

# HIS EXCELLENCY AMBASSADOR ZOLTÁN KÁLMÁN CANDIDATE FOR THE OFFICE OF INDEPENDENT CHAIRPERSON OF THE FAO COUNCIL

2021-2023

Hungary is proud to present its candidate, *Ambassador Zoltán KÁLMÁN* to the position of Independent Chairperson of the Council (ICC) of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), at the elections scheduled to take place at the 42<sup>nd</sup> Session of the FAO Conference of June-July 2021.

Mr. Zoltán KÁLMÁN's professional background, as well as his experience and extensive knowledge enable him to be an excellent candidate for the post and can effectively contribute to the work of the FAO Council. The Curriculum Vitae and the Vision of the Hungarian candidate are attached herewith for reference.



*Mr. Kálmán's first official bilateral meeting with Mr Qu Dongyu, newly elected Director-General of FAO*

# CURRICULUM VITAE

Name: **Zoltán Kálmán**  
Date of birth: **29 September 1956**  
Address: **Embassy of Hungary, Rome**  
Nationality: **Hungarian**



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Mr. Zoltán Kálmán has had **15 years of experience working with FAO at the Permanent Representation of Hungary to FAO in Rome in 3 cycles**. This has made it possible for him to be testimony of developments of this organization under the leadership of **4 Directors-General**. This **long experience and “historic” view of FAO** would definitely help Ambassador Kálmán in fulfilling the role of ICC.



*Presenting his credentials to Director-General Graziano da Silva in 2014*

2014 – March 2021 Ambassador Kálmán served as Permanent Representative of Hungary with accreditation to the 3 Food and Agriculture Agencies of the UN in Rome (FAO, IFAD, WFP) since his appointment in 2014. He had smooth and fruitful relationship both with José Graziano da Silva the previous and with Qu Dongyu the present FAO Director-General. During his term, he has been actively and constructively involved in the policy discussions shaping FAO's future directions.

In 2015, Ambassador Kálmán was Chairperson of the European Regional Group of FAO Permanent Representatives. He served also as Member of the International Steering Committee (ISC) of the International Year of Pulses (2016) and of UN Decade of Family Farming (since 2019), and Chair of the ISC of UN World Pulses Day in 2020.

He has been actively engaged in the discussions at the Committee on World Food Security (CFS). He has been serving as **Member of the Advisory Committee of the UN Food Systems Summit**, appointed by Amina Mohammed, Deputy Secretary-General of the UN.



*Celebrating World Pulses Day in 2020, together with FAO Director-General Qu Dongyu*



*Together with EU Commissioner Dacian Ciolos attending the FAO Conference as EU Presidency in 2011*

**Mr. Kálmán was Permanent Representative of Hungary also between 2003-2008** and he was involved in the process of the first-ever Membership-driven Independent External Evaluation (IEE) of FAO in 2006-2007, commissioned by the FAO Council. He was actively engaged in the negotiations related to the establishment of the Regional Office and a Shared Services Centre in Budapest. He played an active and constructive role in the finalisation of the Voluntary Guidelines on the Right to Food adopted by the FAO Council in November 2014.

In his **first assignment in Rome between 1985-89**, he was Assistant to the Permanent Representative of Hungary to FAO. He could witness - amongst others - the development of the FAO Technical Cooperation programme (TCP) during the period when Edouard Saouma was the DG.

Between his last two assignments as Permanent Representative of Hungary in Rome (2009-2014) Mr. Kálmán worked as Head of Department in the Ministry of Agriculture in Budapest, supervising all international (bilateral and multi-lateral) activities of the Hungarian Ministry of Agriculture. He played an active role during the Hungarian Presidency of the European Union, he chaired the FAO Agri Working Party. He assisted and promoted the accession of Hungary to IFAD and he was the first Governor of Hungary in IFAD. Among his various responsibilities, he was the Head of a Team organizing the "Global Forum and Expo on Family Farming" held in Budapest in March 2014.



