

SIDE EVENT: CELEBRATING 40 YEARS OF FAO COUNTRY REPRESENTATIONS

SUMMARY NOTE

In the Near East and North Africa (NENA) region, nine country representations will be commemorating their 40th anniversary between 2017 and 2019: Egypt, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Mauritania, Syrian Arab Republic, the Sudan and Yemen.

COUNTRY	AGREEMENT SIGNED
Egypt	5/4/1978
Iran (Islamic Republic of)	7/12/1978
Iraq	7/4/1979
Jordan	5/2/1977
Lebanon	5/2/1977
Mauritania	21/6/1978
Syrian Arab Republic	10/9/1978
The Sudan	31/5/1977
Yemen	26/11/1979

This side event is an opportunity to highlight major achievements made through country-level cooperation, to promote new forms of representation as well as partnerships, and to encourage renewed commitment to collaboration in the future, thereby increasing support to countries' achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.

The Side Event includes **a photo exhibition from a historical perspective.**

The Photo Exhibition will illustrate milestones of historical and contemporary stories from the field, covering the above-mentioned member countries. Short descriptive captions will tell the story of each photo on display.

The **exhibition** will be open for viewing from 7 May 2018.

An official ceremony will open the side event on Wednesday, 9 May 2018, at 08:30 hours, with attendance by conference participants and delegations, and led by the Director-General or the Assistant Director-General/Regional Representative (ADG/RR) for the Near East and North Africa, Mr Abdessalam Ould Ahmed. The Master of Ceremonies will be Ms Darine El Khatib, FAO Special Goodwill Ambassador for Zero Hunger for the region.

TENTATIVE AGENDA

Celebrating 40 Years of FAO's country Representations	
2 minutes	Master of Ceremonies, Ms Darine El Khatib, welcomes the guests and gives a brief description of the 40th anniversary side event
3 minutes	FAO Director-General or ADG/RR delivers the opening statement (OR ADG/RR on his behalf in his absence)
	Master of Ceremonies invites heads of delegation to the exhibition and to enjoy the photographic display and refreshments

KEY MESSAGES

COUNTRY PROGRAMMING FRAMEWORK:

- For 40 years, fighting hunger, poverty and malnutrition has been at the heart of FAO's work worldwide
- FAO's cooperation with member countries and support in the field are crucial for achieving Agenda 2030, in particular food security and nutrition
- FAO's holistic approach includes strengthening rural communities' livelihoods and the sustainable use and management of natural resources
- In facing climate change, FAO is working with countries to ensure more resilient, inclusive and productive food systems
- Close collaboration between headquarters and decentralized offices brings FAO closer to its member countries
- FAO's decentralization strategy aims at strengthening the Organization's impact at the country, sub-regional and regional level, thereby increasing its support to countries' achievement of the SDGs
- Through tailored Country Programming Frameworks, FAO's technical and policy expertise is aligned with government priorities and supports the most vulnerable populations
- Concerted action, based on strong partnerships with government, UN, civil society and other key partners at the country level, is key for achieving a Zero Hunger Generation

PRE-EVENT FOCAL POINTS

Regional level – Mohamed Alaidaroos, Mariam Hassani, Nada Ismail

Country level – FAO Representatives, communication focal points at DOs

OSD - FAO-Representations-40years@fao.org; Nadine Kayal, Rachel Tucker, Silvano Sofia, Julie Aaserud

OCC – Sabina Zaccaro, Clara Velez, Vanessa Curcio