

**Notes on the Fourth Meeting of Convenors and Friends in 2023**  
**1 September 2023**

1. The fourth meeting of 2023 for the Convenors and Friends with the President of IFAD took place on Friday, 1 September. The meeting was held virtually via the Zoom meeting application.

**Agenda item 1: Opening remarks by the President and adoption of the agenda**

2. The President welcomed participants, in particular the new List A Co-Convenor, Mr Shindo Mitsuaki of Japan. Two Friends were in attendance: for List A, Mr Sylvain Fournel (France) and for List B, Dr Yaya Olaniran (Nigeria).
3. The President also welcomed Ms Gérardine Mukeshimana, the newly appointed Vice-President.
4. Management provided an update on the establishment of the Asia and Pacific Regional Office, which would be located in Bangkok, Thailand. The office was expected to open in the last quarter of 2024, and would bring together colleagues from various departments. A decision on the location of the Latin America and Caribbean Regional Office would be taken by the end of 2023.
5. The President provided an update on the recent visit of the RBA principals to South Sudan. He also updated participants on his upcoming travels and global engagements, including planned participation in the Finance in Common Summit, G20 Summit, UN General Assembly, World Bank annual meetings, and COP28.
6. At the request of participants, Management provided information on IFAD operations in countries which had recently undergone upheaval, including Gabon, Niger and Sudan.

**Agenda item 2: 139<sup>th</sup> session of the Executive Board**

7. Further to the Board's approval of the Review of modalities of formal and informal sessions of the Executive Board and its subsidiary bodies ([EB 2023/138/R.10](#)), Management noted that EB 139 would be the first session where the batch consideration of items would be piloted for items that were previously presented for the Board's action through vote by correspondence. A [dedicated page](#) on the Member States Interactive Platform (MSIP) had also been launched for the online review of items de-linked from Executive Board sessions.
8. Management provided an update on the implementation of the Crisis Response Initiative (CRI), that had been launched in May 2022. Project proposals had been designed and funded for 15 countries, and implementation was most advanced in Afghanistan, Ethiopia, Malawi and Somalia. Given recent developments in the Sahel region, additional funding that had originally been earmarked for the Niger project would be re-allocated to fund a CRI initiative in Liberia. IFAD was working on a third-party implementation arrangement with FAO to ensure the smooth execution of activities in Niger. Convenors were informed that these changes could potentially impact the completion date of the CRI, and Members would be kept apprised of developments.
9. Representatives welcomed the updates provided and requested further information on the EB 139 proposal on Streamlining of governing body documentation. A cross-departmental working group had been established to identify opportunities for

streamlining documentation presented to the Board, and a number of proposals had been put forth for the Board's approval. Participants also requested further details on the informal joint meeting of the RBA governing bodies, which would be hosted by FAO and for which a date had not yet been identified, and looked forward to the informal seminar on IFAD's decentralization process and the related recalibration plan which would take place on Monday, 9 October.

**Agenda item 3: Update on the Consultation on the Thirteenth Replenishment of IFAD's Resources (IFAD13)**

10. Management provided an update on key highlights related to the Consultation on the Thirteenth Replenishment of IFAD's Resources (IFAD13). The note on Additional Climate Contributions (ACC) had been posted on MSIP and was open for Members' comments until 8 September. The draft IFAD13 report would be posted for e-consultation from 18 to 29 September, and an informal meeting would be held on Friday, 22 September to provide an opportunity for interaction on the draft report. On a related note, Convenors were informed that the MOPAN Secretariat would present the emerging findings of its assessment of IFAD on Friday, 22 September.

**Agenda item 4: Update on upcoming events and governing body meetings**

11. The Secretary of IFAD shared information on upcoming events at IFAD. In order to maintain the positive momentum generated at the Board retreat in May, an informal pre-meeting of the Executive Board would be organized on Tuesday, 12 September. The meeting would include a segment on Voices from the Field, providing representatives an opportunity to interact with decentralized staff, and a segment for interaction with Senior Management. Participants were also informed that preparations for the Executive Board country visit to Uganda, to take place at the end of November, were ongoing. Further information on the next Convenors and Friends' meeting would be communicated in due course.
12. In February 2024, the Governing Council would be invited to elect a new Bureau for the next two-year term, and the members and alternate members of the Executive Board for the next three-year term. Convenors would be requested to inform the Secretariat of their nominations in advance of the Governing Council.

**Agenda item 5: Other business**

13. No other business was raised and the meeting was adjourned.
14. In closing, the President thanked participants for attending and looked forward to their participation in the upcoming 139<sup>th</sup> session of the Executive Board.