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Food and Agriculture  
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Продовольственная и  
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Organización de las  
Naciones Unidas para la  
Alimentación y la Agricultura

منظمة  
الغذية والزراعة  
للأمم المتحدة

## JOINT MEETING

### Hundred and Twenty-fourth Session of the Programme Committee and Hundred and Seventieth Session of the Finance Committee

Rome, 21 May 2018

### Proposal for high-level event on FAO's role in food security matters at World Food Day

### Information Note

#### Action by the Joint Meeting of the Programme and Finance Committees

The Joint Meeting may wish to take note of the information presented in the document in relation to the preparation, modalities and funding of the High-Level Event dedicated to FAO's role in food security matters, to be held in conjunction with the 2018 World Food Day events.

*Queries on the substantive content of this document may be addressed to:*

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### *Introduction*

1. At its Session of November 2017, the Joint Meeting of the Programme Committee and Finance Committee (6, 9 Nov 2017), “welcomed the proposal for a **high-level event dedicated to FAO's role in food security matters**, to be funded by extra-budgetary resources, to be held in conjunction with the 2018 World Food Day events, and agreed to review its modalities and funding at its next meeting.”
2. This document presents the thematic context within the events around the World Food Day 2018 that lead to the High-Level Event, its modalities as well as the funding aspect of it.

### *Background*

3. The World Food Week 2018 and the 45<sup>th</sup> Session of the CFS will present a number of opportunities to highlight FAO's vision of food and agriculture as key to sustainable development, and comprehensive and ambitious policy perspectives: tackling the root causes of poverty and hunger, building a fairer society and leaving no one behind.
  - a) On Monday 15 October, the CFS will open with the participation of the Director-General. Following the morning session of CFS, a Panel discussion on SOFI 2018 will be organized in the afternoon. This edition of SOFI will focus on *Climate and Weather Related Events*.
  - b) SOFA, which will have a focus on *Migration, Agriculture and Rural Development* will be presented and an interactive discussion will be held with the CFS participants.
  - c) These events, organized jointly by FAO and the CFS secretariat, will be part of the Provisional Agenda for the 45<sup>th</sup> Session of the CFS.
  - d) On Tuesday 16 October, the traditional World Food Day Celebration will be held in the morning with *Nutrition* as its special theme. The celebration will include video messages by the President of the Republic of Italy and the UN Secretary General (TBC), as well as a message by the Holy Father.
  - e) Given that the focus theme of the WFD is nutrition, the event will include keynote speeches by the two FAO Special Ambassadors for Nutrition, Her Majesty Queen Leticia of Spain and His Majesty King Letsie III of Lesotho, in addition to interventions by the Principals of IFAD and WFP.
  - f) As welcomed by the Joint Meeting of the Programme and Finance Committee in its November 2017 Session World Food Day Celebration will be followed by a High-Level Event.

### **The High-Level Event**

4. Following the guidance received by the Members at the last Session of the Joint Meeting, a High-Level Event will take place on 16 October after the traditional celebration.
5. The current global agenda for sustainable development fully endorses FAO's vision of food and agriculture as key to sustainable development, and comprehensive and ambitious policy perspectives: tackling the root causes of poverty and hunger, building a fairer society and leaving no one behind. Investing in this Zero Hunger Vision can catalyse achievement right across the 2030 Agenda. The ambition of SDGs 1 and 2 – and FAO's – amounts to ensuring people are able to access sufficient nourishing food, sustaining natural resources and safeguarding biodiversity, transforming food systems and the rural sector while increasing the productivity and income of smallholder farmers, fishers, foresters and pastoralists.
6. This Zero Hunger Vision can be summarized as follows: despite a recent growth in the number of the poor and food insecure, ending poverty and hunger by 2030 is feasible, if we join forces and act on evidence. In other words: **WE CAN STILL REACH ZERO HUNGER**. Top of the policy agenda is tackling root causes by targeting rural populations, providing access to social protection programmes, committing to pro-poor investment and growth, and promoting nutrition, sustainable food and food systems.

7. The High-Level Event will provide an excellent opportunity – within the sequence of events of the World Food Week - to celebrate and reaffirm the Zero Hunger Vision that has been built over the past years, and which has been embraced and internalized through the 2030 Agenda.

*Timing and duration*

8. The Event is planned for the afternoon of 16 October 2018. Given the conceptual link to the World Food Day and taking advantage of the traditional celebrations of WFD in the morning. The Event will have a duration of 4 hours (two round tables of 2 hrs duration each).

*Funding*

9. Due to the fact that duration and format of the High-Level Event have been optimized to make use of already earmarked funds, all costs will be absorbed by the budget of the World Food Day. This includes costs for interpretation and technical support. Costs related to the basic requirements for holding the event are therefore covered.

10. Eventual voluntary contributions would permit the Organization to expand outreach, services and logistics related to the High-Level Event.

*Format*

11. The Event will consist of two round table discussions (moderated panels). The Panels will consist of Ministers and other high-level guests, such as leaders of civil society organizations, the private sector, mayors and parliamentarians.

12. As per usual practice at FAO events, special attention will be given to maintain gender and geographic balance, as well as following a participatory approach of all key stakeholders.

*Content*

13. Two Round Tables will be organized with the following topics:

- a) *Emerging Challenges: Nutrition/Obesity, Climate Change, Conflict and Migration*
- b) *The Role of Partnerships to achieve Zero Hunger: civil society, private sector, parliaments, cities*