

Former FAO and Other UN Staff Association

Associazione dei Pensionati della FAO e di altre Organizzazioni delle Nazioni Unite



Newsbrief 127
December 2025

In Memory of Ed Seidler

ALSO IN THIS ISSUE

- UNJSPF town hall meeting
- FAO 80th anniversary festivities

After a long battle with cancer, FFOA President Ed Seidler passed away on 25 September, 2025. Ed studied agricultural marketing at Wye College and worked as an agricultural marketing officer for FAO in Tanzania and Rome from 1984 until his retirement in 2009. Superbly knowledgeable about his subject, he was respected by all of his colleagues, and always first port of call for visiting consultants. But he will also be remembered by so many in FAO for his untiring work for the staff associations (Chairman and Treasurer of the FAO/WFP Field Staff Association 1985-2009) and, after his retirement, for FFOA (from 2010 and as President from 2019). In expressing our heartfelt condolences to his wife and family, we share with readers some of the many memories of and reflections on our dear President (edited and shortened for publication). Additional input from readers is welcome and will be shared with the family.



I got to know Ed when I joined FFOA and became Vice President in 2023. It gave me great honour and pleasure to work with him. His knowledge, insight, composure and professionalism, combined with his sense of humour and easy-going demeanour, will be greatly missed. Our sympathies go out to Ed's wife Aviva and family and all those who knew and loved him. He was an extraordinary person and leader, a pillar of our community, and he will be dearly missed. Ed, Rest in eternal peace.

Lubna Alaman,
on behalf of the FFOA Executive Committee

On behalf of everyone at the World Food Programme (WFP), I would like to express our great sadness at the passing of Edward Seidler. Edward's dedication and long service as President of the Former FAO and Other UN Staff Association (FFOA) leaves a positive and lasting impact on the UN community in Italy and beyond. I am personally grateful that he did so much to ensure FFOA members support the vital work of the Rome-Based Agencies. Edward's family and many friends are in our thoughts at this very sad time. Please know that his legacy will continue to inspire us at WFP and he will be much missed. With heartfelt condolences,

Cindy McCain
Executive Director WFP

I wish to express my deepest condolences on the passing of Mr Edward Seidler, President of the FFOA. Mr Seidler's longstanding commitment and distinguished leadership within the FFOA have been a source of inspiration and admiration across the FAO community. His legacy will remain a guiding example for all of us.

Maurizio Martina
Deputy Director-General, FAO

Mr Seidler's unswerving commitment and dedication to the FAO mission and his significant contribution to its mandate throughout his more than 30 years of service, both as a staff member and following his retirement as a consultant, has been broadly recognised by the many colleagues with whom he had served as well as greatly appreciated by the Organization. He was an exemplary international civil servant who had consecrated his life to FAO's vision of a world free from hunger and who firmly believed in not only assisting individuals in the global community in this endeavour, but also his fellow colleagues within the Organization. The unstinting spirit of solidarity which he firmly embraced was unequivocally manifested in the tireless efforts he constantly pursued in his role within the FFOA to advocate the interests of former staff members and UN pensioners. His valuable contributions in supporting the FAO's activities to improving the conditions of humanity by dispelling the scourges of hunger and malnutrition, will not be forgotten.

Serge Nakouzi
Director, Human Resources Division, FAO

I was very sorry to hear this sad news. Ed was always a gentleman who believed in the basic, humane concept of helping others. I knew him when he was president of the FSA and I was head of HR. Ultimately, in our roles, we were supposed to be adversaries; instead, I always found him reasonable in his positions and considerate of both the staff and the organization. And he carried this concept forward into his retirement from the FFOA. It will be very difficult to replace him. My condolences to his family.

Tony Alonzi
Former Director, Human Resources Division, FAO

We at IFAD are deeply saddened by the passing of Ed Seidler, President of the Former FAO and other UN Staff Association (FFOA).

During his tenure as President of FFOA, Ed worked tirelessly to strengthen collaboration between the Association and IFAD, ensuring that the voices of retirees were heard and respected. His commitment to fairness and dialogue helped build a strong bridge between our organization and the retiree community, fostering trust and mutual understanding.

Ed will be remembered for his leadership and professionalism; his contributions have left a lasting impact on all of us who had the privilege to work with him.

On behalf of IFAD management and staff, we extend our heartfelt condolences to Ed's family and loved ones.

Alessia Bartolucci

Ed played a fundamental role during the merger of the former FSA and APS, served with distinction on the FAO Medical Committee, and was a steadfast source of wise counsel. His leadership, integrity, and tireless commitment have left a lasting legacy that will continue to inspire our work. With deepest sympathy.

The AP-in-FAO Executive Secretariat



It was with great shock and sadness that we learned of the passing of Ed. Ed was a fountain of knowledge and experience that he willingly allowed to overflow, passing on all he had learned with grace and a ready smile. His presence will be greatly missed.

UGSS Executive Committee

Ed and I exchanged views on the occasion of the FAFICS Council last July. He was following this important event from home as he felt he could not travel to Vienna. I admired his commitment then as I have done throughout his tenure as President of FFOA. In this capacity, Ed led us to become a stronger more effective association, always with the interests and rights of retirees in mind. Thanks to his leadership, FFOA is now recognized by the Rome-based UN agencies and indeed by all our sister associations around the world as a reputable, reliable and relevant retiree representative.

Ed's support to me as representative of FFOA in the wider contest of the UN Pension Board was vital for me and I remain very grateful.

Besides work, we often shared views on international politics and compared English and Italian political leaders. It was a lot of fun! Thank you for those enlightening conversations dear Ed. I will never forget.

Ed was a leader, an outstanding professional, a friend, a decent man.

Marco Breschi

I was very saddened to learn that Ed has passed away. Ed was one of the most intelligent and dedicated staff representatives in FAO and FICSA over many years. He was involved in so many things but I remember him most for his expertise on medical plans, his dedication to field staff, and his work on merging FSA and APS into AP-in-FAO. Ed was a no nonsense guy who always contributed principled and practical ideas. It was always a pleasure to work with him.

Janice Albert

What a pleasure it was working with Ed on staff association matters. Funny, kind, knowledgeable, humble, and helpful.

Jessica Vapnek

For me Ed Seidler represents the AGS that I joined almost 40 years ago – more than 40 people working within solid technical sectors but interconnected within an AG Production/ Services network. It was much the same elsewhere within the agency’s different but interconnected divisional sectors that fed the world. Ed stood out, not only for his technical capacity, but because he took time to help newcomers like myself to integrate and maximize their productivity. Different times ... different models.

Peter Steele

The first time I met Ed was when I started as an APO in the Farming Systems Development Service (then called Farm Management and Production Economics Service, AGSP) in January 1994. Ed was the Senior Agricultural Marketing Officer, in the sister service AGSM. He approached me almost immediately, friendly and open minded, and invited me to see him in his office. I expected some talk about agriculture marketing, but no, I got introduced to the Field Staff Association and became a member and this continued up through FFOA.

During that very first meeting with Ed, I also was “impressed” by the pile of history in his office, on the shelves, inside and on top of cupboards and, yes, on his desk! From the pile, Ed dug out a publication for which he had been responsible, Production is Only Half the Battle. This publication became one of the inspirations for my work in marketing and also in post-harvest related work in the Pacific, in the Caribbean and also my later work on Inclusive Value Chain. It fed into training material and publications and was appreciated by different audiences. Ed provided his guidance throughout and it was also his work! Hands on, practical, and useful information. That was Ed!

Heiko Bammann

Like many of us, I have much to be grateful to Ed for. As a very young man he took a chance on appointing me as a consultant for a mission to the Seychelles. As they say, the rest is history – I wound up as Agribusiness adviser at the World Bank. Thanks Ed.

Grahame Dixie



I fondly recall regularly sharing a coffee (Americano in his case) with Ed while discussing FAO, life and family. Visits to his office left lasting impressions of how to create and manage an organized chaos on your desk.... Ed was always available to listen to professional and personal queries and provided sound and straightforward advice. Being a kind of labour unionist at heart, much praise should indeed go to his leading and tireless work in the FSA, medical and pension committees, etc. to defend and/or improve the working conditions for all staff (and later retirees) of the Rome-based agencies.

