

**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING**  
**BETWEEN**  
**THE FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS**  
**AND**  
**THE PEACE CORPS**



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**I. PURPOSE**

The purpose of this Memorandum of Understanding (hereinafter referred to as "MOU") between the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (hereinafter referred to as "FAO"), and the Peace Corps is to provide a framework for continuing collaboration on international programs and activities when the authorities, interests and priorities of the two parties coincide and when such collaboration is deemed to enhance the effectiveness of each party.

**II. BACKGROUND**

FAO and the Peace Corps have a history of collaboration with each other and with host governments, international organizations and non-governmental organizations. FAO and the Peace Corps continue to recognize the value and importance of these collaborative efforts and plan to continue and enhance these collaborative efforts with special attention to improving the planning, implementation, and evaluation of joint programs. To this effect, they agree that an adequate framework for their cooperation is desirable. However, each party to this MOU remains a separate and independent organization and, consequently, retains its own identity in providing services and is responsible for establishing its own policies and financing its own activities. Nothing in this MOU constitutes approval of, authority for, or involvement in fundraising activities by any of the parties or their designees, on behalf of the other party.

**III. MISSION OF FAO**

FAO was established in 1945 with a mandate to raise levels of nutrition and standards of living, to improve agricultural productivity and to better the condition of rural populations. FAO is one of the largest specialized agencies in the United Nations system and the lead agency for agriculture, forestry, fisheries and rural development. FAO is an intergovernmental organization, with 188 members. Since its establishment FAO has worked to alleviate poverty and hunger by promoting agricultural development, improved nutrition and the pursuit of food security - defined as the access of all people at all times to the food they need for an active and healthy life. FAO is engaged in a wide range of field projects. Specific priorities of FAO include encouraging sustainable agriculture and rural development, support to long-term strategies for increasing food production and food security while conserving and managing natural resources, with the purpose of responding to the

needs of both present and future generations, by promoting development that does not degrade the environment and is technically appropriate, economically viable and socially acceptable.

#### **IV. AUTHORITY OF FAO**

The Constitution of FAO is an international treaty, which came into force on 16 October 1945. Under Article XVI, paragraph 1 of the Constitution, the Organization has legal capacity to perform any legal acts relating to its purpose and enter into international agreements and other legal instruments.

#### **V. ORGANIZATION OF FAO**

FAO is committed to national and international action with a view to raising levels of nutrition and standards of living of the peoples, securing improvements in the efficiency of the production and distribution of all food and agricultural products, bettering the conditions of rural populations, and thus contributing to humanity's freedom from hunger. The Council of FAO, at its Hundred and Sixth Session, held in May and June 1994, recognized the need for broadened partnerships with bilateral programs and external partners in order to make the most of FAO's limited resources and strengthen its role as a center of excellence. FAO is currently undertaking a number of programs and activities to that effect, with particular reference to the Special Program for Food Security in low-income food-deficit countries (LIFDC).

#### **VI. MISSION OF THE PEACE CORPS**

The purpose of the Peace Corps is to help the people of interested countries in meeting their need for trained men and women; to help promote a better understanding of Americans on the part of the peoples served; and to help promote a better understanding of other peoples on the part of Americans. The Peace Corps fulfills its mission by making it possible for American citizens to serve as Volunteers in developing countries and participate in the development efforts of their host communities.

#### **VII. AUTHORITY OF THE PEACE CORPS**

The Peace Corps was initially established by President John F. Kennedy pursuant to Executive Order 10924, dated 1 March 1961. Formal legislation authorizing the establishment of the Peace Corps followed with the passage of the Peace Corps Act, Public Law 87-293, enacted on 22 September 1961.

#### **VIII. ORGANIZATION OF THE PEACE CORPS**

In response to requests from interested countries, the Peace Corps currently provides over 7 700 Volunteers to 71 countries to work in health, education, environment, agriculture, small business, and youth development projects. Peace Corps projects are developed locally

in each country in collaboration with host country counterpart agencies and address pressing needs at the community level. The work of individual Volunteers contributes to the accomplishment of goals set forth in the project plans. The role of the Volunteer is that of a facilitator and capacity builder, enabling communities to continue their own development efforts. Specific placement of Volunteers is determined locally by the Peace Corps office in the concerned country with consideration for safety and security issues, availability of housing, and the assignment's fit with the project plan. Peace Corps Volunteers are involved in a wide range of activities, including health promotion, child nutrition, agriculture and agribusiness programs and activities; sustainable environment and natural resource management programs, including income generation activities; and other programs focusing on improving the status and involvement of women and at-risk youth in the fabric of local societies.

## **IX. AREAS OF COOPERATION**

1. The specific areas of cooperation between FAO and the Peace Corps may concern any of the subject matters covered by their mandates. Such specific areas of cooperation may include, but will not be limited to:

- (a) assistance in the implementation, in close collaboration with all relevant counterparts, of rural projects appropriate to the local environment and in removing climatic (water control) and socio-economic constraints on the development of food production (cereals, vegetables, fruit, tuber crops, small animals, artisanal fisheries and aquaculture) distribution and access;
- (b) activities in the context of the FAO Special Program in low-income food-deficit countries (LIFDC);
- (c) small scale irrigation;
- (d) school gardens;
- (e) natural resources;
- (f) animal and plant protection, including integrated pest management;
- (g) women in rural development;
- (h) planning and management in the agricultural sector;
- (i) such other areas of activity as may be agreed upon.

