

Former FAO and Other UN Staff Association

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



Newsbrief 129
July 2026

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A Word from the President on Behalf of Your Executive Committee

Once again summer is upon us and we are again reminded of just how lucky we are. The Rome-based agencies have taken individual rather than the traditional joint approach to health insurance and we will wait to see the final results. But the relationship with Cigna is good in all cases, and the newest contracts, although marked by significant premium increases, have also incorporated new or additional benefits, particularly for retirees.

As reconfirmed at the recent 56th annual General Assembly, ably hosted by IFAD, our pensions continue to be safe and secure. The upcoming UN-wide review of the UNJSPF mandated by the General Assembly has us all fully focused, and FFOA will partner with FAFICS to ensure that appropriate conclusions are drawn in the final report, in 2028. FFOA will send a delegation of two members to the upcoming FAFICS council in July. In addition, your Executive Committee has put forward the candidature of Mr John Levins for FAFICS Vice-President.

The FFOA offices will be closing for the summer vacation from 3 August to 4 September, and we wish our members a healthy, active, and enjoyable summer. September will see us refreshed and ready to do “battle” once again to advance the concerns and interests of our members.

Marco Breschi
President, FFOA

56th FFOA General Assembly



The Fifty-sixth session of the FFOA General Assembly was held on Wednesday 20 May 2026, hosted by the International Fund for Agricultural Development and was attended in person and virtually via Zoom by a large membership contingent.

The session, held in memory of former president Ed Seidler, who had passed away last year, was ably presided over by Mr. Rodney Cooke.

Administrative matters

The Provisional Report of the 55th Session of the FFOA General Assembly was adopted.

Mr. Jakob Skoet, FFOA General Secretary, introduced the Report of the Executive Committee covering key activities in 2025 and highlighted the most significant issues the first months of this year. He noted that membership numbers have increased, reaching 2,176 as of end-2025. He confirmed the results of the elections held in November 2025 which included 11 members from which the following officers had been selected: Mr. Marco Breschi (president); Mr. F. (Sino) Tesfamariam and Ms. Angelika Wolf, (vice-presidents); Mr. Ruggero Becchis (treasurer) and Mr. Skoet (general secretary). The 2025 Executive Committee report was adopted.

FFOA Treasurer, Mr. Ruggero Becchis, presented the financial reports for 2025 and the proposed budget for 2027. The financial position of the Association was stable and secure and in line with that of previous years. Mr. Becchis acknowledged the support of former treasurer Mr. Gianni Monciotti and the appointed reviewers Mr. John McGhie and Mr. David Baugh in preparation of the financial reports. The reports on financial matters, including reconfirmation of Mr. McGhie and Mr. Baugh as reviewers for next year, were adopted.

Statements/ presentations by invitees

Rome-based agencies

Statements on behalf of the heads of the three principal Rome-based agencies were delivered by Mr. Andrzej Antoszkiewicz, Associate Vice-President, Corporate Services Department, IFAD, Mr. Serge Nakouzi, Director, Human Resources Division, FAO, and Ms. Robosa Gbinoba, Director, Human Resources, WFP (via recorded video message). The speakers reconfirmed their appreciation of the continuing contribution of FFOA and its members (both before and after retirement) to the achievement of the goals of their respective organisations.

Rome-based staff associations



Mr. Michele Pennella, Chairperson IFAD Staff Association, addressed the

members on behalf of the Rome-based staff associations and highlighted three areas that would benefit from increased collaboration between the staff associations and FFOA: preparation for retirement; the impact of contract status (staff vs. consultants) on eventual retirement; and policies for the re-hiring of staff following retirement. In concluding, Mr Pennella reiterated his admiration for the retiree community.

FAFICS



FAFICS President Mr. Jerry Barton opened by noting that his four-year term as FAFICS President would be ending soon and that he hoped to continue to be involved with FFOA in some capacity – perhaps “ancient wisdom”. During his term of office, Mr Barton indicated that FAFICS had strengthened day-to-day operations. Work plans, finances, and oversight were now clearer and more accountable. The FAFICS Bureau was now meeting online every month, as compared to an annual frequency in the past. Communication has improved with the new website, regular updates, and President’s newsletters to all associations.

Mr. Barton stressed the importance of local associations in FAFICS, and noted the strong role of FFOA, a founding member of FAFICS, now more than 50 years ago. Local associations provide community, local advocacy, and international expertise. FAFICS is working to establish or revive

associations in Africa, Latin America and Eastern Europe.

