

MEDIA ADVISORY

World Food Day ceremony at FAO to kick off meeting of Committee on Global Food Security, mark 60th anniversary of FAO in Italy

World Food Day, 16 October 2011

FAO, the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and the World Food Program (WFP) will celebrate World Food Day 2011 on **Monday October 17** at FAO's Rome headquarters with a series of speeches by visiting guests and performances by celebrity goodwill ambassadors.

The theme for World Food Day 2011 is ***Food prices – from crisis to stability***.

Committee on World Food Security (CFS)

October 17 also is the first day of the 37th session of the Committee on World Food Security (CFS) at FAO headquarters.

The CFS is an intergovernmental body that acts as the lead UN forum for review and follow-up of policies concerning world food security. In addition to UN agencies, it includes civil society organizations and NGOs, international research institutions and financial and trade institutions, as well as private sector and philanthropic foundations engaged in rural development and food security work.

World Food Day ceremony, 17 October, 10-12h, FAO, Plenary Hall

A number of high-level dignitaries will make statements during this year's ceremony, which also marks the 60th anniversary of the transfer of FAO to Rome. They include:

- **Obiang Nguema Mbasogo**, President of the Republic of Equatorial Guinea (keynote address)
- **Michelle Bachelet**, former President of the Republic of Chile and current UN Under-Secretary-General and Executive Director, UN Women
- **Franco Frattini**, Italian Minister for Foreign Affairs
- **Francesco Saverio Romano**, Italian Minister for Agriculture, Food and Forestry Policies
- **Gianni Alemanno**, Mayor of Rome
- **Archbishop Luigi Travaglino**, Permanent Observer of the Holy See to FAO will read a message from Pope Benedict XVI

The heads of the three Rome-based UN food agencies will also speak:

- **Jacques Diouf**, Director-General, FAO
- **Kanayo F. Nwanze**, President, IFAD
- **Josette Sheeran**, Executive Director, WFP

American jazz legend **Dee Dee Bridgewater**, Italian singer and actor **Massimo Ranieri**, Senegalese griot musician **Badara Seck**, and Brazilian classical guitarist **Marcus Vinicius** will perform during the ceremonies. FAO will also name British film star **Jeremy Irons** as its newest celebrity goodwill ambassador.

WFD 2011 will be webcast live at: <http://www.fao.org/webcast/>

Full World Food Day 2011 ceremony program: <http://bit.ly/pQLSz8>

Those wishing to cover the ceremony on **Twitter** can use the hashtags #worldfoodday and #wfd2011. FAO will provide live Twitter coverage via its @FAOWFD and @FAOnews accounts.

High-quality **photographic coverage** of the event will be available online at: <http://bit.ly/oWERQN>

Broadcasters: Download the World Food Day 2011 **public service announcement:** <http://bit.ly/rdkNQW>

Additional WFD 2011-related events include the 6th edition of the **Run for Food** on 16 October at the Terme de Caracalla Stadium. A **round table “Roma in Contra”** will take place at the Ara Pacis on 17 October at 17:00h with the heads of FAO, IFAD and WFP, Minister Frattini and Mr. Alemanno, with a focus on food security and the Horn of Africa.

Full list of World Food Week events: <http://bit.ly/ru5QjL>

Committee on World Food Security (CFS), 17-22 October

Highlights of the meeting and related side-events include:

- An **NGO and civil society forum** focused on the issue of "land grabbing" and civil society expectations for CFS. **Monday 17, 12:30h – Lebanon Room, D209**
- **Private Sector Forum** will feature discussions on successful case studies and lessons learned from public-private and private-private partnerships in achieving food security and sustainable agricultural development. **Tuesday 18, 12:30h – Austria Room, C237**
- Three **multi-stakeholder round-table policy discussions** will look at food price volatility, how to promote more investment in small-holder agriculture and gender, food security and nutrition. **Tuesday 18 October, 14:30 – FAO Plenary Hall and Wednesday 19th October, 9.30 in the Red and Green Rooms**
- A **dialogue between African governments and African family farmers** titled "Africa can feed itself!" focusing on what sort of investments are needed, and what model of agriculture should be promoted. **Tuesday 18, 12:30h – Iran Room, B016**
- The **World Bank** will present its recently released **Gender Equality and Development: World Development Report 2012**. **Wednesday 19, 12:30h – Red Room, 1st floor, bldg. A**

The opening session of CFS (starting 14:30h on 17 Oct.) will be webcast at: <http://www.fao.org/webcast/>

Full CFS agenda: <http://bit.ly/pwkOC7>

Schedule of CFS side-events: <http://bit.ly/oFSgBY>

The Twitter hashtag for this CFS session is #cfs37.

Media accreditation:

World Food Day and CFS are open to the media. Accreditation requires a valid press card or letter of assignment on company stationary, plus picture ID. **Advance accreditation is strongly recommended.** Early arrival on Monday 17 October is advised; media entry will begin at 8:45h. To accredit, contact the FAO media office at: (+39) 06 570 53625 or FAO-Newsroom@fao.org

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