



# Catherine Geslain-Lanéelle

Candidate of France and the European Union  
for the position of FAO Director-General,  
2019-2023

**Vote in Rome in June 2019**

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The FAO plays a key role in eradicating hunger and poverty as well as in supporting the sustainable adaptation and transformation of our food systems. Building on my European and international experience, I am committed to working openly and effectively with all stakeholders in close cooperation with Member States and involving FAO personnel. I will ensure that the FAO's impact or added value is increased for the Member States and to sustainably improve food and nutrition security for all, in line with the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

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# Catherine Geslain- Lanéelle

**Master of science-Agronomy (AgroParis Tech)  
Engineer, National School of Rural Engineering,  
Water Resources and Forest  
55 years old**

## **In-depth knowledge of food systems, rural development and food security and nutrition**

I have dedicated 30 years of my working life to agriculture and food. This has given me a strong knowledge of how food systems work as well as the related economic, environmental and social issues. I have experience in designing, implementing and evaluating public policies at national, european and international levels.

## **Recognized leadership and experience in managing large-scale and complex organizations**

Over the last 18 years, I have held senior management positions of increasing responsibility in France and Europe and have led large-scale organizations (from several hundred staff to over 4,500) facing complex challenges in the fields of agriculture, food, rural development and forestry. I have recognized change management capabilities. I have transformed the organizations that I have led and got my teams on board to strive towards a vision shared with partners and stakeholders.

## **Ability to communicate and work in an international environment**

I have shown my ability in european and international environments to create constructive dialogue with governments and all stakeholders including economic players, non-governmental organizations (consumer-focused, environmental, etc.), scientists and experts. I have showcased my solid negotiation and crisis management abilities.

I speak french and english fluently and I have a good level in italian and spanish.

“ For me, joining the FAO means... ”

**Participating in an unparalleled collective commitment and a momentum which is stronger than ever.**

The FAO helps to reduce hunger, food insecurity and malnutrition. It works to make agriculture, forestry, and fisheries more productive and more sustainable and to improve the resilience of production systems to threats or crisis situations. The FAO must now go even further.

**Reaffirming the importance of the agricultural, fisheries and forestry sectors,**

not only to feed all human beings but also to eradicate poverty and preserve the planet. This means reaffirming the need to build on and step up investments in research, innovation, education and training, infrastructure and knowledge transfer.

**Responding to new challenges** that we are all facing, including:

- the demographic challenge and changing food demand;
- the climate change challenge;
- the biodiversity challenge and the wider natural resource challenge (soils, water, air).

These challenges require commitment and dedicated work on all levels – be it local, regional or national – in every country. The large scale and global consequences (insecurity, migratory movements) of these challenges mean that they cannot be tackled by a single country or group of countries working in isolation.

**There is no time to lose. Worldwide action and global governance are indispensable. The FAO and its Director-General must provide a powerful contribution to this movement.**

**We need to give new impetus to the FAO's work:**

Bringing all Member Countries and partners together around a renewed and shared vision which facilitates the implementation of the FAO's strategic priorities.

Scaling-up cooperation and synergies with other UN organizations, especially the IFAD, WFP, and WHO and providing a framework for cooperation with relevant scientific and technical organizations.

Fostering innovation and transformation by mobilizing the FAO teams.

Promoting the FAO's role as a global reference organization building on robust scientific and technical knowledge in the field of food security and nutrition, with an aim to enhance its relevance, effectiveness, efficiency and transparency.

Working to ensure that the FAO remains an open, agile, responsible organization committed to building its actions jointly with all stakeholders.

“ We want a world where everyone, wherever they live, has access to a healthy, safe and sustainably produced diet. ”

# Career highlights

## CURRENTLY

**Ministerial Delegate** to the Minister of Agriculture and Food

## DESIGN AND IMPLEMENTATION OF PUBLIC POLICIES

- **Under Secretary of State** for economic and environmental performance of enterprises (Ministry of Agriculture and Food, Paris)
- **Executive Director** of the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA, Italy)
- **Under Secretary of State** for food (Ministry of Agriculture, Paris)
- **Regional Director** for agriculture, food and forestry (Île-de-France Region)
- **Adviser** to the Minister of Agriculture, responsible for animal production and the environment
- **Expert** at the European Commission (Brussels)

## EUROPEAN AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

- Contribution to the creation of the international platform "4 per 1000: Soils for Food Security and Climate"
- Creation of a scientific and technical cooperation network in the field of food safety and nutrition (28 national agencies, over 50 scientific and research organizations worldwide)
- Active participation in ministerial discussions with the following international organizations: FAO, WHO, OIE, EPPO, WTO and OECD
- EFSA Vice chair, member of the board (2002-2006)
- Chair of the Codex Alimentarius Committee on General Principles (2001-2002)

**TWITTER**

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