

## Notes on the fourth 2019 meeting of Convenors and Friends

6 September 2019

1. The fourth 2019 meeting between Convenors and Friends and the President of IFAD was held on Friday, 6 September in room C-600, at 3.00 p.m.

Item 1: Opening remarks by the President and adoption of the agenda

2. The President welcomed Convenors, and the Friends from List A (Ms Gunnvor Berge, of Norway) and List C (Mr Médi MOUNGUI, of Cameroon – C1 and Mr Rodrigo Estrela de Carvalho, of Brazil – C3).
3. The Convenors adopted the agenda for the meeting without amendments.

Item 2: Update on IFAD12 Consultation

a) Composition

4. There was no consensus on the composition of the consultation – Lists A and B supported the proposal to have 62 members, while Lists C expressed the desire to maintain the same number as for IFAD11, i.e. 55 members.
5. The President noted that the composition should be regarded as a pragmatic issue, rather than a political issue, to facilitate consensus. Members agreed with this view. List A further urged Lists C colleagues to convey the message that the replenishment was a resource mobilisation exercise and it would be beneficial to ensure that all List A members had the option to attend if they so wished. List C Convenors agreed to the proposal, and would revert on their position on the composition.

b) Selection of the External Chair

6. Convenors noted that the President proposed Mr Kyle Peters to the Executive Board as the candidate to recommend to the 43<sup>rd</sup> session of the Governing Council for approval as External Chair of the IFAD12 consultation.
7. To reflect accurately the views of the IFAD12 Chairperson selection committee, it was noted that, as requested by the Convenors, the full report reflecting feedback from the selection committee would be posted for the Board on the Member States Interactive Platform.
8. Management also advised that other two candidates who had been considered for chair of the consultation may be retained to provide quality control on replenishment documents.

9. Members noted that a pre-consultation meeting was scheduled for 26 November, and invitations would be sent out accordingly.

Agenda item 3: EB127

10. The Secretary of IFAD updated participants on the meetings scheduled around the September Board session, and provided some highlights on the items included in the schedule of work for the session.
11. Convenors expressed concern that the Private Sector Strategy posted for approval by the Board had an addendum with critical comments from the Independent Office of Evaluation, that had seemingly not been addressed by Management. List A informed the meeting that due to the concerns raised about the quality of the document, they may consider the possibility of pushing the item to the December Board.<sup>1</sup>
12. Regarding the request from Brazil to include an item under Other Business on potential amendments to the Agreement Establishing IFAD, List A expressed the need to have a concept note to facilitate discussion of said item. Brazil, attending as a friend, noted that he would convey to the capital the request for a concept note to facilitate discussion on the proposed item at a future Board session.
13. It was agreed that the item would be included under Other Business for EB127, where Brazil would make a statement for the Board's information, with a view to a more detailed discussions at the December Board session.<sup>2</sup>

Agenda item 4: Nominations processes for Governing Bodies and/or panels

14. The Secretary reiterated the need for nominations from Lists C and B in particular for the Staff Pension Committee, which would be considered by the Board at its 127<sup>th</sup> forthcoming session. Nominations would be also required from all Lists for the Emoluments Committee, the selection panel of the new IOE Director, and the Governing Council Bureau.
15. Responding to a query from the List C Convenor regarding the composition of the selection panel for the IOE Director, the Office of the Secretary noted that the procedure was clearly highlighted in the IFAD Evaluation Policy, which was available on the Member

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<sup>1</sup> Subsequent to the meeting, the Strategy was approved by the Board at its 127<sup>th</sup> session. The detailed decision will be reflected in the minutes of the session.

<sup>2</sup> Further to the meeting, at EB127 the Board agreed to the Chair's proposal that Management would present a discussion paper on this matter, for the Board's consideration at its April 2020 session.

States Interactive Platform. For ease of reference, the policy would be shared with all convenors after the meeting.

16. List A noted that moving forward follow-up on procedural issues should be done bilaterally and that the meetings of Convenors and Friends should be used as an opportunity to have more strategic discussions on substantive issues of interest to the Board Membership.

Agenda item 5: Update on the Forty-third session of the Governing Council (GC43)

17. Convenors and Friends noted that the Governing Council Bureau had met and reviewed the draft agenda (to be endorsed by the Board at the upcoming 127<sup>th</sup> session) and programme of events. Convenors were informed that an additional meeting with the Bureau would be scheduled soon, and Convenors would be updated on any changes to the events for GC43 at their 26 November meeting.

18. One friend highlighted the need to ensure regional balance in panel composition and leadership at GC43. This matter would also be discussed at the November meeting of Convenors and Friends.

Agenda item 5: Executive Board retreat follow-up day (originally on 25 October, now confirmed on 24 and 25 October)

19. In preparation for the retreat, Convenors asked for a status update on IFAD2.0. The President informed them that the IFAD 2.0. paper was being updated based on the feedback received during the May retreat with specific focus on the demand and the supply of resources, the financial model (DSF, capital adequacy, leveraging and minimum replenishment target). It was also noted that the paper would be made available to the Board in advance to allow Members to consult with capitals and prepare for the October retreat.

20. The Convenors also expressed concern that one day may not be enough to tackle all the IFAD2.0 issues.<sup>3</sup> More opportunities for discussion would be sought. For example, the Associate Vice President, Financial Operations Department informed the meeting that a training session on IFAD's enhanced financial architecture with a focus on key financial concepts was scheduled for 2 October with an external consultant, where Board

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<sup>3</sup> Further to the meeting, at the EB127 session it was confirmed that two days would be allocated for the retreat, 24 and 25 October.

members would have the opportunity to ask questions. The possibility of holding an informal seminar in November would be sought to cover matters such as the financial capacity framework, update on the credit rating assessment, and the credit rating framework.

Agenda item 6: Dates for Convenors and Friends meetings in 2020

21. The proposed dates for meetings in 2020 had been posted on the platform for consideration. At the meeting, it was agreed that the dates would remain provisional, pending approval at a later date.

Agenda item 6: Other Business

22. There were no items for discussion under other business.

23. The next meeting is scheduled on 26 November in the morning, to allow holding the IFAD12 pre-consultation in the afternoon.