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World Summit on Food Security opens Monday in Rome Bainimarama heading the delegation from Fiji

13 November 2009, Rome – Prime Minister Josia Voreqe Bainimarama is heading the delegation from Fiji for attendance at the World Summit on Food Security starting on Monday 16 November. This hunger summit aims at giving a new momentum to the fight against hunger and malnutrition affecting 1.02 billion people.

Pope Benedict XVI will deliver a keynote speech while UN Secretary-General Ban Ki Moon and FAO Director-General Jacques Diouf will also address the Summit.

Numerous heads of State and Government and other high-ranking officials will attend. PM Bainimarama will deliver a statement to the plenary.

FAO has convened the Summit in a bid to marshal political will behind increased investment in agriculture and a reinvigorated international effort to combat hunger.

Participating countries will adopt a **Summit Declaration** on the first day of the Summit.

Other members of the delegation from Fiji include minister for primary industries Joketani Cokanasiga, and Peceli Vuniwaqa, the permanent representative of Fiji to FAO.

Ahead of the Summit FAO has launched an online campaign, www.1billionhungry.org, calling on the general public to sign a call for eradicating hunger and has invited people to go on a "hunger strike against" hunger on 14 or 15 November to show solidarity for those who go without enough to eat every day.

In a parallel event, the City of Rome is hosting with the support of the three Rome-based UN food agencies a **Civil Society Forum** 14-16 November 2009 to give non-governmental organizations their own platform to contribute to the Summit. More information is available on the Forum website <http://peoplesforum2009.foodsovereignty.org/>

A media events calendar is [available online](#) and will be updated on a regular basis:

<http://www.fao.org/wsfs/wsfs-media-summit/wsfs-events/en/>

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