*Family photo after Global Forum and Expo on Family Farming in 2014*

He represented Hungary in the WFP Executive Board between 2015 and 2020, **he was President of the WFP Executive Board in 2018** with the high recognition of the Members of the Board. He participated in WFP field visits to Ecuador (2016), led the WFP EB delegation in the field visit to Turkey and Lebanon (2018) and in the joint UN field visit to Uganda (2018). He was Co-Chair of the 2nd Joint Informal Meeting of the Rome-Based Agencies (FAO, IFAD, WFP) and Co-Chair of the Joint Meeting of the Executive Boards of UNDP/UNFPA/UNOPS, UNICEF, UN-Women and WFP in New York in 2018.



*Chairing the 2nd Regular Session of the WFP EB in 2018*



WFP Chief David Beasley is handing over a recognition to Mr. Kálmán for his role as WFP EB President

Mr. Kálmán has gained experience **working in the private sector** as well. He was managing director of small-medium sized food processing companies **between 1990 and 2003**. He was responsible for the overall management, including HR activities, control finance and administration. He supervised procurement, production technology, coordinated product development and marketing, control sales and promotion activities. Working in the field of consultancy, he was involved in business promotion and foreign trade in the agriculture and food sector.

He holds a **Master degree from the University of Agriculture** in Gödöllő (Hungary) and had worked at the same University as assistant lecturer for 3 years in topics related to agricultural economics.

Ambassador Kálmán has **specific knowledge and experience in multilateral diplomacy, international relations in the fields of food security and nutrition, sustainable agriculture and related environmental and socio-economic issues, inclusive rural development and food systems transformation**. Some of his recent publications are available here:

<https://www.ipsnews.net/author/zoltan-kalman/>

He received the award of *Knight of Cross from the Order of Merit of the Hungarian Republic* from István Nagy Minister of Agriculture in 2019.



# Mr. KÁLMÁN's VISION

## for the role of Independent Chairperson of the FAO Council

### > PERSONAL BACKGROUND

I had the privilege to serve at the Permanent Representation of Hungary to FAO 15 years in Rome in 3 cycles. This made it possible for me to be testimony of developments of this organization under the leadership of 4 Directors-General. This long experience and "historic" view of FAO would definitely help me in fulfilling the role of ICC.

I had the honour of serving as Member of the WFP Executive Board between 2015-2020, and elected Vice-President in 2017 and President of the Board in 2018. The inclusive, transparent and efficient working methods of the WFP EB are very much appreciated by the Membership and some of these could be successfully applied at FAO as well.

### > PRINCIPLES AND WORKING METHODS

The position of ICC implies certain authority and power, but in my interpretation it is foremost a service to Members. A huge responsibility to serve FAO members and represent their interest and to make joint efforts to improve Council's efficiency and effectiveness.

If elected to the position of ICC, I will

1. fully respect the principles of independence, neutrality, impartiality and inclusivity;
2. continue the tradition and guarantee a friendly and constructive spirit of the discussions at Council meeting and other consultations, in groups or individually;
3. regularly consult and listen to all Members, "keeping my door open" to improve trust and achieve mutual understanding to ensure better ownership of governance by the membership;
4. in full respect of FAO's Basic Rules proactively facilitate inclusive discussions at Council and any consultations to achieve consensus, including through the informal meetings with Regional Group Chairs and Vice-Chairs;
5. initiate regular consultations for the Members (if and when needed) with the FAO Management at the appropriate level, ensuring that FAO's unique technical expertise, based on independent and neutral science is duly respected;
6. keep close contacts with the Director-General and with the Management of FAO on any relevant technical, administrative or organizational questions;
7. in line with the Basic Rules of the Organization, and without interfering in Management's competences ("micro-management"), assist to ensure that Council and Conference can exercise their role to hold the Director-General accountable;
8. facilitate consultations with the Presidents of IFAD and WFP EB and their respective List Conveners and Alternates to prepare meaningful Joint Informal Meetings of the three agencies' governing bodies;
9. assist newly arriving Permanent Representatives to improve their understanding and integration to better fulfil their duties, through induction seminars and consultations as required.

