

**Notes on the Third Meeting of Convenors and Friends in 2026**  
**3 June 2026**

1. The third meeting of 2026 of the Convenors and Friends with the President of IFAD took place on Wednesday, 3 June, at IFAD Headquarters. All Convenors were present. Three Friends attended: for List A, Mr Pasi Pöysäri (Finland); for List B, Dr Yaya Olaniran (Nigeria); and for sub-List C1, Mr Gerson Dos Santos (Angola).

**Agenda item 1: Opening and Adoption of the Agenda**

2. The President welcomed Convenors and briefed them on recent developments related to the UN80 initiative, noting that the process had continued to advance following discussions at the Chief Executives Board (CEB) and the United Nations Sustainable Development Group (UNSDG) Principals Meeting in Tokyo. He informed participants that a progress report on the broader set of UN80 actions had been presented to Member States in New York on 28 May. The President highlighted IFAD's active engagement in six of the 31 UN80 work packages, particularly those related to humanitarian food security response, country configuration and shared services. He emphasized IFAD's efforts, together with FAO and WFP, to develop a blueprint for food security responses in fragile contexts while safeguarding IFAD's mandate for long-term rural transformation. He also underlined the importance of preserving the authority of IFAD's Governing Bodies in decisions concerning country programmes and country presence, while contributing constructively to UN system-wide efficiency efforts. In addition, he informed participants that IFAD is co-leading, with FAO, a UN Sub-Working Group on Food Security and Supply Chains in response to the Middle East crisis, bringing together several UN entities to support coordinated operational responses.
3. The President also provided an overview of his recent and forthcoming engagements. Over the past two months, these included participation in the World Bank and IMF Spring Meetings in Washington, D.C.; the launch of the 2026 Global Report on Food Crises and meetings related to IFAD14 in London; the Finance in Common G7 Special Event and the G7 Development Ministerial in Paris; engagements with the European Parliament and European institutions in Brussels; the Africa Forward Summit in Nairobi; the CEB and UNSDG Principals Meeting in Tokyo; and the recent events held during the Rome Nutrition Week. He reported positive feedback from Member States and development partners regarding IFAD's work and the IFAD14 replenishment process, including encouraging early signals of support from several African countries. Looking ahead, he informed participants of planned official visits and engagements in Ireland, Finland and Austria, including participation in the OPEC Fund Development Forum and the Hamburg Sustainability Conference in June, followed by the High-Level Political Forum in New York in July.
4. Convenors sought Management's views on the implications of the UN80 reform process for the relationship between United Nations Resident Coordinators (RCs) and agency representatives at the country level, noting reports of tensions in some contexts regarding coordination responsibilities and programme implementation. In response, the President emphasized that IFAD's relationship with the RC system differs from that of many UN entities due to its status as an international financial institution and its direct financing relationship with governments. He noted that, in IFAD's experience, engagement with Resident Coordinators has generally been positive and constructive, with Country Directors regularly contributing to UN

country coordination mechanisms and benefiting from RC inputs. The Vice-President added that IFAD derives significant value from the RC system, particularly in terms of coordination, information-sharing and strategic engagement with governments. While acknowledging that broader discussions on the UN's delivery model and country presence arrangements remain ongoing, Management stressed that IFAD's financing and operational decisions remain anchored in its direct partnerships with Member States and its Governing Bodies. The President further noted that one of the proposals under discussion within UN80 relates to the provision of services on a demand-driven basis, although its practical implications and the extent of Member State support remain to be determined.

5. Additional information on the work of the UN inter-agency coordination mechanism established in response to the Middle East crisis was requested. The Vice-President explained that the UN Sub-Working Group on Food Security and Supply Chains, co-led by IFAD and FAO, brings together several UN entities to consolidate analytical and operational information. She highlighted that the Group monitors and reports on issues such as disruptions to fertilizer and energy supplies, rising agricultural production costs, impacts on trade and food supply chains, employment losses and reduced remittance flows, as well as the disproportionate effects on women. IFAD contributes data and analysis drawn from its operations, including the impact of increased input and procurement costs on rural producers and project implementation. Management noted that these assessments are consolidated with information provided by other agencies and are used to inform briefings and reports prepared for the UN Secretary-General.

#### **Agenda item 2: Update on the Consultation on the Fourteenth Replenishment of IFAD's Resources (IFAD14)**

6. The AVP, ERD recalled the outcomes of the first consultation session and outlined preparations for the upcoming informal meeting on the proposed IFAD14 updated financial scenarios, policy and results architecture. Revised financial scenarios, impact projections, a draft commitments matrix and the Results Management Framework were being finalized and would be shared with Member States in advance of the meeting. She highlighted that feedback received during the first consultation had been broadly positive, with strong support for the proposed strategic direction, while also identifying areas requiring further elaboration, including vis-à-vis water, fragile contexts, private sector engagement, the implementation of the graduation policy and IFAD's offer to upper-middle-income countries (UMICs).
7. In the ensuing discussion, Convenors emphasized the importance of ensuring sufficient time and space for Member States to engage on the wide range of substantive issues under consideration. Another Convenor sought clarification regarding the treatment of UMICs in the draft replenishment package. In response, the AVP, ERD explained that Management was strengthening the narrative on the contribution of UMICs, including their role in knowledge-sharing and South-South and Triangular Cooperation, while also reflecting Member States' requests for clearer references to the implementation of the graduation policy. She further informed participants that, given time constraints during the forthcoming informal seminar, private sector issues would likely be addressed through a dedicated discussion at a later stage, possibly in September.

