

Notes on the Fourth Meeting of Convenors and Friends in 2024 2 September 2024

1. The fourth meeting of 2024 for the Convenors and Friends with the President of IFAD took place as a breakfast meeting on Monday, 2 September, at IFAD Headquarters. All Convenors were present. Four Friends were in attendance: for List B, Ms Djamila Achour and Ms Yasmina Yahiaoui-Ayadat (Algeria) and Dr Yaya Olaniran (Nigeria); and, for sub-List C1, Mr Gerson Mateus Dos Santos Francisco (Angola).

Agenda item 1: Opening and Adoption of the Agenda

2. The President announced that the Thirteenth Replenishment of IFAD's Resources had become effective as of 14 August, with payments and instruments of contributions amounting to US\$717 million and representing 51% of total pledges having been received.
3. The President provided an update on recent travels and high-level meetings he had attended, including:
 - a. the OPEC Fund Forum in Vienna, where he had participated in the closed session of the Arab Coordination Group (ACG);
 - b. the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development in New York, where the preview of the 2024 State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World (SOFI) Report had been presented;
 - c. the SDG 6 and Water Action Agenda Special Event, where the first-ever United Nations System-wide Strategy for Water and Sanitation had been launched;
 - d. an event organized by Brazil, ahead of the G20 meeting, to support the Global Alliance against Hunger and Poverty, as well as the G20 Ministerial meeting with Development Ministers and the meeting with Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors.
4. On upcoming travels, the President informed that he would be participating in the G20 Agricultural meeting in Brazil in the second week of September, and in the UN General Assembly in New York at the end of the same month.

Agenda item 2: Specific Updates from the President and Management

a. Institutional recalibration and decentralization

5. The President and the Vice-President announced that the implementation phase of the recalibration, which would have two milestones – 1 October and 1 January 2025 – had begun, and that the process was moving forward smoothly. Technical working groups had been created to address potential issues related to the affected staff and to refine and optimize the entire process.
6. On the recruitment of Senior Management positions, Convenors were informed that a number of appointments would be announced soon, namely the Associate Vice-President for the External Relations Department (ERD), the Chief Risk Officer and the Managing Director of the Office of Technical Delivery (OTD), while the selection process of the Associate Vice-President for the Corporate Services Department

(CSD), the Chief of Staff and the Managing Director of the Office of Development Effectiveness (ODE) was being finalized.

7. Management provided an update on the establishment of the Regional Office for the Latin America and the Caribbean Region (LAC) in Panama, confirming that the process was proceeding as planned and the office was expected to be operational in the first quarter of 2025. On the Regional Office for the Asia and the Pacific Region (APR) in Bangkok, Thailand, Management informed representatives that a preliminary agreement had been reached with the Thai authorities on the text of the Host Country Agreement (HCA) and the counterpart's final approval was expected in mid-October 2024. Management assured that the situation was being monitored closely and mitigation measures had been put in place to address potential delays in finalizing the agreement.
8. In responding to a query on the level of authority delegated to the heads of decentralized offices, the President advised that Management had been working on revising the reporting lines and the Delegation of Authority (DoA) framework to adapt it to both the institutional recalibration and the decentralization. An update on this matter would be provided at the Convenors and Friends' meeting in November.

b. Update on IFAD12 delivery

9. Management informed Convenors of progress made towards achieving the target of US\$3.35 billion for the IFAD12 Programme of Loans and Grants (PoLG), and a total of US\$1.73 billion had been approved as of 31 August. The remaining 2024 PoLG investment pipeline was US\$1.69 billion, consisting of 28 new projects and programme proposals and 20 additional financings. While underlining that the situation would be dynamic, Management informed that it was expected that a total of US\$1.09 billion would be approved by the end of September, at the 142nd session of the Executive Board and through the Lapse-of-Time (LOT) and delegation of authority procedures, representing 84% of the overall IFAD12 delivery target.
10. Management also confirmed that the pipeline of operations was being monitored closely in order to ensure proactive responsiveness to challenges presented by exogenous factors, including the global economic situation and countries' absorptive capacity as well as political uncertainty and instability. A number of contingency measures had been put in place, including the preparation of alternative projects that may substitute high-risk operations that could be reprogrammed for approval under IFAD13. Management also highlighted the challenge presented by the difference in lending terms between the potential resources available and the terms for the additional demand for project financing. Management was considering options on how to address this mismatch.

