

WORLD
FOOD
FORUMHAND-IN-HAND
INVESTMENT**HAND-IN-HAND INVESTMENT FORUM 2023**

17-20 October 2023

FAO Headquarters, Rome, Italy

Roundtable with Global Foundations**18 October 2023****12:30-13:30 CEST****Green Room**

With the participation of:

Dr Roy Steiner

Senior Vice President, Food Initiative

Rockefeller Foundation

Mr Máximo Torero Cullen

Chief Economist

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

The roundtable will discuss and examine what global foundations can offer to support countries' agrifood system transformation by bringing together funds, knowledge, and vision. The roundtable will be held on 18 October 2023 from 12.30 to 13.30 hours with the participation of senior management from the Rockefeller Foundation, Mastercard Foundation, Ikea Foundation, Bezos Earth Fund, Bill & Melinda Gates foundation, among others.

Under the umbrella of the [World Food Forum \(WFF\)](#), FAO is honoured to host three Fora in parallel, building on the success we enjoyed last year by bringing together the WFF Global Youth Forum, the [Hand-in-Hand \(HIH\) Initiative Investment Forum](#), and the Science and Innovation Forum. The opening ceremony will be followed by four days of open country presentations and bilateral meetings with investment partners and the event will end on 20 October 2023.

The HIH Initiative is a flagship of FAO and a core platform for all FAO's programme priority areas. As of today, the Initiative supports nationally-led, integrative, territory-based agrifood systems transformation programmes in 67 countries in Africa, Asia, Europe, Latin America, and the Middle East. By introducing advanced geospatial modelling, identification and analysis of market opportunities, and robust partnership-building, the Initiative enables the collaboration and scaled-up investment required to implement and accelerate national plans for agricultural and food systems transformation.

The Initiative is designed specifically to support national efforts to eradicate extreme poverty, end hunger and malnutrition, and reduce inequalities. The Investment Forum is the crux and pay-off of the partnership-building effort, providing a platform for national authorities, investors, global and national businesses, multilateral development banks and donors to discuss ways and means to finance the supported Investment Plans.



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The Forum will be driven by insights from prominent food value chain participants who have been requested to present their perspectives on how to stimulate asset allocation to long-term sustainable investments across and beyond national markets. The Forum will examine sectors and opportunities with the greatest potential development impact and social and financial returns, as well as the policy and institutional reforms required to mobilize greater private investment.

For this year's edition, we are inviting 31 countries to present their Investment Plans and Opportunities in the Hand-in-Hand Investment Forum. This number will include follow-up reports from several countries which attended the Investment Forum in 2022 as well as 15 countries presenting for the first time. The Forum will also include follow-up presentations on the HIH Regional Initiatives for the Sahel, crucial for poverty and hunger reduction in a sensitive area of Africa, and the Dry Corridor, vital for job creation and to reduce out-migration in Central America.

In this second edition of the Investment Forum four roundtables have been included in the programme. These are a roundtable with Managing Directors and senior managers of International Financial Institutions, another one with Chief Executive Officers and executives from global agrifood firms, a third one with global Foundations and a fourth with traditional donors.

National and international private investment in agriculture is critical and necessary to sustain accelerated national economic growth, ensure employment, incorporate technology, reduce poverty, and increase food security and sustainable development, while improving macroeconomic stability and protecting fiscal space.

We anticipate a dynamic, in-person participation in the WFF and in the Investment Forum with contributions from Heads of State/Government from all five continents, Ministers from more than 30 countries, senior managers of multilateral development banks, and senior executives from global agrifood firms and other development partners.

We hope that the interventions of the high-ranking representatives of the global foundations will help inspire participants to engage and work together to accelerate agrifood systems transformation as a core driver of progress for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).



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Virtual participation

Mr Máximo Torero Cullen
Chief Economist
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Moderated by

Ms Lauren M Philips
Deputy Director
Inclusive Rural Transformation and Gender Equality Division
Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

Members of the Panel:

Ms Nathalie Gabala
Executive Director
Pan-African Programs
Mastercard Foundation

Mr Nico Janssen
Programme Manager
Agricultural Livelihoods
Ikea Foundation

Ms Purvi Mehta
Senior Advisor
Global Growth and Opportunities
Bill & Melinda Gates foundation

Mr Andy Jarvis
Director of Future of Food
Bezos Earth Fund
Virtual participation