



Ambassador Cousin presents her credentials to FAO Director General Jacques Diouf on September 30, 2009 (FAO copyright)

Ambassador Ertharin Cousin assumed charge as the U.S. Permanent Representative to the Rome-based UN Agencies on September 30, 2009.

Ms. Cousin has more than twenty-five years of national and international corporate, non-profit, and government leadership experience, and immediately prior to this appointment was President of The Polk Street Group, a national public affairs firm located in Chicago, Illinois.



The U.S. Mission to UN Agencies in Rome



The U.S. Mission to the United Nations Agencies in Rome represents the United States Government to the Rome-based international organizations.

With staff drawn from the Departments of State and Agriculture, and the Agency for International Development, the U.S. Mission works to advance global food security goals by supporting UN efforts in the areas of emergency food assistance, food safety standards, plant and animal protection, agriculture, fisheries, forestry, and financing for rural development.



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**U.S. Mission to
UN Agencies in Rome**



“Words alone cannot meet the needs of our people. These needs will be met only if we act boldly in the years ahead; and if we understand that the challenges we face are shared, and our failure to meet them will hurt us all!”

– President Barack Obama, Cairo

U.S. Engagement With the UN Food and Agriculture Agencies

“Aid is not an end in itself. The purpose of foreign assistance must be creating the conditions where it’s no longer needed.”

– President Barack Obama



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United States Support to the UN Food Agencies



United States support to the UN food agencies, including the World Food Program (WFP), the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), and the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) contributes significantly to humanitarian food relief and food security initiatives worldwide with the goal to end hunger.

The United States Government is the largest single donor to all of these agencies, with contributions that totaled over \$2 billion dollars in FY2008. In keeping with President Obama's commitment to engagement with multilateral institutions, the United States will continue to support these agencies through assessed and voluntary contributions as a complement to expanding U.S. and international efforts to address ongoing food security challenges.

World Food Program (WFP)

For more than 45 years, WFP, the world's premier emergency food relief agency, has played a key role on global food issues, including bringing humanitarian response and hunger issues to the forefront of the international development agenda. In 2008, WFP served more than 102 million people.

With its hard-earned expertise, response and logistics capacity, and monitoring tools, WFP is well-positioned to be a key multilateral partner for the United States for years to come.

Over the last four years, the United States has contributed more than 40 percent of the World Food Program's total resources.

Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)

The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), whose mandate is to raise nutrition levels, improve agricultural productivity, and promote agricultural trade and economic growth, serves as a source of knowledge and information and helps developing countries and countries in transition modernize and improve agricultural, forestry, and fisheries practices.

International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)

The International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) has an important role to play in supporting integrated country-led strategies.

As a hybrid UN-agency and international financial institution, IFAD is one of the largest sources of development financing for agriculture and rural development in many developing countries.

With operations in 117 countries, IFAD uses local experience and knowledge in its approach to poverty reduction, focusing on smallholder farmers to raise their incomes and productivity.



For example, IFAD initiated a program in Tanzania to store grain for small farmers so that they can sell their crops when market prices are optimal. Similarly, through the IFAD-supported Agricultural Resource Management Project, farmers in Jordan's rural southern highlands are able to irrigate their crops with water from a new wastewater treatment plant.

The United States is the largest single contributor to the United Nations Food and Agriculture Agencies

-In 2008 the United States contributed a record \$1.8 billion to the World Food Program. This represents the largest single-year contribution by any country in the program's history.

-In FY 2008, the U.S. voluntary and assessed contributions to FAO exceeded \$200 million, the largest dollar amount of any donor.

-In FY2008, the U.S. voluntary and assessed contributions to IFAD exceeded \$18 million.

-The U.S. pledged \$90 million over the three-year period of 2010-2012 to IFAD.

-The United States is IFAD's largest donor.