Frans van de Ven

Many of these messages were responses to an initial LinkedIn message posted by Andrew Shepherd. Additional input from readers is welcome and will be shared with the family.

Medical Insurance

Mariam Ahmed

FFOA continued to participate and actively contribute in the FAO FAC/ MC Advisory Board on medical insurance plans and policies. At its most recent meeting in October 2025, the Committee was informed of amendments being made to the corresponding Manual Section to reflect and align it with the provisions, including enhancements of certain benefits, under the new contract with the service provider CIGNA. FFOA shall continue to keep you apprised of any further developments in this area.

Pension Matters

Theresa Panuccio

This summer, the annual session of the FAFICS Council (Federation of Associations of Former International Civil Servants) took place in Vienna from July 14-18. This meeting of worldwide associations of United Nations retirees including FFOA normally takes place the week before the UNJSPF board meeting and discusses items of importance to retirees that are on the UNJSPF board pension agenda as well as other issues such as health insurance matters. The Chief Executive of Pension Administration, UNJSPF,



Ms. Rosemarie McClean and the interim head of Investments, Mr. Shindo Toru, attended and presented progress reports to the council.

The following week in Vienna the UNJSPF Board met, from 21-25 July. This is the only meeting (of three) that is held in person and takes four days due to the long agenda and list of documents and items to be covered. The FAFICS Delegation included representatives from ARICSA (Gerhard Schramek and Jerry Barton), and sister organizations FFOA Rome, AAFI-AFICS Geneva, and AFICS New York.

The primary message was that the Fund is in a very sound condition – both financially and operationally. Investments and active income are more than sufficiently available to pay all current and foreseen future benefits. The Pension Administration is gearing up to handle the higher-than-expected number of separations in the next years, but delays are not expected. Our pensions are safe.

The Representative of the Secretary General for the Investment of the Assets of the Pension Fund, Mr. Pedro Guazo, resigned on 15 July 2025. It was recognized that the Fund's bifurcated nature (Pension Administration vs. Investment Management) means that matters regarding investment staff are dealt with solely by the Secretary General and the UN's Human Resources. The Pension Board recommended the appointment of Mr. Dino Dell'Accacio to be the Deputy Chief Executive of Pension Administration as of September 2025, replacing Mr. David Penklis, who is retiring.

After discussion, the Board approved the budget as presented by the Budget Committee. There was significant discussion about how the 2027 budget should be approached by the Fund,

but the 2026 budget was approved. Of course, it now goes to ACABQ and the 5th Committee where staffing levels will be scrutinized.

The Board approved putting in place a cost structure administrative fee for future organizations requesting membership in UNJSPF, including an up-front application cost, a fixed cost, and a per-member cost.

The inclusion of a review of the Small Pension Adjustment in the biennial currency fluctuation analysis was approved. The previous cost adjustments to this special 'bonus' for small pensions took 16 years to approve, so its inclusion in a review every two years will help retirees. The initiative came from FAFICS.

UNJSPF virtual town hall sessions

The UNJSPF series of virtual pension townhalls covers pension essential topics such as separation, participation and retirement. These interactive sessions are designed to give you a chance to ask questions directly and get them addressed by experts from the Fund.

The session on 29 October 2025 focused on addressing questions related to entitlements from the Fund, for example, how to change address or payment options, how to comply with the Fund's annual Certificate of Entitlement exercise, or entitlements for survivors. Following are a selection of the questions asked and summaries of the replies.

- **Are pension disbursements delayed if I change my bank account?**
You can change bank account up to twice a year; it will take a while before the new account can be used. If you submit the change at payroll cut off (mid-month), the Fund will not be able to make this timely change and you will need to wait 1.5 months to get your pension payment.
- **If you marry after retirement are there any benefits for the spouse either while the staff is alive or after death?**

No, in this case the spouse would not automatically be entitled to any benefits. However, annuities may be purchased by contacting the Fund within one year of your marriage.

■ **What is the situation in regard to divorced spouses?**

The Fund will not take any position regarding divorced spouses. Any arrangements should be settled between the spouses. Only if a retiree of the Fund refuses to make payments that are legally due, can the Fund make direct payments to the former spouse, but these would be exceptional arrangements.