Mr. Barton informed the meeting that FAFICS’s substantive work rests on four pillars: pensions, health insurance, communications, and membership. Each of these areas now has a team of about 10 to 15 people from different associations working on issues throughout the year. Mr. Barton indicated that, by far, the largest issue in front of us right now is the General Assembly resolution adopted in December, which calls for a holistic review of the entire pension scheme.

In concluding, Mr. Barton encouraged FFOA to consider proposing nominations for the positions of FAFICS vice-presidents, treasurer and president, and noted that the deadline for input was 1 June 2026.

Mr John Levins, formerly of WFP, took the floor to express the appreciation of all and particularly current and former members of the Pension Board, for the contributions of Mr. Barton.

UNJSPF

Mr. Dino Cataldo Dell’Accio, Deputy Chief Executive Pension Administration, UNJSPF, made a PowerPoint presentation providing an update on pension administration. Key points made were:

- The Fund is secure and strong.
- UNJSPF is modernizing and improving the service experience.



- UNJSPF will continue to communicate openly and transparently.
- It's never too early to know more about your pension!

The Fund is modernizing its systems and tools to deliver excellent service. Transparent, clear and timely communication is a key priority. 2025 was a record-breaking year for UNJSPF service delivery with more than 22,000 benefits processed (+58% vs 2024). Of these, 95.5% processed within 15 days (initial separations 98.1%). Some 114,188 client queries were handled, with an average response time of 2.5 business days. Contact Center calls wait time averaged only 15 seconds.

Mr. Dell'Accio informed that no matter what technology is being used, it is being done responsibly. In fact, as of now UNJSPF is the first and the only UN entity that has achieved the ISO certification on the responsible and ethical use of artificial intelligence.

Moving to outreach, he informed that in 2025, there had been 33 global sessions, with 42,000 views of the Pension Town Halls. There had been 2.38 million views of the website, 20,000 followers within the various account from LinkedIn and so forth.

As did other speakers, Mr. Dell'Accio referred to UN General Assembly resolution 80/243 requesting the Pension Board to conduct a holistic review of the UNJSPF pension scheme.

SG for Investments

Mr. Robert van der Zee, representative of the Secretary General for Investments, made a Power Point presentation illustrating the long-term growth in the amount of investments managed by the Fund, noting that periods of downward investment totals had been more than compensated for by recurring strong growth. He reviewed the asset allocation of the Fund and illustrated the long-term real growth as surpassing the 3.5% required for long-term security.

He reviewed the strategic plan adopted in 2025 aimed at safeguarding the pension for the future. Under the plan, the Fund will continue to develop effective and innovative portfolios, follow responsible investment strategies, bolster investment agility, continue to promote organizational development, and strengthen risk management culture and practice.

Health Insurance

Ms. Francesca Maselli Chief Policy and Strategic Support Unit, IFAD; Mr. David Fontana Chief, Health Insurance Unit WFP; and Mr. Gjorgji Nikolovski of FAO Human Resources were present to take questions from the floor, leading to a lively discussion.



Afternoon session

CIGNA

A presentation from CIGNA was jointly hosted by Ms. Katja Habets, principal clients manager, Mr. Joel Mulas, Ms. Cristina Giuffrida (online), and Ms. Nele Taillieu (online).

Ms. Habets thanked FFOA for the invitation and noted that CIGNA sees itself as a partner to ensure that all have access to a qualitative, a reliable, and affordable healthcare. She acknowledged the very high level of satisfaction as reported in the recent client satisfaction survey, but indicated that this served to motivate CIGNA to offer even higher levels of service.

Mr. Mulas made a presentation on digital advances, including the new app and web portals which are making make access to care simpler, faster, and more intuitive. He confirmed that support was available for any issues with digital access and then took participants through the various steps of using the new app for the first time. The floor was then opened for questions.

UNFCU

Ms. Valentina Pinchetti, Mr. Massimiliano Mei and Mr. Joseph Marasciullo made a broad presentation on the financial issues that might be facing current staff or future retirees, and presented a number of UNFCU options for money management and/or investment.

Closing

In closing, the Vice-President thanked the Presiding Officer, Mr. Rodney Cooke, for so ably conducting the General Assembly, the interpreters, the FFOA IT officer, Mr. Maurizio Palmisano, and the membership for their participation and feedback in the General Assembly and all the staff, particularly the IFAD staff, involved in the organization and success of the meeting.