### **Agenda item 3: Governance matters**

#### **a. Annual Informal Meeting of the EB (AIM) – next steps**

8. The Secretary expressed appreciation to Convenors for their support in shaping the agenda of the 2026 Annual Informal Meeting (AIM) and for their active engagement. She further thanked for the feedback received through the post-meeting survey and informed members that a comprehensive report on the AIM would be issued in advance of the September Executive Board session.

#### **b. Follow up to the 9th Informal Joint meeting of RBA GBs (IJM)**

9. The AVP, ERD briefed Convenors on the follow-up to the 9th Informal Joint Meeting of the Governing Bodies of the Rome-based Agencies (RBAs), highlighting the strong message received from Member States regarding the need for deeper and more visible collaboration among the RBAs, both at the leadership level and in terms of measurable results on the ground. She noted that the RBA Blueprint for Collaboration in Fragile Settings had been positively received as an important step in the context of the UN80 reform discussions, while Member States had also requested greater operational clarity regarding implementation timelines, country pilots and the respective roles of the agencies. The AVP, ERD informed participants that technical teams were already advancing work on the Blueprint and that further updates on implementation would be provided in due course. She also reported that the school meals agenda had emerged as a particularly strong example of effective joint delivery, with Member States recognizing the potential of the RBAs to generate tangible results through integrated approaches linking smallholder farmers, local food systems and nutrition outcomes. Additional examples of collaboration, including country-level experiences, are expected to be presented in the forthcoming RBA Collaboration Progress Report later in the year.
10. Management invited Convenors to provide guidance on the possible organization of an additional Informal Joint Meeting. Views expressed were supportive of continued engagement among the RBAs, with future meetings having clear objectives, while retaining the informal nature of a non-decision-making meeting. Several participants emphasized the importance of receiving concrete updates on joint initiatives and implementation results, including progress under the UN80 agenda and other collaborative activities, which would foster sustained momentum. The President reiterated IFAD's commitment to strengthening collaboration with the other RBAs and expressed openness to a future meeting (to be hosted by FAO), either later in the year or in the first half of 2027, subject to agreement among the three organizations and continued interest from Member States.

#### **c. Preparations for the Fiftieth Session of the Governing Council (GC50)<sup>1</sup>**

11. Management provided an update on preparations for GC50. The Chief Legal and Governance Officer (CLGO) highlighted the theme, *"50 Years of Rural Transformation: Investing in the Next Generation"*, describing GC50 as an opportunity to celebrate and reflect on the impact achieved through the partnership between IFAD and its Member States while charting the Fund's future direction. She outlined plans to structure discussions around the three sub-themes of next-generation partnerships, next-generation finance and next-generation innovation, complemented by a series of short "lightning talks" showcasing

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<sup>1</sup> Further information at: <https://webapps.ifad.org/members/convenors/2026-CF3/docs/C-F-2026-3-3.pdf>

experiences and achievements from each decade of IFAD's history. She also indicated plans to launch a series of regional outreach events in the lead-up to GC50, including activities linked to remittances and rural development, and noted encouraging indications of interest from several high-level international figures.

12. The Secretary complemented the update by recalling that the provisional agenda for GC50 would be submitted for approval at the September 2026 session of the Executive Board and would include consideration of the appointment of the President of IFAD. She informed participants that, following approval of the agenda, a call for nominations would be issued, with a proposed deadline for the receipt of nominations at the end of November 2026, thereby allowing sufficient time for communication with Member States and preparations ahead of the Governing Council session scheduled for February 2027.
13. Convenors shared ideas, including the possibility of highlighting successful partnerships and achievements of Member States and showcasing primarily IFAD's institutional evolution, achievements and impact over time rather.

#### **d. Forthcoming GB meetings and events**

14. The Secretary recalled forthcoming governing body meetings and events, drawing attention to a particularly intense governance calendar during the week of 15 June, including the informal meeting on IFAD14, a public panel discussion on "*Impact providers and impact investors: how to finance the next generation of challenges*", the 181<sup>st</sup> meeting of the Audit Committee, the 133<sup>rd</sup> session of the Evaluation Committee and the second meeting of the Emoluments Committee. She also highlighted that the September Executive Board session would consider the External Peer Review of the Evaluation Function, while the December session would consider the appointment of the Director of the Independent Office of Evaluation (IOE) for a six-year term commencing in 2027.
15. In addition, she informed participants of the rescheduling of the fourth Convenors and Friends meeting from 2 to 9 September and the adjustment of the dates of the 149th Executive Board session from 8–10 December to 10–11 December in order to accommodate other institutional commitments and facilitate participation by delegations to the third session of IFAD14 on 14-15 December.
16. A Convenor suggested that, in light of the growing number of strategic discussions with the President held by the Board, Management consider the key takeaways and lessons learned from those discussions and their influence on IFAD's work. The President welcomed the suggestion, emphasizing that these exchanges provide an important opportunity for Management to hear directly from Member States and to ensure that their perspectives help shape the Fund's strategic thinking. The CLGO also noted that the main messages from the upcoming Rural Development Report<sup>2</sup> would serve as the focus of the Strategic Dialogue in December, providing a timely occasion for a broader reflection on strategic priorities, linking past discussions with future challenges and opportunities.

#### **Agenda item 4: Other Business and Closing**

17. In closing, the President thanked participants for attending and looked forward to their participation in future governing body meetings.

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<sup>2</sup> Title to be confirmed.