## > PRIORITY FIELDS

As ICC I would strive for ensuring due attention to the following fields, in line with FAO's Strategic Framework 2022-31, Medium Term Plan 2022-25 and Programme of Work and Budget 2022-23, reflecting the priorities of the Membership. I am aware that the listed areas are the tasks and competences of the FAO's Management and Staff, but as ICC I will consider these issues as priorities, ensuring that Members' voices are heard and their views duly respected.

1. Compliance with the Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development, with particular attention to the SDG indicators under FAO custodianship.
2. Transition to more sustainable food systems, with due attention to countries' specificities. In this regard, encourage inclusive discussions, ensuring reliance on independent and neutral science for sustainability assessments.
3. Addressing challenges (such as climate change, biodiversity loss, soil degradation, depopulation of rural areas, food losses and waste, etc.) in all areas of FAO competencies.
4. One Health approach in FAO's work on zoonosis and AMR, collaboration with WHO, OIE. Specific attention to food safety.
5. Sustainable innovative approaches, applying inclusive and participatory approach to ensure that sustainable innovations are available, accessible and affordable in all countries and for all farmers in the world, including the poorest.
6. Promoting youth engagement, gender equality and empowerment of women, providing them with opportunities and enabling policy environment, improving their access to land, water and other natural resources, to finance and to markets.
7. Supporting family farming as backbone of world's agriculture, encouraging the implementation of the UN Decade of Family Farming.
8. Increased private sector engagement, making sure that principles of transparency and accountability are respected to avoid any forms of conflicts of interest, with regular assessment of partnerships' impacts.
9. Improved cooperation among the UN food and agriculture agencies in Rome (FAO, IFAD, WFP). Areas of collaboration involved could be extended to common services, joint evaluation and oversight, joint actions at country level, etc, according to the demands and requests of the Membership.



# FAO AND HUNGARY

Hungary is an engaged partner of FAO in achieving the goals of the organization. We have active collaboration with the FAO in several fields and topics.

Hungary has been hosting the FAO Regional Office for Europe and Central Asia and the FAO Shared Services Centre for more than 10 years, making premises available for these offices. In addition, Hungary is pleased to provide voluntary contributions to FAO to finance:

- scholarship programme,
- junior technical officer's programme,
- rural development projects in some countries of the Region,
- events held in Budapest (FAO European Commission on Agriculture (ECA), Informal Consultations and other events).

One of our most important joint activities is the FAO scholarship programme. We believe that the transfer of knowledge and available best practices could help reduce local and global problems as well, and help achieve FAO's objectives and the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

As part of the knowledge-transfer, in the past decades Hungary has financed and implemented projects in some countries of the region and offered 2 year-scholarships for students from developing countries.

Due to the close collaboration established among the FAO, the Ministry of Agriculture and the Hungarian agricultural universities, three hundred students from more than 40 countries<sup>1</sup> have already been involved in the successful scholarship programme to get a master degree.



*Delegates complete the second day of the 40<sup>th</sup> Session of the European Commission on Agriculture meeting in 2017*



*Reception of new scholars of the joint Scholarship Programme in 2019*

<sup>1</sup> Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Burkina Faso, Cambodia, Chad, China, Egypt, Ethiopia, Gambia, Georgia, Ghana, India, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kosovo, Kyrgyzstan, Laos, Madagascar, Mali, Myanmar, Republic of Moldova, Mongolia, Montenegro, Namibia, Nigeria, North Macedonia, State of Palestine, the Philippines, Serbia, Somalia, Sudan, Tajikistan, Uganda, Ukraine, Vietnam, Yemen