

International Fund for Agricultural Development

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Created in 1977, the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), which has 161 member states, grew out of the 1974 World Food Conference. The Conference had been organized to find solutions to the food crises of the early 1970s, particularly in the countries of sub-Saharan Africa. The aim of the Fund

is to combat rural hunger and poverty in developing nations. IFAD's programs focus on small agricultural producers, landless peasants, nomadic shepherds and rural women living in poverty.

Since its inception, the Fund has financed nearly 500 projects in 111 countries, for a total of approximately US\$6 billion. To this figure must be added the contributions of the recipient countries (close to US\$6.5 billion), and of donor countries and multilateral agencies (US\$5.5 billion). These projects, which are aimed at stimulating food production, have given help to almost 200 million people.



International Labour Organization

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Created in 1919 by the Treaty of Versailles, the International Labour Organization (ILO) is mandated to promote social justice and respect for workers' rights throughout the world. It became a UN specialized agency in 1946.

The ILO develops international labour conventions and recommendations that set the minimum standards to be followed in the areas under its mandate: freedom of association, the right to organize, collective bargaining rights, the abolition of forced labour, equality of opportunity and treatment, etc. It offers technical assistance in various sectors: vocational training and rehabilitation, employment policy, labour administration, labour law, staff relations, working conditions, management training, co-operatives, social security, labour statistics, and occupational health and safety. The ILO encourages the creation of independent employer and labour organizations, and facilitates their growth through training activities and advice.

Within the UN system, the ILO is unique by virtue of its tripartite structure: employers and workers participate in the activities of its governing bodies on an equal footing with governments. On the occasion of its 50th anniversary in 1969, the ILO was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize.