

Biography – Chair of UN-Water

Mr. Alvaro Lario, President of the International Fund for Agricultural Development



Alvaro Lario is President of the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and Chair of UN-Water, the United Nations Inter-Agency Mechanism on All Freshwater Related Issues, Including Sanitation. A seasoned international development finance leader, he has more than 20 years of experience across academia, private sector asset management, World Bank Group and the United Nations, including as Associate Vice-President of Financial Operations at IFAD.

Under his stewardship, IFAD became the first United Nations Fund to enter the capital markets and obtain a credit rating, enabling the IFAD to expand resource mobilization efforts to the private sector.

Mr. Lario was appointed Chair of UN-Water by the UN Secretary-General, António Guterres, in December 2023 to ensure that the United Nations system continues to effectively support Member States and to accelerate progress towards the achievement of Sustainable Development Goal 6. The appointment came at a critical moment in the development of the United Nations' system-wide strategy for water and sanitation.

Before joining IFAD in early 2018, Mr. Lario was the Treasury Capital Markets Lead and Principal Portfolio Officer at the International Finance Corporation, part of the World Bank Group, where he focused on local capital markets development and emerging markets investments.

Mr. Lario received a PhD in Financial Economics from the Complutense University of Madrid after completing a Master of Research in Economics at the London Business School and a Master of Finance from Princeton University.