■ **How is the Fund informed of the passing of a retiree?**

The Fund may be informed in a number of different ways, including by the former employing organization, a surviving spouse, or an AFICS. If the Fund is informed in good time of the death of a former staff the Fund may be able to contact the disbursing bank to stop payment, or it may be recovered via the surviving spouse payments. Early advice will speed up the processing of the surviving spouse benefit. If there are no surviving spouses the Fund may contact the estate.

■ **How should I complete the certification of entitlement/proof of life?**

There are three different ways to comply with this annual requirement: use the Digital Certificate of Entitlement (DCE) mobile app open to all; fill out the form available in MSS; or fill out the paper-based form that is mailed to you around June each year. You should use one of these options only. Completing the DCE or the MSS early gives the UNJSPF time to record them before they need to go to the heavy (cost and environmental) paper exercise.

■ **Can the Fund assist me with tax questions on my pension?**

The Fund does not provide tax information or advice, and does not provide any calculations. Some basic information is available on the UNJSPF site here: <https://www.unjspf.org/for-clients/taxation-of-benefits/>. For more

information consult a tax consultant in your country of residence.

■ **As a retiree, is there a cap on what I may be paid for a UN consultancy?**

This is set by individual organizations. For detailed information about re-employment after retirement of a UNJSPF retiree, please visit: <https://www.unjspf.org/for-clients/re-employment/>. It explains under what conditions your UNJSPF retirement benefit may have to be suspended (which is the case if you again become a participant in the Fund, because you are hired as a staff member by a UNJSPF member organization), or under which conditions your retirement benefit would not be suspended but a limitation on earnings would apply to your income. Note that this limitation on earnings is based on the principle that someone cannot at the same time earn an income from a UN System organization and be in receipt of a monthly retirement payment from the UNJSPF.

■ **How can I have personalised assistance from the Fund?**

You can contact the Social Security function of your prior organization or use the contact us form: <https://www.unjspf.org/contact-us/>

You can access recordings, presentations and information about upcoming virtual townhall sessions at this link: <https://www.unjspf.org/pension-townhall-sessions/>

FAFICS at 50

Established in 1975, the Federation of Associations of Former International Civil Servants (FAFICS) marked its 50th anniversary with a special commemorative ceremony in June this year. FAFICS brings together 65 Member Associations worldwide, representing approximately 22,000 retirees and beneficiaries around the world, from the United Nations and its specialized agencies, on issues related to pensions and after service health insurance, including long term care.



FFOA and its President Anton Doeve were among the driving forces behind the creation FAFICS with its Headquarters in Geneva together with Associations in New York, Paris and Geneva. As FAFICS marks its milestone golden year, it reaffirms a simple yet powerful truth: retirement is not the end of service, it is a new phase of contribution, and FAFICS ensures that no UN retiree walks this journey alone.

Download the FAFICS commemorative document [here](#).

Download the report of the special FAFICS commemorative ceremony [here](#).

New FFOA Website to launch in early 2026

The FFOA Executive Committee is pleased to announce the launch of the renewed FFOA website, scheduled for early 2026. FFOA members will find a wealth of valuable information and news, in an updated and easy-to-use format. Your input and suggestions for further improvement will always be welcome. All paid-up members of FFOA will automatically be registered for access to the Members only section of the site. Members who wish will be able to add their contact information to the Website database, to facilitate and promote contact between members. In any case, your personal information will never be shared with anyone without your permission.

NEWS FROM UN ORGANIZATIONS

FAO

Angelika Wolf

This year's World Food Day on 16 October also marked 80 years since FAO's founding in 1945. Under the theme Hand in Hand for Better Foods and a Better Future, leaders from politics, culture and civil society were invited to reflect on the urgent need to sustain the spirit of collaboration that has defined FAO's work for eight decades and to reaffirm its mission to end hunger and build resilient agrifood systems across the globe.

FAO's birthday was celebrated with an impressive ceremony at headquarters which covered 80 years of the Organization's history with the presence of global leaders including Pope Leo XIV, Her Majesty the Queen of Spain, His Majesty the King of Lesotho, Princess Basma bint Ali of Jordan, Yamandú Orsi, President of Uruguay, Giorgia Meloni, Prime Minister of Italy, Antonio Tajani, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Italy.