The FFOA Vice-President closed the 56th Session of the General Assembly at 15:30 hours.

The full draft of the General Assembly report is in preparation and will be circulated to all members for comments, before being tabled for formal approval at the next (57th) session of the General Assembly in May 2027.

Medical Insurance

Jakob Skoet

The FAO Advisory Committee on Medical Coverage (FACMC) has met to review

plan performance for January - April 2026, following the 8 percent premium increase on 1 January this year. The good news is that there seems to be a significant improvement in the ratio between claims and premiums compared with the same period in 2024 and 2025, with overall claims below overall premiums by a slight margin. Future FACMC meetings will continue monitoring trends in overall claims and premiums during 2026, and hopefully the positive trend will be confirmed.

In the FACMC we also received updates on efforts by FAO Social Security to encourage increased participation by younger staff members in the voluntary MMBP plan to improve the sustainability of the plan, in line with requests from FFOA in previous FACMC meetings. Future FACMC meetings will review trends in MMBP participation rates.

Pension Matters

Theresa Panuccio

The latest UN Joint Staff Pension Board meeting took place on April 22-24. In her statement to the meeting, Chief Executive Rosemarie McClean reported on the status of the pension fund.

The 25 percent increase in demand in 2025 for pensions is continuing into 2026 as staff separate from organizations. March set an all-time record of benefits processed at over 3000. As of December, 2025 the fund had 138500 participants and 94000 benefits in payment, making it the first time there was a decline in participants while beneficiaries continued to grow.

Despite the increase in volume the pension fund has continued to maintain a high level of performance in reaching the benchmarks for benefits processed within 15 days (most within 9 days).

Ms. McClean also focused on the upcoming modernization efforts which include a pension online submission tool,

new pension forms easier to follow, new member self-service portal and the early use of AI in the client services areas. She concluded by noting that delivery of pensions remains strong despite sustained high demand.

The Representative of the Secretary General on Investments also gave a presentation on the status of investments, which as of December 2025 reached a high of 107.4 billion dollars in assets under management, of which almost 45 percent is in equities. The target of 3.5 percent of a real rate of return was reached easily in 2025 and for the past 3 years. When compared to the benchmark, there was a slight underperformance of the investment portfolio. Although the markets in 2026 continue to swing up and down, the advice from the Investments committee was to maintain the strategic asset allocation, and not to make any reactive changes but keep vigilant on the risks in both the economic situation as well as the markets.

The meeting also reviewed changes to the UNJSPF regulations and rules, specifically on the currency of payments, and child disability benefits. This was an initial review for information; the final changes/amendments would be presented at the July pension board meeting before going to the GA. The proposed amendments are more to codify the established approaches/practices rather than making any real changes.

Finally, the board reviewed the document and proposal for the new plan design working group including the number of members and alternates and how the group would carry out its work. It also included estimates for the resources needed to assist the working group as well as for experts and consultants. The next board meeting will be in July. There are two members from FAFICS and two alternates. (Gerard Schramek and Katrin Bruchman and Darshak Shah and Richard Dictus).

From the UN Bookshelf

Stephen Dembner

Aging and Health: Policy Considerations for Long-term Care



Providing care for older parents or parents-in-law significantly reduces the probability of employment and annual earnings, particularly among women and intensive caregivers, which remains the most prevalent form of long-term care (LTC) for older adults. Addressing the growing care needs of older adults requires increasing coordination, integration, and capacity building within the health and long-term care systems. Engaging the private sector can help bridge the gap between supply and demand of LTC.

Governments play a crucial role in providing and regulating LTC services, especially in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs) where progress has been slow and uneven.

Many countries have taken steps towards implementing LTC services, but more is needed to improve access, affordability, and quality of services. A person-centered approach with multiple options supports greater access to LTC services.

Boudjadja, Meriem; Al Tuwaijri, Sameera Maziad; Saadat, Seemeen. 2024. © World Bank

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NEWS FROM UN ORGANIZATIONS

WFP

Lubna Alaman

On 1 June 2026 Ms. Cindy McCain officially took leave of her post as Executive Director, following three years of providing life-changing food assistance to millions across the globe. Mr. Carl Skau has taken over as Acting Executive Director.

