

NEXT
IMPACT
LEARNING 2026

FAO



WORLD
FOOD
FORUM

2026 World Food Forum by United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)

Global School Assembly APAC Youth Delegate

October 2026 | Rome, Italy

The Road to Rome. A Journey to the UN Stage.



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Next Impact Learning Hub.

United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) is a **specialized agency of the United Nations** that leads international efforts to **defeat hunger and improve nutrition and food security**.

The FAO comprises 194 members, including 193 countries and one member organization, the European Union (EU). Its headquarters is in **Rome, Italy**, and it maintains regional and field offices worldwide, operating in over 130 countries.



FAO's headquarters – Rome, Italy

World Food Forum (WFF)

The **World Food Forum (WFF)** is an annual global platform launched by the **Food and Agriculture Organization** and held **every October** at **FAO Headquarters in Rome**.

2025 at a Glance

- **Nearly 200 countries** represented
- **16,500** in-person participants
- **60,000+** virtual participants
- **1.5 billion** social media reach
- **1.6 million+** global engagements
- **USD 17.2 billion** in investment opportunities

High-Level Global Participation

Selected leaders and dignitaries at the 2025 World Food Forum

- 10 heads of state, government and other high-level leaders, including Pope Leo XIV and the Presidents of Italy, Brazil and Chile
- 79 ministers
- 33 deputy ministers
- 3 deputy prime ministers
- UN leaders (e.g. the eighth Secretary-General of the United Nations Ban Ki-Moon, scientists, investors and youth representatives



Dr. Qu Dongyu, FAO Director-General, at the opening of the 2025 World Food Forum.



FAO Director-General Dr. Qu with Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni



President Gabriel Boric of Chile speaking at the Hand-in-Hand Investment Forum



FAO Director-General Dr. Qu engaging with King Letsie III of Lesotho at the exhibition



Queen of Spain Letizia delivering a keynote address



Pope Leo XIV calling on young people around the world to unite on World Food Day



FAO Director-General Dr. Qu with international dignitaries at the 2025 WFF closing ceremony

2026 Global School Assembly

Connect. Share. Speak Up.

About the Assembly

Held during the **World Food Forum**, the **Global School Assembly** brings together school delegations from around the world to celebrate student learning, exchange ideas across cultures, and engage with global challenges through the lens of food, sustainability and youth leadership. As the flagship annual gathering of **CultivatED**, FAO's global education initiative, the Assembly offers students a rare opportunity to experience the United Nations first-hand while connecting with UN experts and fellow young changemakers from across the globe.

A Global Gathering of Young Changemakers

The 2026 Global School Assembly is expected to bring together approximately 500 students, educators and UN experts from around the world at FAO Headquarters in Rome.

Selected student delegates may also have the opportunity to speak on stage, subject to the final programme and selection by the organisers.



2026 Global School Assembly
Tuesday, 13 October 2026
FAO Headquarters, Rome, Italy

2026 FAO Global School Assembly

FAO
HQ

Delegation Journey x Rome – Day 1

Date Tuesday, 13 October 2026 | 9:30–11:30 AM

Location Plenary Hall, FAO Headquarters

Programme Highlights

- Connect with peers and join a global community.
- Gain first-hand insights from UN experts and youth leaders through keynote sessions and panel discussions.
- Explore global perspectives on agrifood systems, sustainability and youth leadership.
- Experience international dialogue at the United Nations and build lasting global connections.
- **Selected delegates will have the chance to join the youth panel/ fireside talk on the stage.**





2026 FAO Discover Station Workshop

FAO
HQ

Delegation Journey x Rome – Day 1

Date Tuesday, 13 October 2026 | 12:00 –2:00 PM

Location FAO Headquarters

Programme Highlights

- Experience FAO from the inside by visiting technical divisions and programme teams, connecting with professionals across disciplines, and learning how the United Nations translates expertise into action to address global challenges.
- Explore career pathways and youth engagement opportunities, including internships, fellowships, and other early-career programmes within the United Nations and the broader international development sector.





2026 FAO Youth Exhibition

FAO
HQ

Delegation Journey x Rome – Day 1

Date Tuesday, 13 October 2026 | 4:00–6:00 PM

Location Altrium, FAO Headquarters

Programme Highlights

- Experience the youth exhibition "**A Nourishing Tomorrow: Dim Sum and Beyond**", co-created by student delegations from China's Greater Bay Area and the San Francisco Bay Area.
- Engage with young storytellers and explore how food, culture and creativity can inspire dialogue across generations and cultures.
- Celebrate youth-led innovation through interactive exhibits, multimedia storytelling and cultural exchange.





