

**Richard Wilcox** - Director of Private Partnerships at the World Food Programme

Richard Wilcox is a German and United States diplomat and public finance expert who serves as Director of Private Partnerships at the World Food Programme, the United Nations' global food-assistance agency. In this role he leads engagement with private sector partners to mobilize resources and innovation in support of humanitarian efforts worldwide.

Prior to his current position, Wilcox was UN Special Advisor and Director of the UN Task Force on Russian Trade Facilitation as part of the Black Sea Grain Initiative, which he conceived and helped negotiate in 2022. He has also served as Director-General of the African Union's African Risk Capacity at the level of Assistant Secretary General and as Special Advisor on Humanitarian Finance to WFP.

Wilcox began his diplomatic career with the United Nations in political and peacekeeping missions in the former Yugoslavia and Iraq, and he served as Director of United Nations Affairs on the United States National Security Council. He founded the Centre for Humanitarian Dialogue's cyber conflict mediation practice in Geneva and co-founded Digital Equity, a Swiss association focused on digital transformation and data ethics.

He holds a PhD from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, was a fellow at Harvard's Olin Institute for Strategic Studies, and has taught political science at Johns Hopkins University School of Advanced International Studies.