

Fourth Independent Evaluation Office (IEO) Lecture

14:00-15:30 (Shanghai time)

Wednesday 11 June 2025

Theme: Promoting Food Security, Eliminating Hunger and the Role of Evaluation

Guest Speaker: Dr. José Graziano da Silva, *Director General*, Zero Hunger Institute & former Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)

Objective: Enhance an evaluation, results and learning culture in NDB and its member countries

Participants: All NDB employees; and members, alternates, and advisers of NDB Board of Directors

Location: Multifunctional Hall, 5th Floor, NDB headquarters

Agenda

13:45-14:00 Welcome coffee

14:00-14:05 Opening of session by Mr. Ashwani K. Muthoo, *Director General*, IEO, NDB

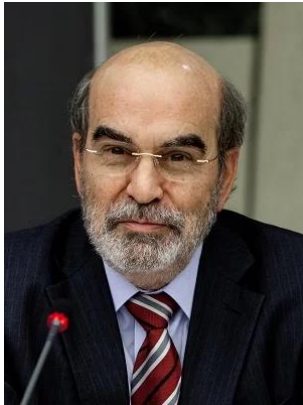
14:05-14:55 Keynote lecture by Dr. José Graziano da Silva, *Director General*, Zero Hunger Institute

14:55-15:25 Interaction with participants, moderated by Ms. Xiaozhe Zhang, *Senior Professional*, IEO, NDB

15:25-15:30 Closing remarks by Mr. Henrique Pissaia, *Principal Professional*, IEO, NDB

Speaker's bio may be seen on the next page.

SPEAKER BIO



DR. JOSÉ GRAZIANO DA SILVA

DIRECTOR GENERAL, ZERO HUNGER INSTITUTE, AND FORMER DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF FAO

Dr. José Graziano da Silva is a distinguished international expert on food security, sustainable agriculture, and rural development, known globally for his visionary leadership in the fight against hunger and malnutrition. With a career spanning over four decades, he has shaped both global and national policies that prioritize inclusive food systems and climate-resilient development.

He served as the Director-General of the **Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)** from 2012 to 2019, where he led two successive terms of reform and innovation. During his tenure, he aligned FAO's work with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, promoted agroecology and territorial development, strengthened FAO's field presence, and made combating rural inequality central to the agency's mission. Under his leadership, FAO championed the "Zero Hunger" goal (SDG 2), empowering countries through evidence-based policymaking and South-South Cooperation.

Before his international role, Dr. Graziano da Silva served as **Brazil's Minister for Food Security and the Fight Against Hunger** under President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva. He was the architect of Brazil's acclaimed **Fome Zero (Zero Hunger)** program, which integrated food access with income transfer, nutrition, and agricultural policies. The success of this program contributed significantly to Brazil's removal from the FAO Hunger Map and inspired similar policies globally.

Following his tenure at FAO, Dr. Graziano da Silva returned to Brazil and **founded [the Zero Hunger Institute \(Instituto Fome Zero\)](#)** in 2021, where he **currently serves as Director General**. The Institute is a non-governmental think tank dedicated to the promotion of sustainable, equitable, and sovereign food systems.

In addition to his leadership at the Zero Hunger Institute, Dr. Graziano da Silva serves on multiple **international advisory boards**, including those connected to food policy, agroecological transition, and climate resilience. He continues to publish and speak widely on the intersection of hunger, inequality, and environmental justice.

Dr. Graziano da Silva holds a PhD in Economic Sciences from the University of Campinas (UNICAMP) in Brazil and a master's degree in Latin American Studies from UCLA. He has held academic appointments in Brazil and abroad, and authored numerous books and publications on land reform, food policy, and development strategy.

He is widely celebrated for his contributions to global development, having received multiple honorary doctorates, national honors, and international awards. Brazilian and Italian by nationality, Dr. Graziano da Silva speaks English, Portuguese and Spanish.