The Director-General led the celebrations and spoke about how "hunger knows no borders, and that the challenge of food security demands unity among nations and among people", recalling a Chinese proverb that "when the granaries are full the world is at peace". He concluded by saying, "Let us be better together. Let us honour 80 years of progress by securing the next 80 years of food, dignity, and hope for all people, everywhere - leaving no one behind."

Pope Leo XIV gave a keynote speech with the message that the international community



“cannot look the other way” in the face of so much suffering globally. “We cannot aspire to a more just social life if we are not willing to rid ourselves of the apathy that justifies hunger, as if it were background music which we’ve grown accustomed to an unsolvable problem, or simply someone else’s responsibility.” He linked the fight against hunger to peace, saying that defeating hunger would lay “fertile ground” for the common good.

Before the celebrations in the Plenary Hall World Food Day 2025 opened with the inauguration of the Food and Agriculture Museum & Network (FAO MuNe), led by the FAO Director-General and Italian President Sergio Mattarella. Spanning 1,300 m², the museum offers a dynamic, immersive experience that showcases FAO’s mission and work. It explores the relationship between food, agriculture, and humanity through educational, interactive exhibits designed to inspire global action.

The museum is open to the public. If you are interested to explore the museum go to [the website](#) and book your visit.

WFP

Lubna Alaman

Critical funding gaps continue to threaten WFP’s operations. In October, Cindy McCain, WFP Executive Director, stated that “nearly 14 million people could face severe hunger by the end of the year as slashed humanitarian funding threatens six of WFP’s most critical emergency assistance operations in Afghanistan, the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), Haiti, Somalia, South Sudan and Sudan.” WFP expects to receive 40% less funding this year, leading to a projected budget of \$6.4 billion compared to \$10 billion last year. “We are at risk of losing decades of progress in the fight against hunger.”

On 27 October, Sudan’s government expelled two WFP senior officials after the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces (RSF) captured the key city of El-Fasher in Darfur after an 18-month siege, which included a food blockade. WFP stated that the expulsions

came at a “pivotal time” as humanitarian needs in Sudan had “never been greater, with more than 24 million people facing acute food insecurity”.

In September, the Houthi authorities in Yemen detained two dozen United Nations (UN) staff. WFP stated that “the arbitrary detention of WFP and UN staff members, forced entry into UN offices, destruction and seizure of property, and coerced actions against staff are unacceptable and have severely compromised the ability of WFP and other UN and humanitarian organizations to reach vulnerable communities in Yemen”.

Following the ceasefire in Gaza, WFP stated that it needs to deliver 62,000 metric tons of food aid every month into the Gaza Strip. The Country Director stated that “in the last two months, we’ve been bringing more volume into Gaza, but it was insufficient. We were covering only 40-45 percent of the staple food need in Gaza.”

FFOA has been participating in WFP’s Health Insurance Board’s meetings as it is in the process of finalizing the Health Insurance schemes for all staff and retirees for 2026-2027. Final results will be known by the end of the year.

WFP’s Third Session of the Executive Board is being held from 17 to 21 November 2025. The ED will present an overview of current and future opportunities and challenges for WFP. The WFP strategic plan (2026–2029) and WFP corporate results framework (2026–2029), among other items, will be presented for approval.

Recently WFP has appointed several celebrities as Goodwill Ambassadors. The most recent are the Italian actor and singer Serena Rossi, and Ashley Park, a Grammy award nominated actress, singer and Broadway star known for her global hit Netflix show *Emily in Paris*. Park’s influence, particularly among Gen Z and Millennials, is especially critical as WFP aims to inspire and activate the next generation of hunger-relief advocates.

IFAD

Sino Mariano

Cigna's Periodic Satisfaction Survey

In accordance with the terms outlined in the contractual agreement between IFAD and the medical insurance provider Cigna, a new client satisfaction survey was launched on 22 September. This initiative serves as a key instrument for evaluating both the quality of service and the comprehensiveness of medical coverage offered under our current plan.

The feedback collected from beneficiaries—whether commendations, concerns, or constructive suggestions—will be instrumental in guiding future enhancements and ensuring that the evolving needs of retirees are effectively met.

