



Staffan de Mistura
Deputy Executive Director

**World Food
Programme**



Biography

Staffan de Mistura became Deputy Executive Director for External Relations of the World Food Programme in July 2009.

Mr. de Mistura previously served in Iraq as the Secretary-General's Special Representative. Under Mr. de Mistura's leadership, his team of 1,000 staff helped oversee successful elections, as well as reconstruction, development and humanitarian assistance.

Mr. de Mistura began his career in the UN in 1971 as a WFP Project Officer in Sudan and over the years has organized food aid and relief operations also in Ethiopia, the Balkans and Rwanda. As an Emergency Relief Officer in Chad he led the first ever UN airdrop operation in 1973. He served in the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) for some 14 years until returning to WFP in 1987 as Director of Operations in Sudan. He also served as Director of Fundraising and External Relations of the UN Office of the Coordinator for Afghanistan (1989-1991), and has held a variety of posts with UNICEF including as Director of the Division of Public Affairs.

During his 38-year career in the UN, Mr. de Mistura's posts also include as Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General in Iraq, Personal Representative of the Secretary-General for Southern Lebanon, and Director of the UN Information Center in Rome. He has also served in Bosnia, Croatia, Kosovo, Somalia, and Tirana.

A dual citizen of Italy and Sweden, Mr. de Mistura was born in Stockholm in 1947. He is a graduate of the University of Rome with a degree in Political Science and Development Economics. He is married with two daughters.

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