The UN Secretary-General, Mr. Antonio Gueterres, expressed his deep appreciation to Ms. McCain, for her dedicated service. Under her leadership, WFP became leaner, faster and more agile in responding to global crises. She strengthened accountability, fostered innovation and advanced humanitarian diplomacy, while sustaining life-saving operations reaching nearly 100 million people each year. Her tenure also helped secure new sources of funding, expand critical partnerships and prioritize the safety and well-being of staff and beneficiaries worldwide. Mr. Gueterres expressed gratitude for her steadfast commitment to the fight against global hunger and malnutrition and wished her all the very best in the future.

The Secretary-General welcomed Mr. Carl Skau, Acting Executive Director of WFP. Mr. Skau has served as WFP's Deputy Executive Director and Chief Operating Officer since May 2023. He assumes his responsibilities at a critical moment, when more than 360 million people worldwide face acute food insecurity.

The process of identifying a new WFP Executive Director, run jointly by the UN



Secretary-General and the Director-General of the Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO), will now get under way.

Currently, WFP faces a 75-percent shortfall in its funding, with dire and deadly consequences. "The gaps are unprecedented," Mrs. Rania Dagash-Kamara, WFP's Assistant Executive Director for Partnerships and Innovation, told reporters in Geneva. "Country by country, we are making brutal choices about who to reach. While there has been much focus on US cuts, she stressed that the US remained WFP's top donor. The biggest shock to the system had been "the collective European pullback and cuts" representing the largest gap at the moment," she said. Mrs. Dagash-Kamara stressed that cuts were being made to "life-saving work" at a time when multiple famines were looming. The deep cuts were coming while the challenges have been multiplying, including from the war in the Middle East, which has piled on logistical difficulties and hiked prices for aid deliveries in a range of countries.

WFP wants to reach 110 million people around the world this year, for which it would require \$13 billion. The agency received \$10 billion in contributions in 2024, but in 2025, the amount had shrunk to \$6 billion. "That is a 40-percent reduction in contributions, and that is tens of millions of people that we are unable to reach as a result," she said. And to date this year, the agency has received just \$2.9 billion. In 2025, WFP was instrumental in addressing

two confirmed famines, in parts of the Gaza Strip and Sudan. But this year, the world was looking at “famine-like conditions or credible risk in Sudan, Somalia, South Sudan and Mali” while she cautioned that “the likelihood is rising sharply, because famine is really the one thing we exist to prevent”.

IFAD

Sino Mariano

IFAD's First Mile Strategy

IFAD has launched its new First Mile strategy as part of the IFAD14 cycle, introduced in early 2026, to tackle the weakest link in rural value chains: the stretch from farm to the first aggregation point.

The initiative focuses on reducing post-harvest losses—currently among the highest in Africa—by investing in feeder roads, storage facilities, cold chains, and cooperative strengthening. It also expands access to blended finance and supports youth-led logistics and processing services.

Through these interventions, the strategy aims to improve market access, raise smallholder incomes, and attract greater private-sector investment into rural economies.

Membership Matters



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

Mr Praveen AGRAWAL, WFP
Mr Amer BADAWI, WFP
Ms Rym BEN ZID, IFAD
Ms Anna BERSANI, ILO
Ms Elvira BONACCI, FAO

MS Arlette BURGOS LEON, FAO
Mr Enrico CAIROLA, ILO
Ms Elisabetta CAPELLO, ICTP
Mr. Christian DI CHIARA, IFAD
Ms Olga FAMOSO GAMBACORTA, FAO
Ms Maria Teresa S. FOLETTO, ILO
Ms Antonia GAGGIANI, FAO
Ms Fabienne LAMBERT, WFP
Ms Maria MARCHETTI, FAO
Mr Divine NJIE, FAO
Ms Mary M. NJOROGI, WFP
Ms Lorena ROCCHI, WFP
Mr Giancarlo ROCCHI, FAO
Mr Fabien ROTTICCI, WFP
Mr Gaston SEBUJOGORI, WFP
Mr Mario Armando SIBRIAN DUNAWAY, WFP
Ms Ilaria SISTO, FAO
Ms Nadia STELLATI, FAO



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.

Mr Teonesto Antonio BATTIATO, FAO
27/03/2026
Mr Steinar och Arnhild FLATJORD, FAO
14/05/2025
Mr André REGNIER, FAO
14/05/2026
Mr Frans TEUTSCHER, FAO
26/04/2026

Social Support and Recreational Activities

RECENT ACTIVITIES

April 2026

Trip to Modena, Borghi and Castelli dell'Emilia, Bologna and the Rocca di San Leo
Tour to Gdansk/Danzica (Poland)
Concert by Maestro Camerini

May 2026

Watercolor Exhibition, Medina Art Gallery
Guided Visit– Parco degli Acquedotti
Hokusai, The Japanese Culture, Palazzo Bonaparte
Visit to the FAO Museum
Concert by Maestro Camerini

June 2026

Tour to Mesopotamia
Tour to the Baltic Capitals
Theatre in English: Business Ideas, Teatro Le Salette
Visit to the FAO Museum
Choral Concert – All Saints Church

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

July 2026

Tour to Cracovia (Poland)
Trip to Valencia (Spain)
Visit to the FAO Museum

November 2026

Tour to Japan

The Wonders of Japan

We visited Japan in March 2026. The first leg centred around Kyoto, where we stayed three nights in the first hotel. This allowed us to settle in before we started our grand tour and also helped us to get to know each other.

In Kyoto, we saw the Kiyomizu-dera Temple founded in 798 (the current buildings are reconstructions from 1633), which constitutes the highest point of the city, to



see and be seen from afar. We took in the surroundings (Ninen-zaka and Sannen-zaka) and walked in the heart of the Gion district. In the afternoon, our visit included the Tenryu-ji Zen Temple with its refined garden overlooking the mountains; Arashiyama, where the Togetsu Bridge rises over the Oi River and has inspired artists of all ages; and the famous Bamboo Forest immersed in an evocative and romantic atmosphere.

By the fourth day, with our jet lag adjusting, we completed our visit of Kyoto. We visited the Golden Pavilion of Kinkaku-ji, the city's symbolic temple, and the Ryoan-ji Temple with its Zen Garden of rocks. We continued to Nara, 50 km away, the even more ancient capital of Japan from 710 to 794. Nara is the centre of buddhism studies and we visited the Big Buddha in the Todai-ji temple, one of the largest bronze statues in the world. On our way back to Kyoto, we stopped to visit the Fushimi Inari Taisha, the main shrine dedicated to the Inari Kami and were marveled by the endless red portals – the famous image that covers most guide books to Japan.

The fifth day we started the more intense part of our trip where we stayed one night in each hotel. We travelled on the famous Nozomi Shinkansen bullet train to Hiroshima where we continued by bus to Miyajima and took the ferry to discover the ‘island where men and gods coexist’. We walked over to the splendid Itsukushima Shrine and its sacred portal that stands in the water – yes, that other stunning iconic cover of Japanese guide books.

The afternoon was dedicated to Hiroshima city and the Peace Memorial Museum and Park, and the Atomic Bomb Dome, the only building that survived the 1945 nuclear bombing of the city.

On day six we travelled to Himeji and the city’s grandiose castle from the Sengoku period. The castle is nicknamed ‘White Heron’ for its bright white façade and it is truly picture-postcard magnificent. We then returned to the station to take the Super Express Shinkansen Nozomi 98 to Osaka.

On the seventh day, we visited Nagoya, the 4th most populated city, and then Shirakawa-go, a beautiful traditional village with characteristic thatched houses. These houses are all built without the use of nails and are so solid that they have been standing since the 1880s despite numerous earthquakes. We also stopped at Kaga Onsen Hot Spring Town in southwest Ishikawa, a settlement dating back 1,300 years.

We moved on to visit Kanazawa, the capital of the prefecture of Ishikawa, a town that can take you back to feudal Japan. We visited Kenroku-en, one of the three most beautiful landscaped gardens in Japan, begun in the 17th Century and prized for the classical design of its landscape that includes ponds and streams; also the house-museum of the Nomura family in which the spirit of the Samurai has been handed down for 11 generations and where in addition to the beautiful gardens, the building also houses historical artifacts such as a complete and perfectly kept samurai armor, various traditional Nomura swords, coins from the

Edo period, inlaid woods and paintings on sliding doors made by the family’s personal painter. 90% of Japan’s gold leaf production takes places in Kanazawa and souvenir shopping was a must.

We started day 8 at Matsumoto castle, a national treasure built in the late 16th century, one of the oldest still standing today. Our visit continued in the afternoon to one of the more curious architectural structures: the old elementary school of Kaichi featuring western-inspired architecture from the late 19th century. We finished our visit of Matsumoto with a walk down Nakamachi Street in the centre, lined with Kura, the traditional warehouses.