Once the responses have been compiled and analyzed, (and compared with those of FAO), the survey results will be shared with all plan participants.

Nations Inter-Agency Group on Ageing (UN IAGA) launched a set of 24 common messages on population ageing, older persons and their human rights. Organized around the three priority directions of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing—Older Persons and Development; Advancing Health and Well-being into Old Age; and Ensuring Enabling and Supportive Environments—the messages reflect the shared position of the member entities of the United Nations Inter-Agency Group on Ageing.

The messages cover a wide range of critical issues, from tackling inequalities and preventing neglect, abuse and violence, to promoting age-inclusive access to culture, travel and tourism. They offer a common basis for guiding and strengthening cross-sectoral work on ageing across the United Nations system.

Advanced age-inclusive access to culture, travel and tourism

Older persons represent a growing segment of global travellers, yet their needs are often overlooked in tourism planning, cultural participation and cross-border services. Accessible, safe, and responsive opportunities for travel and cultural engagement can enhance well-being and strengthen both creative and tourism sectors. Older persons also contribute significantly as workers, volunteers, and cultural actors. Inclusive strategies, such as barrier-free infrastructure and intergenerational engagement, can unlock new markets and foster social cohesion. The United Nations system should support Member States in advancing inclusive approaches to culture, travel and tourism through policy guidance, capacity building, and knowledge exchange to promote safe, accessible and meaningful mobility for older persons.

From the UN Bookshelf

Stephen Dembner



24 common messages on population ageing

On the occasion of the International Day of Older Persons 2025 (1 October), the United

[Download](#) the complete document with all 24 common messages.

Membership Matters



A hearty welcome to our members who have recently joined the FFOA:

Ms Ariam ABRAHA, WFP
 Mr Aramays ALOJANTS, WFP
 Ms Anna ARRUZZA, WFP
 Mr Marco BARBIERI, UNEP
 Ms Krystyna BEDNARSKA, WFP
 Mr Eric BERTHEART, WHO
 Mr Alfonso BONGIORNO, WFP
 Ms Elizabeth BRANCACCIO,
 UNESCO
 Ms Linda Anne CHARLTON, WFP
 Ms Julia CSAKI, WFP
 Ms Francesca DE FERRARI,
 UN/HABITAT
 Mr Stefano DIULGHEROFF, FAO
 Mr Vladimir EVTIMOV, FAO
 Ms Rosanna FAILLACE, IFAD
 Mr Lorenzo FERRENTINO, WFP
 Mr Paolo GALLI, UNDP
 Mr Thomas HOFER, FAO
 Ms Mehri ISMAILI, IFAD
 Mr Sewoo KIM, WFP
 Ms Khitam LABADI, FAO
 Mr Dageng LIU, WFP
 Ms Paola LONTANO, FAO
 Ms Johanne LORTIE, ILO
 Ms Daniela LUCIANI, UNICEF
 Ms Essam MONEEB, FAO
 Mr Suppiramaniam NANTHIKESAN,
 IFAD
 Mr Massimo NASTA, WFP
 Mr Jean Claude NGUINGUIRI, FAO
 Ms Jennifer NYBERG, WFP
 Ms Benedetta ODORISIO, UN/DPKO
 Mr Martin OHLSEN, WFP
 Ms Mary Theresa O'NEILL, WFP
 Ms Sylvia OREBI, FAO
 Mr Thomas RATH, IFAD
 Ms Sonya Marie Edith Rosa ROLLE,
 FAO

Ms Nicoletta ROSSI, FAO
 Ms Candida SANSONE, IFAD
 Ms Cristina SCHIARINI, IFAD
 Ms Aviva SEIDLER, FAO
 Mr Pasquale STEDUTO, FAO
 Mr Marc TACONET, FAO
 Ms Florence TARTANAC, FAO
 Mr Paul TURNBULL, WFP
 Ms Maria Teresa VERENI, FAO
 Ms Ameete WENZEL, FAO
 Ms Maria N. ZACCARDELLI, IFAD



In Memoriam

On Behalf of all the members of the FFOA,
 we express heartfelt sympathy to the
 families and friends of all those members
 who have left us.