2. All terms and conditions for joint programs, activities, research and publications must be clearly set forth in an implementing instrument ("Implementing Instrument") to be agreed upon by the parties prior to beginning such programs, activities, research or publications. Peace Corps Volunteers shall remain Peace Corps Volunteers and employees of FAO shall remain employees of FAO during any period of collaboration between the parties. Peace Corps is under no obligation to FAO to replace any Volunteer assigned to an FAO project, and Peace Corps is solely authorized to take any disciplinary action against a Volunteer. Both parties agree to define the conditions under which such volunteers may be assigned to specific programs, activities, research and publications.

3. Each Implementing Instrument referred to in paragraph 2 above will define:
- (a) the purpose and objectives of the collaboration activity;
  - (b) the specific nature of the activity, including the technical and scientific responsibilities of FAO and the Peace Corps;
  - (c) the administrative and financial responsibilities of each party with particular reference to the status and responsibilities of Peace Corps Volunteers who may be assigned to FAO's programs and activities;
  - (d) any relevant provisions concerning intellectual property rights of the parties; and
  - (e) any other applicable relevant provisions.

4. Proposals for specific collaborations will be subject to the internal review processes of each party. FAO and the Peace Corps will determine the level at which, in view of the nature of the collaborative activities envisaged, as well as any other related pertinent considerations, each Implementing Instrument is to be signed.

5. FAO and the Peace Corps acknowledge that increased collaboration on joint programs, activities, research and publications will allow them to develop and acquire enhanced experience and understanding of their respective organizations and activities, and that such experience would be an investment in human resources recognized by FAO which could be beneficial for the implementation of FAO's programs and activities.

## **X. FINANCIAL RESOURCES**

Terms and conditions of collaborative efforts involving commitment and transfer of financial resources will be defined through appropriate Implementing Instruments before commencement of any such collaboration.

## **XI. GENERAL ADMINISTRATIVE ARRANGEMENTS**

The following general administrative arrangements will apply to cooperation between the parties:

- (a) Each party will identify a liaison to provide overall coordination of the MOU.
- (b) Each party will name representatives to a Peace Corps/FAO Coordinating Committee, which will meet periodically, but not less than once a year. The parties will designate representatives, determined by the types of issues that constitute the collaborative activities, as appropriate. The Coordinating Committee will provide a forum for sharing information and making recommendations with regard to areas of existing and potential collaboration. The parties' respective liaisons will co-chair the Coordinating Committee.

- (c) The parties will take such measures, as may be required, to promote the objectives of this MOU through its various country offices.
- (d) Notwithstanding the provisions of this MOU, and without prejudice to the specific responsibilities that may be entrusted to them under relevant special implementation arrangements, the representatives of FAO and the Peace Corps in the countries concerned will develop and hold such informal consultations and exchanges of information, as may be necessary for the effective implementation of this collaboration framework at the field level or under specific implementing instruments.
- (e) Nothing in this MOU, or in any document relating thereto, shall be construed as a waiver of privileges or immunities of FAO and the Peace Corps, respectively, or conferring any privileges or immunities of FAO on the Peace Corps or its Volunteers, or vice-versa.
- (f) Any press releases or public statements referencing this MOU, or any collaboration under this MOU, must be approved by both parties in writing prior to release or disclosure.
- (g) The use of the name, official seal, or emblem of FAO or the Peace Corps will be allowed only in the case of particular project activities undertaken pursuant to an implementing instrument and with the prior written permission of FAO or the Peace Corps, as the case may be.

## **XII. PERIODIC REVIEW**

1. Representatives of the Peace Corps and FAO will meet annually, on or around the anniversary date of this MOU, to evaluate progress in the implementation of the MOU and to revise and develop new plans as appropriate.
2. In addition to the annual meeting, FAO will communicate to the Peace Corps, from time to time, lists of priority programs or activities that FAO is in the process of implementing in particular countries, or which FAO intends to implement, and which could lead to cooperative activities between the parties in those countries. Consistent with its standard procedures and practices, the Peace Corps will provide FAO with relevant information regarding the countries in respect of which collaboration activities involving support by Peace Corps Volunteers to FAO programs or activities could be undertaken.

**XIII. POINTS OF CONTACT**

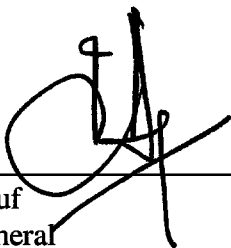
Communications of a general or policy nature regarding the implementation of this MOU will be made to the officials designated by the parties.

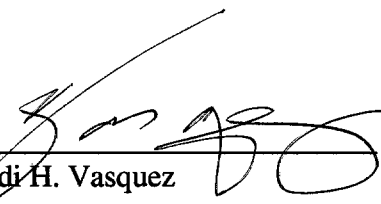
Contacts at the working level will be determined by those involved in the day-to-day work of the collaboration.

**XIV. EFFECT, AMENDMENT, AND TERMINATION OF THE MOU**

1. The MOU will be effective for a period of three years upon signature by both parties. The MOU may be amended or extended by written agreement signed by both parties.
2. Either party may terminate the MOU with three months' prior notice in writing to the other party, and upon such notice the parties will cooperate to promptly terminate the activities carried out under the MOU in an orderly and cost-effective manner. The collaboration between the parties set out in the MOU is not exclusive. Each party reserves the right to enter into similar arrangements with other parties at its sole discretion.
3. The parties' collaboration pursuant to this MOU is contingent upon the availability of funds.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties hereto have signed this Memorandum of Understanding.

  
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Jacques Diouf  
Director-General  
Food and Agriculture Organization  
of the United Nations

  
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Gaddi H. Vasquez  
Director  
Peace Corps

25.XI.2004  
Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_