Pedius: Technology for Social Impact

Delegation Journey x Rome - Day 2

Founded in Rome, Pedius is an award-winning Italian social enterprise that has developed an AI-powered app enabling people who are deaf and hard of hearing to make and receive phone calls independently. Today, the technology is available in Hong Kong and across multiple international markets.

Date Wednesday, 14 October 2026 | 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM

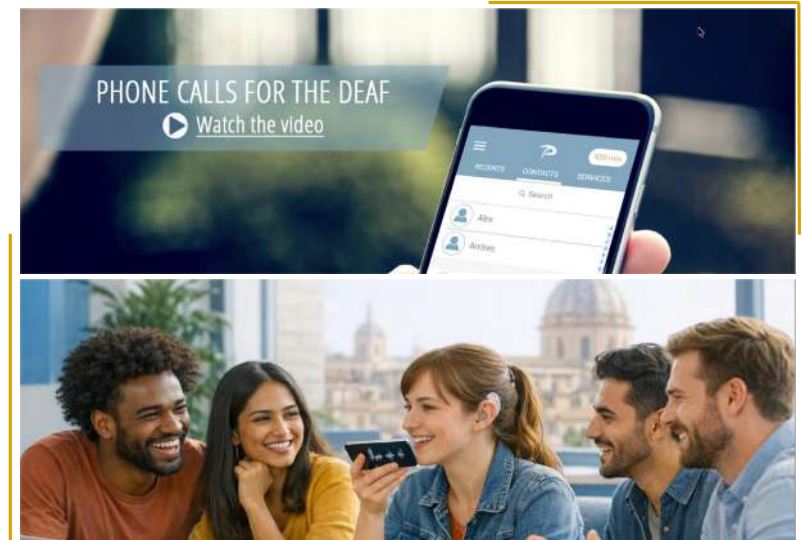
Location CTE Innovation Hub, Rome

Programme Highlights

- Discover how AI-powered speech technology is transforming communication for people who are deaf and hard of hearing.
- Meet the founders and hear first-hand how a local social challenge evolved into an internationally recognised innovation.
- Explore the entrepreneurial journey—from idea validation and fundraising to international expansion.
- Discover relevant research and internship opportunities.
- Reflect on how technology, entrepreneurship and purpose-driven innovation can create meaningful social impact.

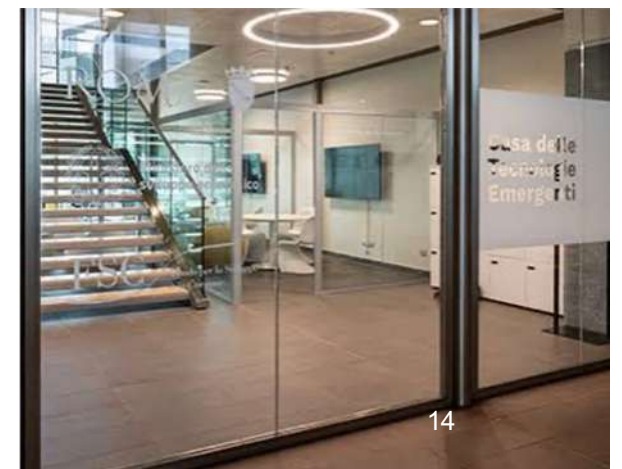
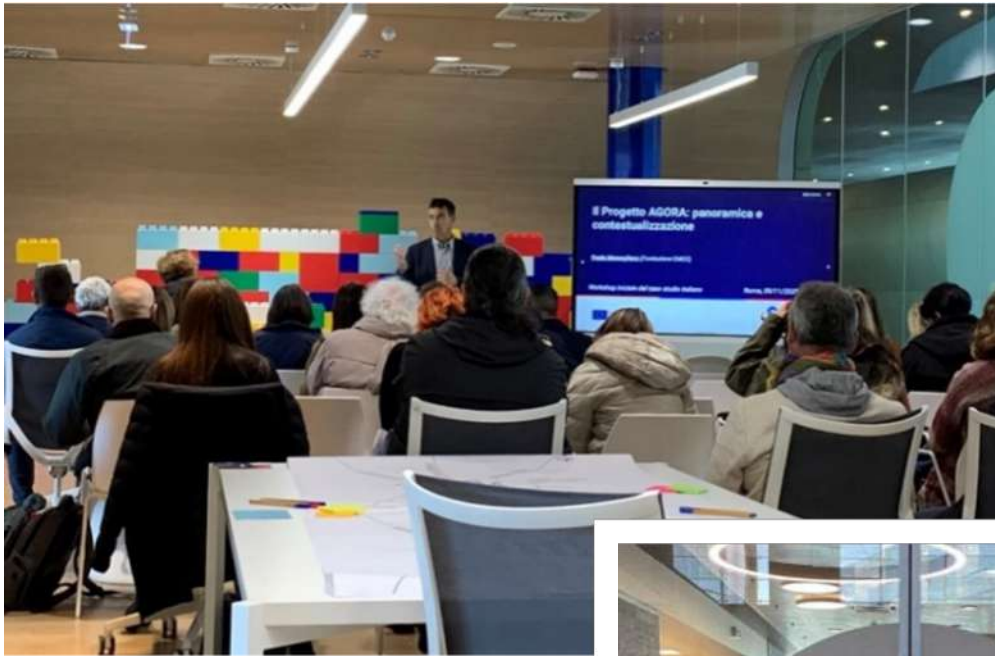