From there we finally travelled to Tokyo and our last full day was dedicated to the capital city with a walk around the outside of the Imperial Palace, originally called the Edo Castle, and the famous Nijubashi bridge. After that we moved over to Asakusa to visit the 7th century Senso-ji Temple which stands in the oldest section of the city and walked along the Nakamise-dori Avenue. The final temple visit was to Meiji Jingu Shrine inside the large and beautiful Yoyogi Park. This is the largest shintoist shrine in Tokyo, visited by millions at New Year’s Eve. A short distance away we walked along Omote-sando street, the ‘Champs-Élysées of Japan’. On Takeshita street we saw the renowned shops offering baby pigs and kittens for cuddling and petting.



On departure day we visited two final landmarks: we ascended to the 45th floor of the Metropolitan Government Office Observatory to admire this incredible city from above; and then continued to Shibuya, the beating heart of Tokyo, also famous for the statue of Hachi the dog, who still waited for his owner even after he died.

During our trip, beyond the cultural and historical landmarks, we saw the flowering of the plum blossoms, white magnolia blossoms and the very beginning of the cherry blossoms; we experienced extremely cold temperatures as well as freak sunny ones; we were blown away by the cleanliness of the country, and the incredibly good and beautifully presented Japanese food wherever we went.



It was a great trip, in super great company as you will see from our group photos, that allowed us to see so many of the most famous landmarks. Nevertheless it is such a remarkable country that a second (or third or more) visit is a must.

UNWG Presentation at Coffee Morning

Founded in 1948, the United Nations Women's Guild (UNWG) assists women and children in vulnerable communities. The Guild also serves as a mutual bond and centre of interest for women connected with

United Nations organizations. Membership is open to any woman officially connected – through work or relationship – to the United Nations system. This includes the UN, its Specialized Agencies, and Permanent Missions to the United Nations. Non-UN-affiliated women who wish to support the work of the Guild are also welcome to join us, after contacting us at our Rome office.

UNWG organizes bazaars and other events to help finance its projects worldwide. At the same time, UNWG serves the UN community in Rome, by offering advice, as well as through a variety of interesting, instructive, and enjoyable activities.

Newcomers can find assistance in navigating the intricacies of Roman and Italian life. Language courses, jewellery-making workshops, practical AI sessions, monthly gatherings, guided tours, and many other social activities are all part of the UNWG offerings.

UNWG Rome has recently updated its project guidelines, revised its accounting and financial procedures, and refurbished its office space, and welcomes new members. Join UNWG to contribute your ideas, initiatives, and enthusiasm to help women and children in need and shape the future of this much needed and impactful organization. UNWG Rome offices and second-hand shop are located on the ground floor of FAO building B. The phone number is +39 0657053628. Email: unwgrome@gmail.com

FFOA members visit new FAO museum - MuNe

FFOA members from the Executive Committee and 30 participants at the May Coffee meeting visited the recently-opened FAO museum – MuNe (Museum and Network). FAO MuNe is a physical and digital space that opened in 2025. Supported by the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, it is housed at FAO headquarters. The museum is a journey

through global food combining history, knowledge, art and science. Themed rooms and immersive spaces tell the story of food and agriculture as a shared human heritage. The exhibits illustrate the importance of global agri-food systems, culinary and agricultural traditions, scientific advances, and the challenges and opportunities of today and tomorrow in creating a sustainable food future across the globe.

The museum covers an area of approximately 1,300 square meters. At its heart is an art collection of more than 60 pieces donated by around 40 FAO Members, each sharing a story of its land and people. These include the life-size sculpture “Cultivating the Third Paradise” by Michelangelo Pistoletto (an installation conceived as a contemporary agora that bridges nature, society, and technology in search of harmony) and “Peace

with Nature” by Uruguayan sculptor Pablo Atchugarry, a century-old olive tree reborn as a symbol of humanity’s reconciliation with the environment.

In addition to housing the historic David Lubin Memorial Library (a rich heritage that goes as far back as the 15th century and is dedicated to all fields of study related to agriculture and nutrition), the FAO MuNe is also a network connecting institutions, partners and communities – a global hub for collaboration and dialogue that brings together local experiences, global knowledge and best practices.

Admission is free but advance booking is required. Tickets can be reserved up to 30 days ahead, but must be made at least 24 hours before the visit. Opening hours are Mon-Fri 9:00 - 17:00 (15:45 last entrance). Book your visit at <https://fao.midaticket.com/en/>.

NEWSBRIEF 129

July 2026

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