Ms Juleen ANDREW NARDI, FAO
 18/02/2025
 Ms Yasmina BARKA, IFAD
 02/11/2025
 Ms Mona BISHAY, IFAD
 15/07/2025
 Ms Luigia BRANCHI-COMO, FAO
 04/12/2024
 Ms Antonia CALCAGNI, IFAD
 01/09/2025
 Ms Dolores CAMACHO, FAO
 03/05/2025
 Ms Aurora CARAZO SOBRINO, FAO
 22/07/2025
 Ms Eliane DE MULDER, FAO
 19/08/2025
 Mr John Michael EDWARDS, FAO
 27/10/2025
 Ms Rosemary LOBB MALTSOGLOU, FAO
 28/04/2025
 Mr Rasmi MAHMOUD, FAO
 07/08/2025

Ms Emilia MELOTTI, FAO

05/08/2025

Mr Edward SEIDLER, FAO

25/09/2025

Social Support and Recreational Activities

RECENT ACTIVITIES

August 2025

Tour to the Cinque Terre

Tour between France and Germany

September 2025

Trip to Barcellona

Trip to Brazil

Minicrociera to isola del Giglio e Giannutri

Tour of Foresta Nera e Lago di Costanza

Tour to Isole Eolie

Cori e Vigneto Labirinto Carpineti

October 2025

Trip to Uzbekistan

Tour to Naples

Tour to Radicofani e Monte Amiata

Siena – Scopertura Pavimento del Duomo e Monteriggioni

Tour to Malta e la sua storia millenaria

Mozart in Autumn – concert at

St Paul 's within the Walls

Mostra di Fernando Botero

Concerto by Maestro Camerini

November 2025

Trip to Morocco

Trip to German River Rhine (boat) and Swiss Alps

Tour Ducati di Parma e Piacenza

Tour to Palazzo Borghese Barberini e Battello sul Tevere

Tour to Naples

Association of British Expats in Italy – Walk to Basilica di St. Paul

outside the Walls

Concerto by Maestro Camerini

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

December 2025

Trip to Budapest – Christmas Markets

Trip to Alsazia, Colmar, Strasburgo and Requewiha – Mercatini di Natale

Trip to Pienza and Montepulciano – Mercatini di Natale

Year-end Trip to Salento - Puglia

February 2026

Tour to Japan

June 2026

Tour to the Baltic Capitals

N.B. Please note that Giampiero Bartolucci has started his classes at Gym FAO. He is also offering Ayurvedic massage treatment on Tuesdays from 14.30 to 19.00, also at the FAO Gym

Visiting Morocco May 2025



I've always loved traveling and learning about new cultures, and this year I was persuaded to visit Morocco, a country that had never piqued my curiosity.

The first stop was Casablanca, the largest city in the country, made famous by the famous film. Visiting the Hassan II Mosque overlooking the ocean and walking along its avenues lined with lush plants, I was immediately won over by this country.

We visited Rabat, with its medina offering splendid views of the ocean, and Fez, the oldest of the imperial cities, a veritable labyrinth of alleys, sounds, and scents.



This trip was a crescendo of emotions, like sleeping a night among the dunes of the Erg Chebbi desert, crossing the Todra Gorges, enormous rock formations surrounded by Berber villages, or discovering the charm of Tinghir, a captivating oasis nestled between the desert and the mountains.

The last stop on this incredible journey was Marrakech, the red city for the colour of its buildings. I believe it's the most famous



city in the country. Jemaa el-Fnaa Square is the true heart of the city, captivating countless visitors both day and night with the street artists who perform here at all hours and the enormous variety of street food.

Of course, this is just a small taste of what we saw. Our guide accompanied us throughout the tour and helped us discover a country rich in colour, history, and traditions. I forgot to mention Moroccan cuisine, so full of unique ingredients and flavours that it even won over the somewhat fussy palates of us Italians.

I thank Sandro and Patrizio so much for organizing this trip and my fellow adventurers for making it even more special. I will definitely return to Morocco!

Gianna Litta

Membership Advisory Committee

M. de Gaay Fortman, Convenor; R. Bechis, JP Decraene, S. Dembner, R. Fenix, T. Panuccio, A. Wolf

Building a Stronger, More Inclusive FFOA

As our three-year term on the EXCO ends, and as several members of the Membership Committee are not running for office in the current elections, it's a great moment to celebrate what we've achieved and look ahead with fresh energy.