Social
Enterprise
Workshop



AI Research projects/internships in collaboration with HKUST and Rome Sapienza University are open to high school students





Ridaje – Building Communities Through Social Enterprise

Delegation Journey x Rome - Day 2

Ridaje – Building Communities Through Social Enterprise

Ridaje is a Rome-based social enterprise that believes everyone deserves a second chance. Through environmental projects, community partnerships and inclusive employment, Ridaje supports vulnerable communities while helping to create cleaner, more connected neighbourhoods across the city.

Date Wednesday, 14 October 2026 | 2:00 – 4:00 PM

Location Mercato Coperto San Paolo, Rome

Programme Highlights

- Discover how social enterprises create long-term social impact through inclusive employment and community-based initiatives.
- Explore the connections between environmental sustainability, community development and social inclusion.
- Experience a real community project and learn how social innovation is translated from ideas into action.
- Reflect on how Service as Action, CAS and Community Project initiatives can extend beyond the classroom to create meaningful impact in local communities.



Slogan "C'è sempre un'altra chance! "
«There's always another chance!»

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IFAD – International Fund for Agricultural Development

Delegation Journey x Rome - Day 3

The International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) is a specialised United Nations agency and sister organisation of FAO, dedicated to investing in rural communities through development finance. Working with governments and partners worldwide, IFAD supports smallholder farmers, strengthens food systems and helps reduce rural poverty through sustainable investment.

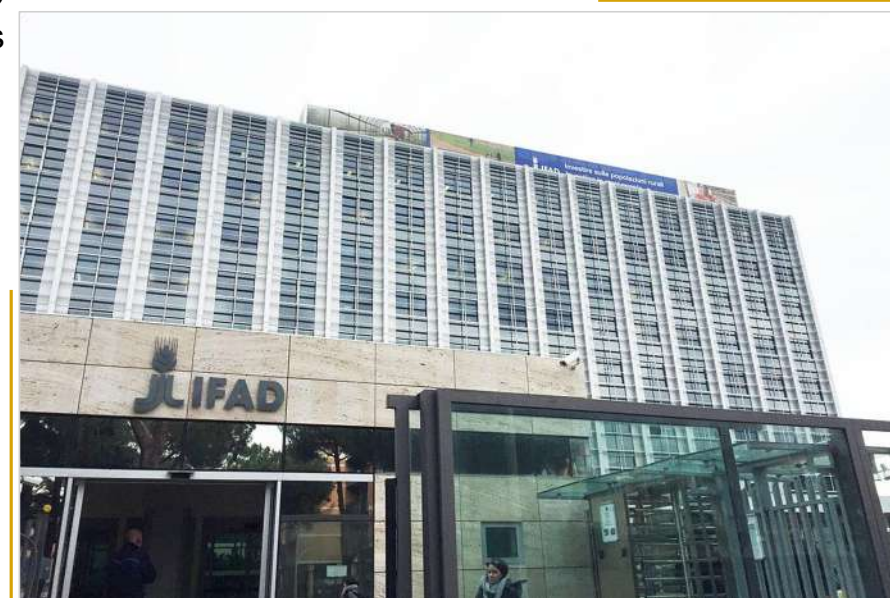
Date Thursday, 15 October 2026 (TBD, depending on the final participating numbers)

Location IFAD Headquarters, Rome

Programme Highlights

- Meet IFAD professionals from the Investment and Innovation teams to explore how finance can drive sustainable development.
- Discover how impact investing supports agriculture, food security and rural communities around the world.
- Gain a new perspective on food systems through the lens of investment, innovation and international cooperation.
- Discover career pathways within the United Nations and the international development sector, including internships, graduate programmes and youth initiatives.