c. Update on IFAD13

11. Management provided an update on the status of pledges to the Thirteenth Replenishment of IFAD's Resources (IFAD13) which had reached US\$1.4 billion as of 14 August 2024, equating to 75% of the target set by Member States. This amount included core contributions (US\$1.32 billion), the grant element of Concessional Partner Loans (CPLs) (US\$20 million) and Additional Core Climate Contributions (ACCs) (US\$54 million). Despite the complex global economic situation, Management was pleased to report that, as of the cut-off date, 91

countries had pledged, exceeding the number of countries at the same period in IFAD12.

12. Management also informed Convenors that the definition of the commitment capacity for IFAD13, including the PoLG and the distribution of resources to be made available through the Borrowed Resources Access Mechanism (BRAM) and the Performance-Based Allocation System (PBAS), was ongoing and would be communicated to Member States at the Executive Board session in December.
13. In responding to a query, the President ensured that thorough analyses were conducted on countries' absorptive capacity and numerous internal discussions were held to identify the potential recipient countries of IFAD13 and confirmed that IFAD would allocate resources to up to 80 countries in the upcoming Replenishment cycle.

Agenda item 3: Governance Matters

a. 142nd session of the Executive Board and related events

b. Forthcoming governing body meetings and events

14. The Secretary provided an overview of the agenda items of the upcoming 142nd session of the Executive Board, informing that the provisional agenda had been revised to include two additional items, namely a project proposal for Senegal and the Country Strategic Opportunities Programme (COSOP) for Brazil, which had been included at the request of several Member States. On the EB142 Strategic Discussion topic – IFAD's financial strategy options for 2030 and beyond – the President highlighted the importance of discussing IFAD's business model in order to address the main challenges and agree on how best to optimize IFAD's balance sheet in order to be able to have greater impact on the ground, while safeguarding IFAD's financial sustainability. Moreover, such discussion would be timely given the findings of the 2024 SOFI Report, the upcoming Fourth International Conference on Financing for Development (FfD) in 2025, which IFAD was already working towards, and the preparation of the Rural Development Report.
15. In conjunction with the Executive Board session, a number of meetings and events would be held on 17 September, including the President's Meeting with Representatives of African Member States, which is the first in a series of meetings that the President would hold with the representatives of the different regions; the event on Partnering on a global stage to enhance food security and food systems in Africa; and the Informal meeting of the Executive Board, which would focus on the ongoing institutional recalibration and on the highlights of the 2024 corporate portfolio stocktake.
16. The Secretary informed Convenors that 14 February 2025 had been identified as the provisional date for the next Informal Joint meeting of the FAO Council, IFAD Executive Board and WFP Executive Board, which would be hosted by IFAD the day after the 48th Session of the Governing Council. Convenors were invited to provide inputs and to cooperate with Management in the preparation of the agenda for the meeting. Further to requests for clarifications, Management reassured that the scope of the meeting would be clarified in order to ensure the appropriate level of participation as well as to maintain the informal nature of the meeting.
17. The Secretary also shared an overview of the upcoming governing body meetings, including the Executive Board Consultation on operational items on 11 and 12

September, IFAD Corporate Induction on 8 October and the informal seminar on Private Sector Operational Strategy 2025-2030 on 9 October.

18. In responding to queries, Management clarified that IFAD would participate in the United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP29) in Azerbaijan but without a dedicated pavilion; on the follow-up to the findings of the Multilateral Organisation Performance Assessment Network (MOPAN) on Sexual Harassment, Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (SH/SEA), Management confirmed that it would work closely with IFAD's Ethics Office to proceed on this matter and that a professional position had been recruited to deal specifically with matters relating to SH/SEA.

Agenda item 4: Other Business

19. In closing, the President thanked participants for attending and looked forward to their participation in the 142nd session of the Executive Board.