

WORLD
FOOD
FORUMHAND-IN-HAND
INVESTMENT

HAND-IN-HAND INVESTMENT FORUM 2023

17-20 October 2023

FAO Headquarters, Rome, Italy

Roundtable with IFIs

17 October 2023**18:00-19:30 CEST****Plenary Hall**

Chair:

Mr Máximo Torero Cullen
Chief Economist

The roundtable will discuss and examine the strategies that International Financial Institutions (IFIs) apply to support countries with high level of poverty or significant food insecurity, their lending or grant instruments already in place, as well as the alternatives they can offer to support countries' agrifood system transformation.

The roundtable will be held in the afternoon of 17 October 2023 from 18.00 to 19.30 hours. The participation of senior management from the Asian Development Bank (ADB), African Development Bank (AfDB), Central American Bank for Economic Integration (CABEI), Development Bank of Latin America and the Caribbean (CAF), Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), International Finance Corporation (IFC), World Bank Group (WBG), is planned, among others.

Under the umbrella of the [World Food Forum \(WFF\)](#), FAO is honoured to host three Fora in parallel, building on the success we enjoyed last year by bringing together the WFF Global Youth Forum, the [Hand-in-Hand \(HIH\) Initiative Investment Forum](#), and the Science and Innovation Forum. The opening ceremony will be followed by four days of open country presentations and bilateral meetings with investment partners and will end on 20 October 2023.

The HIH Initiative is a flagship of FAO and a core platform for all FAO's programme priority areas. As of today, the Initiative supports nationally-led, integrative, territory-based agrifood systems transformation programmes in 67 countries in Africa, Asia, Europe, Latin America, and the Middle East. By introducing advanced geospatial modelling, identification and analysis of market opportunities, and robust partnership-building, the Initiative enables the collaboration and scaled-up investment required to implement and accelerate national plans for agrifood systems transformation. The Initiative is designed specifically to support national efforts to eradicate extreme poverty, end hunger and malnutrition, and reduce inequalities. The HIH Investment Forum is the crux and pay-off of partnership-building efforts, providing a platform for national authorities, investors, global and national businesses, multilateral development banks, foundations and donors to discuss ways and means to finance the Government prioritized Investment Plans.

The Forum will be driven by insights from prominent food value chain participants who have been requested to present their perspectives on how to stimulate asset allocation to long-term sustainable investments across and beyond national markets. The Forum will examine sectors and opportunities



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with the greatest potential development impact and social and financial returns, as well as the policy and institutional reforms required to mobilize greater private investment.

For this year's edition, 31 countries will present their Investment Plans and Opportunities in the Hand-in-Hand Investment Forum. This will include follow-up reports from several countries which attended the Investment Forum in 2022 as well as 15 countries presenting for the first time. The Forum will also include follow-up presentations on the Regional Initiatives for the Sahel, crucial for poverty and hunger reduction in a sensitive area of Africa, and the Dry Corridor, vital for job creation and to reduce out-migration in Central America.

In this second edition of the Investment Forum four new roundtables have been included in the programme. These include a roundtable with Managing Directors and high-ranking officers of International Financial Institutions, one with Chief Executive Officers and executives from global agrifood firms, a third with global Foundations and a fourth with traditional donors.

National and international private investment in agrifood systems is critical and necessary to sustain accelerated national economic growth, ensure employment, incorporate technology, reduce poverty, and increase food security and sustainable development, while improving macroeconomic stability.

We anticipate a dynamic, in-person participation in the WFF and in the Investment Forum with contributions from Heads of State/Government from all five continents, Ministers from more than 30 countries, investors, senior officials of multilateral development banks, and senior executives from global agrifood firms and other development partners.

We hope that the interventions of representatives of the international financial institutions will inspire the audience to work effectively together to accelerate agrifood systems transformation as a core driver of progress for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

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Members of the Panel**Chair:**

Mr Máximo Torero Cullen
Chief Economist
Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

Panel:

Ms Ana Maria Ibañez
Vice President for Sectors and Knowledge
Inter-American Development Bank (IDB)

Mr Jaime Roberto Diaz Palacios
Executive Vice President
CABEI - Central American Bank for Economic Integration

Mr Martien van Nieuwkoop
Global Director for Agriculture and Food
World Bank Group

Mr Wagner Albuquerque de Almeida
Director
Global Manufacturing, Agribusiness and Services (MAS)
International Finance Corporation

Ms Tereza Helena Gabrielli Barreto Campello
Director Socio-Environmental Division
Brazilian Development Bank (BNDES)

Dr Damian Ihedioha
Manager of Agribusiness Division of the Bank
Agriculture and agro-Industry Department
African Development Bank

Mr Pablo Bartol
Manager of Social and Human Development
Development Bank of Latin America
and the Caribbean (CAF)

Mr Nabil Fawaz
Global Sector Manager
Manufacturing, Agribusiness, and Services
Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency

Mr Takeshi Ueda
Rural Development Head
Agriculture, Food, Nature, and Rural Development Sector Office
Asian Development Bank (ADB)