

Notes on the Fourth Meeting of Convenors and Friends in 2026
Wednesday, 9 September 2026

1. The fourth meeting of 2026 of the Convenors and Friends with the President of IFAD took place on Wednesday, 9 September, at IFAD Headquarters. All Convenors were present. Two Friends attended: for List A, Mr Conor Fagan (Ireland); and for List B, Dr Yaya Olaniran (Nigeria).

Agenda item 1: Opening and Adoption of the Agenda

2. The President welcomed and thanked the Convenors for their continued engagement and support. He provided brief updates on senior management appointments, noting that the vacancy for the Director and Chief Risk Officer had closed on 8 September, and that, effective 1 September, Ms Pieternel Boogaard, Managing Director of OTD, had assumed the role of Managing Director ad interim of ODE pending completion of the recruitment process. The President also recalled the informal breakfast he would host with Board members prior to the opening of the formal Board session. The breakfast meeting would build on the dialogue initiated at the Annual Informal Meeting in April, providing an opportunity for an open exchange on the evolving operational and geopolitical context, forthcoming engagements, and key governance priorities for the period ahead.
3. Turning to strategic matters, the President highlighted the growing momentum around IFAD14, including initial pledges from ten African Member States amounting to almost US\$9 million and recent high-level engagement in Brazzaville and Kigali, with further outreach planned ahead of the December pledging session. On RBA collaboration, he stressed IFAD's commitment to greater coherence, efficiency and accountability, while maintaining a focus on complementarity rather than institutional convergence, and noted that Member States would receive an update at the forthcoming Executive Board and a progress report for online review later in the year. The President also addressed IFAD's accountability and control framework, recalling the independent scrutiny undertaken since 2022 across audit, investigations, ethics, evaluation and governance and the positive findings of the external assessments, including the 2024 MOPAN assessment and recent credit-rating review. He emphasized that such exercises ensured continuous review and strengthening of IFAD's accountability, governance, risk management and institutional resilience.
4. The President updated participants on his recent missions, which included visits to Dublin and Helsinki for discussions with senior government counterparts on IFAD14 and key development priorities; participation in the OPEC Fund's 50th Anniversary Development Forum in Vienna, where he engaged with key development partners and the launch of the Vulnerability to Viability Compact; a visit to Madrid for the inauguration of UN Tourism's new headquarters and discussions on IFAD14; and participation in the High-Level Political Forum in New York, where he engaged on water, SDG financing, agrifood systems and UN80 and held a series of bilateral meetings. Looking ahead, forthcoming engagements included visits with government officials in Paris, at UNGA81 in New York, Berlin and India, followed by the World Bank Group/IMF Annual Meetings in Bangkok, the Ibero-American Summit in Madrid and COP31 in Türkiye. These engagements would provide further opportunities to mobilize support for IFAD14, engage Member States and finance

ministries, and advocate for greater investment in rural areas, food systems and climate finance for small-scale producers. Further visits to China and Korea, as well as participation in the UN Water Conference in Abu Dhabi in December, were also envisaged.

5. The President noted that he will provide a further update to the Executive Board informally on IFAD's RBA collaboration work during the upcoming EB and looking forward to the 10th RBA Informal Joint Meeting on 17 September. List A mentioned they will prepare a short statement on this and share with the other Lists should they wish to join the statement. Management emphasized that significant collaboration was already taking place, citing IFAD's work with FAO and WFP on co-financing, co-design and remittances, as well as cooperation with FAO on fertilizer supply chains and engagement with other MDBs. Convenors also sought clarification on whether there were any restrictions on senior-level appointments during the final six months of a President's term. Management clarified that IFAD has no policy preventing such appointments and that precedents exist for appointments late in a presidential term. It was recalled that senior management serves at the discretion of the President and that an incoming President retains the ability to make changes. Management also stressed that avoiding prolonged vacancies in critical senior positions is an important consideration of sound governance, particularly for an international financial institution (IFI) with a credit rating.

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

6. The AVP, ERD provided an update on preparations for IFAD14, noting that the process was entering a phase of engagement and refinement ahead of the second formal Consultation session on 29–30 October. She highlighted the IFAD14 e-consultation, open from 1 to 18 September, through which Members and other stakeholders were invited to comment on the revised draft report, which incorporated changes on resilience and water security, sovereign and non-sovereign private sector engagement, fragility and conflict-affected situations, the Financial Framework, commitments and the Results Management Framework. She also outlined forthcoming September engagements, including a consultation with rural civil society organizations on 14 September and an informal meeting with Members on private sector development and investment on 16 September. A dedicated discussion on the financial framework between List A and the AVP, FOD was being arranged, with similar discussions offered to Lists B and C should there be interest. Feedback received through these engagements would further strengthen the IFAD14 package, with a view to finalizing the Report and draft Resolution at the third Consultation session in December, which would also serve as the main pledging session.
7. In response to a concern raised regarding the timing of a planned WCA ministerial meeting ahead of the next IFAD14 Consultation session, Management committed to reviewing the timing to identify an alternative date. It was noted that rescheduling could affect the President's participation due to his engagement at the World Bank Group/IMF Annual Meetings, but that the Vice-President could potentially represent IFAD at the meeting.

Agenda item 3: Governance matters

a. Preparations for EB148

8. The Secretary updated Convenors on preparations for the 148th session of the Executive Board, to be held on Tuesday, 15 September as a one-day session, outlining the main items for in-session consideration. She noted that at the recent Evaluation Committee meeting, IOE and Management had submitted a joint proposal in response to one of the recommendations contained in the report of the External Peer Review of the Evaluation Function, which would be posted on the Members' Platform soonest to facilitate the Board's consideration.
9. One Convenor questioned the use of the word "resilience" with respect to fragile contexts, noting connotations that could be interpreted as not simply supporting vulnerable populations to withstand existing circumstances. Management explained that the discussion would follow up on earlier Board discussions and Member requests concerning the particular challenges of operating in fragile contexts, including how IFAD could work more effectively with the RBAs and MDBs through complementarity, synergies and co-financing. Responding to requests for additional information on how RBA collaboration was being translated from headquarters-level commitments into coordinated action at regional and country levels, Management referred to the RBA Blueprint document and numerous ongoing joint interventions, noting that collaboration was increasingly embedded in project design with the identification of potential partners and opportunities for collaboration and practical measures such as shared premises and joint initiatives. Management emphasized that collaboration was driven at country level as a means of achieving better development results rather than an end in itself. On the selection of topics for future Strategic Discussions, Management welcomed input from Member State representatives through the Convenors (including the proposal regarding women in rural areas put forward at the meeting) and noted that climate finance and co-financing with climate funds, would be considered at the Executive Board session in April.

b. Forthcoming GB meetings and events

10. The Secretary presented the upcoming Governing Body meetings and activities, as set out in the calendar of forthcoming Governing Body meetings and events and informed Convenors of the proposed dates for the five Convenors and Friends meetings in 2027, inviting them to flag any concerns with the proposed schedule.

Agenda item 4: Other Business and Closing

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