IFAD
HQ





Next Impact Learning Journey x Rome

Inspire. Immerse. Impact.

Full
Agenda

Day	Theme	Location	Highlights
Day 1 October 13	The United Nations in Action	FAO Headquarters	Participate in the Global School Assembly , Discover Station Workshop and Youth Exhibition , gaining first-hand insights into the UN, global food systems and youth leadership.
Day 2 October 14	Innovation for Social Impact	Pedius & Ridaje	Meet social innovators and entrepreneurs to explore how technology, AI, business and community action can create lasting social impact, while connecting classroom learning such as Service as Action and CAS to real-world practice.
Day 3 October 15	Finance for Sustainable Development	IFAD Headquarters	Discover how Impact Investing and development finance support agriculture, food security and rural development, and explore the role of finance in creating sustainable social impact.

What You Will Gain

Represent Your School on the Global Stage

- Participate in the **FAO Global School Assembly** and visit the headquarters of **FAO** and **IFAD**, gaining first-hand insight into international organisations addressing global challenges.
- Connect with students, professionals and youth leaders from around the world, broadening your global perspective through meaningful cross-cultural exchange.
- Gain International visibility through the World Food Forum website

Turn Learning into Action

- Discover how social enterprises, innovation and community initiatives tackle real-world challenges through immersive visits to organisations such as **Pedius** and **Ridaje**.
- Learn how classroom learning—including **CAS**, **Service as Action** and **Community Project**—can be applied to create meaningful impact beyond school.

Certificate of Participation

- Receive an official **Certificate of Participation** from **Next Impact Learning Hub** upon successful completion of the programme.
- Showcase your participation as evidence of global engagement and experiential learning in portfolios, extracurricular records and future applications.

Explore Future Pathways

- Gain valuable insights into careers within the United Nations, international organisations and the social impact sector.
- Explore opportunities including internships, youth initiatives and international leadership programmes.

Who Should Join?

Selection & Application

Ideal candidates demonstrate:

- Participate in, or are interested in joining CultivatED or related initiatives.
- Outstanding academic achievement and strong English proficiency
- A genuine interest in the United Nations, the SDGs, and global affairs
- Curiosity about social entrepreneurship, innovation, and sustainable development
- Leadership potential, initiative, and a collaborative mindset

Priority consideration may be given to students who:

- Are in the senior years of secondary school
- Have participated in Model United Nations (MUN), SDG initiatives, community impact projects, or other international programmes



Make your voice get heard on the global stage!

Scholarship

Scholarship

- **Merit-based scholarships of USD 500** are available for selected students
- Scholarship places are limited and assessed as part of the application process

Application

- Apply through **school nomination or independently**
- Submit CV (with grades) **by 18 September 2026** to hello@nextimpactlearninghub.org, with the subject line: **“Name – School – 2026 Global School Assembly Application”**.
- Shortlisted students will be invited for a brief online interview
- **Places are limited and applications are reviewed on a rolling basis**



Next Impact Learning Hub.

Inspire. Immerse. Impact



Based in Hong Kong, **Next Impact Learning Hub** designs immersive learning experiences that connect young people with the United Nations, sustainable development and global leadership. Working alongside schools, universities, educators and like-minded organisations, we bridge classroom learning with real-world engagement, empowering students to become globally minded changemakers.

In 2026, we officially launched our collaboration with the **Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)** to support the implementation of **CultivatED** across the Asia-Pacific region. As part of this partnership, we are organising school delegations to participate in the **2026 Global School Assembly** and the **Next Impact Learning Journey x Rome**, providing students with first-hand access to the United Nations while connecting global challenges with real-world learning experiences.

OUR ADVISORY TEAM



Dr. Jafar Javan
Chair

Founding Architect and Chief Mentor of the UN Leadership Development System; 2012 – 2025, United Nations System Staff College (UNSSC)



Erik Solheim
Global Senior Advisor

The Sixth and former UN Environment Executive Director and Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations



David Guhl
Advisor

Director, UNESCO International Jazz Day; Former Diplomat, U.S. Embassy Beijing



Contact Us



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Dr. Qu Dongyu, Director-General of FAO, speaking at the 2025 World Food Forum at FAO Headquarters in Rome.