The Membership Committee has worked hard to make our Association more welcoming and visible. Through the Pre-Retirement Service Programme (PRSP), we've supported future retirees on several issues related to their future status as retiree. The climate is the key word here. i.e., the financial, residential, medical, social, and other climates. Questions such as "do I take the lump sum" or "do I stay on the dollar track" or "do I go on the local track" are

the most common. — and it's encouraging to see that so many participants in the PRSP later join the Association. The PRSP will complete ten years of existence next year. It has been a kind of an incubator for our Association, where staff members are prepared for future membership.

During COVID, the in-person seminars could not continue any, but the online retirement seminars at FAO and WFP have become a real success story, reaching hundreds of colleagues each year and inspiring many to become members.

This past year membership picked up again with more than 100 new members — but there's still plenty of opportunity to broaden our reach, especially within WFP and IFAD. With WFP's large workforce, the potential for new members is enormous.

The idea of our late President Ed Seidler to propose a five-year membership by paying only for four years has been very successful by more than 50 percent of the new members choosing this option.

Looking ahead, by opening our doors wider for retirees from IFAD and WFP, we can make FFOA an even stronger and more inclusive community for everyone who has served the United Nations.

As we close this chapter, we thank all our members and colleagues for their support and commitment — together, we'll continue to build a vibrant and united FFOA for the years ahead.

Holiday closure

The FFOA office will be closed from Monday 22 December through 6 January 2026, reopening on 7 January.



NEWSBRIEF 127

December 2025

Newsbrief, the FFOA official edition, is produced in English and Italian three times a year and is distributed electronically to those who have internet access, and in print to those who do not. Newsbrief (current and back issues) is also available on the FFOA website: www.ffoa-web.org.

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About FFOA

Since 1971, FFOA has worked to advance the interests of pensioners from United Nations Agencies based in Italy, regardless of where they spend their retirement. FFOA is based at FAO Headquarters in Rome and has a growing global membership numbering more than 2,300 pensioners from FAO, IFAD, WFP, ICCROM, etc. from all staff categories.

Representation

FFOA officially represents retiree interests in formal relations with management of FAO, IFAD and WFP. We have a place at the table in all retiree-relevant discussions. FFOA is also active in the Federation of Associations of Former International Civil Servants (FAFICS), which joins 63 associations like ours to represent pensioners at the UN System level.

Support

FFOA works to improve retirement benefits – particularly pensions and medical insurance – and to protect the interests of the membership as a whole. We also respond to individual requests from members for assistance, guidance or referral on issues associated with retirement and ageing in general (all services are provided by members on a voluntary basis). Members are informed of developments in areas of concern by our Newsbrief, by our website and direct contact by post (including e-mail).

Camaraderie

FFOA promotes contact and social and intellectual exchange among its members, through a web-based discussion forum, and a wide range of cultural and social activities. Colleagues and friends in the Rome area gather at FAO on the first Wednesday of each month for “Coffee Morning” – drop in if you’re in the neighbourhood!

Helping those in need

Being a pensioner can be difficult and lonely. Volunteers from FFOA are available to support members in distress over the phone, or to organize home visits. FFOA also offers small no-interest loans (maximum 1,500 Euro) to meet short-term emergency requirements.

Service

Even after a career of service, UN pensioners remain interested in and committed to development issues, and continue to support the objectives of their former employer. FFOA attends key meetings and events at Rome headquarters, shares updates with members on key activities and achievements in the UN System, and provides direct support as well.

Keep up with FFOA and retiree colleagues

Stay informed on the latest developments on important issues for retirees via the FFOA website: www.ffoa-web.org. Register on the website to ensure you always receive the latest information, and stay in touch with distant friends and former colleagues.

Join FFOA!

Adding your voice helps make the Association stronger and more impactful. Annual FFOA membership is 25 Euro; a life membership is 375 Euro. There is one-time registration fee of 10 Euro. Follow the link to download a membership application: www.ffoa-web.org/eligibility-for-membership, write to ffoa@fao.org, or phone the FFOA desk at (+39) 06-5705 5623 / 5705 6016.