

The Office of the General Counsel

International Fund for
Agricultural
Development (IFAD)

IFAD's Mission

- IFAD is an international financial institution and a specialized agency of the UN, founded in 1977 in response to the food crises of the early 1970's.
- **IFAD's overall objective:** mobilize additional resources to be made available on concessional terms for agricultural development in developing Member States.(Agreement Establishing IFAD).

The Office of the General Counsel

- The Office of the General Counsel (LEG) reports to the Office of the President and the Vice-President.

Who are we?

The Office is composed of 13 legal counsels and 6 legal assistants, and employs also legal interns under the supervision of the General Counsel.

What do we do?

- The Office of the General Counsel provides advice to IFAD's Management and Governing Bodies on all legal aspects of IFAD's operations and administration as IFAD strives to mobilize resources for agricultural development in its Member States.
- The Office ensures that IFAD complies with the Agreement Establishing IFAD, Rules and Procedures of the Governing Bodies and other relevant laws and obligations.
- The Office proposes new legal frameworks and instruments in response to new challenges facing the Organization in its capacity to respond to global events.

What do we do?

- Review and update regularly rules, policies and procedures especially when global events – for example the food and financial crisis, and climate change – make IFAD's mandate all the more relevant.
- Operational work: Legal Counsels work directly with Country Programme Managers and the other members of Project Development Teams to provide legal advice on project design and implementation.
- LEG is responsible for drafting agreements and participates in the negotiations of the agreements, including loan and grant agreements, with borrowing Member States and eligible grant recipients.

What do we do?

- Drafting Framework collaboration agreements with international organizations, such as: WB, UNOPS, UNDP
- Legal input on supervision of IFAD projects.
- Legal input in the implementation of IFAD country programme.
- In addition to project related work, LEG provides legal advice on a broad range of institutional issues such as the conduct of its Governing Bodies and all legal aspects and implications relating to human resources matters.

What do we do?

- Advise on the legal aspects of policy issues under consideration by IFAD's Management or Governing Bodies.
- Advise Treasury in relation to the investment portfolio of the Fund.
- Advise in Procurement related matter and also in relation to Privileges and immunities of the Fund and its staff.

Other contribution

- Knowledge sharing: The General Counsel is part of the UN legal network and counsels are also involved with other legal international organizations' networks.
- Collaboration with: OLA in New York, other UN bodies and specialized agencies and international organisations.
- Advise Member States on legal matters related to IFAD.
- Monitor and keep up to date with the evolution of international law