse side for the full 2015 calendar)

- The designation of the national delegation may be done through a letter from the Head of State, the Prime-Minister, the Minister of Foreign Affairs or the Minister of Agriculture;
- The designation may also be communicated through a Note Verbale issued by the Permanent Representative accredited to the Organization;
- A copy of the Letter of Credentials or Note Verbale may be forwarded to FAO by electronic means, allowing the delegation to participate in all Conference activities.
- For further assistance on accreditation, please contact FAO's Protocol: protocol@fao.org

Key issues for 2015

- 1) **FAO 70th anniversary:** During its first 70 years, FAO has provided a big contribution to increase agricultural production and productivity. Now it's time to focus on produce more with less damage to the environment.
- 2) **Sustainable Development Goals:** Over 60 countries have met MDG-1 hunger target. Now FAO is ready to Build on momentum and help countries to commit to end hunger in the framework of the Sustainable Development Goals, to be likely adopted in New York during the General Assembly, in September.
- 3) **Financing for Development:** At Addis Ababa conference, in July 2015, FAO will highlight the need to increase investments in agriculture and food security and nutrition.
- 4) **Nutrition:** After the Second International Conference on Nutrition (ICN2), held in Rome last November, FAO and WHO work together with the Member States to consolidate nutrition as a main theme in the international agenda along with food security
- 5) **Climate change:** At the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP21), FAO looks forward to a climate agreement that:
 - Limits temperature rise to less than 2 degrees Celsius;
 - Assigns a clear responsibilities; and
 - Ensures fair division of mitigation and adaptation costs: agriculture, and in particular poor family farmers, cannot be asked to pay the price for all GHG emissions.
- 6) **Healthy Soils:** In the framework of the UN International Year of Soils, FAO leads a campaign to highlight the need to preserve soils and natural resources
- 7) **ExpoMilano 2015:** The EXPO Milan 2015, which is taking place from 1 May to 31 October, focuses on the theme "Feeding the Planet, Energy for Life". FAO is the coordinating agency of the participation of the United Nations System. The World Food Day 2015 will be held in the framework of EXPO, in Milan, on 16 October.

FAO Liaison Office in New York (LON) Activities

The Liaison Office of FAO in New York participates regularly in ongoing meetings, both intergovernmental and interagency, such as the intergovernmental negotiations on the Post 2015 development agenda, the Financing for Development consultations, the different meetings of ECOSOC, and events/meetings related to issues of SIDS, LLDCs, Africa and LDCs. Some of the recent activities have included:

- **26 January 2015:** *Special meeting of the Peacebuilding Commission on Peace and Food Security* – José Graziano da Silva, FAO Director-General, participated at the meeting and emphasized the importance of food security in building peace and security. The Director-General highlighted the major potential for food security as a conflict prevention and mitigation tool, and stressed the need for resilient food systems.
- **5 February 2015:** *“Briefing by the FAO’s Assistant Director-General on the Second International Conference on Nutrition (ICN2) Outcome”* – organized by FAO and WHO. Jomo Kwame Sundaram, Assistant Director-General, Economic and Social Development Department, FAO, presented information on the global malnutrition situation around the world, its implications, the outcome of ICN2 (including the Framework for Action), and on the need for the Decade for Action on Nutrition.
- **9-20 March 2015:** *59th session of the Commission on the Status of Women*, which included several side-events organized by FAO and partners, as *“Empower rural women to achieve food and nutrition security” (9 March 2015)*, *“Gender statistics and monitoring tools for agriculture and food security” (13 March 2015)*
- **20 March 2015:** *“Forest-based Solutions for Climate Mitigation and Adaptation”* – special event on the occasion of the International Day of Forests. Sharon Brennen-Haylock, Director, FAO LON, delivered remarks during the panel discussion, emphasizing the role forests play to battle climate change.
- **7 April 2015:** *“Food safety: from farm to plate, make food safe”* – special event on the occasion of World Health Day, organized by FAO and the WHO. Sharon Brennen-Haylock, Director, FAO LON delivered the concluding remarks by drawing attention to the FAO/WHO Codex Alimentarius International Food Standards, highlighting the importance of partnerships and cooperation, and expanding on FAO’s strong role in food safety.
- **17 April 2015:** *“Ending hunger, achieving food security and improved nutrition, and promoting sustainable agriculture – how to make it happen?”* – organized by FAO, WFP, and IFAD. Guy Evers, Deputy Director, Investment Centre, FAO, participated in the panel and highlighted the agricultural sector’s role in reducing poverty. Further, he stressed the need for more and better investment in agriculture, including the need to increase the effectiveness of development cooperation including through strengthened coordination at country level.
- **21 April 2015:** *“International Year of Soils: exploring links between indigenous food systems, protection of native seeds and sustainable livelihoods”* – organized by FAO, CBD, the Government of Nicaragua, Tebtebba, CAPDI, AIPP, and the Indigenous Partnership for Agrobiodiversity and Food Sovereignty. Yon Fernandez de Larrinoa, Advocacy Officer on Indigenous Peoples, FAO, provided introductions during the side-event, underlined the need to ensure healthy soils for sustainable food systems, and provided examples of how several indigenous systems are resilient and contribute to soil fertility and biodiversity.

Information tools

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2015

International
Year of Soils

International Year of Soils

<http://www.fao.org/soils-2015>

FAO has been nominated to implement the International Year of Soils 2015, declared by the 69th United Nations General Assembly. FAO will within the framework of the Global Soil Partnership and in collaboration with Governments and the secretariat of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification. The IYS 2015 aims to increase awareness and understanding of the importance of soil for food security and essential ecosystem functions.

FAO’s Calendar – June 2015

- **6-13 June 2015:** **39th session of the FAO Conference** (<http://www.fao.org/bodies/conf/c2015/en/>)
Main events:
 - a) 6 June:
 - Opening ceremony of the Conference
 - Mc Dougall Lecture by Former President Lula, from Brazil on “Ending Hunger for a Sustainable Development”
 - High-level side event: “Work of FAO with the SIDS”
 - Elections for the office of Independent Chairperson of the FAO Council and for the office of Director-General of FAO
 - b) 7 June: Recognizing outstanding progress in fighting hunger - Awarding MDG-1 and WFS (<http://www.fao.org/post-2015-mdg/awards/en/>)
 - c) 8-13 June: general debates; adoption of the resolution of the Main Committees, adoption of the Program of Work and Budget (2016-2017)

For the Conference programme, please refer to:
<http://www.fao.org/3/a-mn285e.pdf>

For FAO’s full calendar, please refer to:
<http://www.fao.org/about/who-we-are/departments/cpa/en/>

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