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Enabling poor rural people  
to overcome poverty

## Minutes of the 104<sup>th</sup> session of the Executive Board

### Note to Executive Board representatives

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Executive Board — 105<sup>th</sup> Session  
Rome, 3-4 April 2012

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For: **Approval**

## Recommendation for approval

The Executive Board is invited to approve amendments to the minutes of its 104<sup>th</sup> session, as requested by the Executive Board representative of Belgium and shown in the present document, and to adopt the revised minutes.

## Minutes of the 104<sup>th</sup> session of the Executive Board

For ease of reference, insertions are shown in bold, while deletions are shown in strike-through.

1. The representative of Belgium has requested that paragraph 52 of the minutes of the 104<sup>th</sup> session of the Executive Board (document EB/104) be amended as shown below.

“52. The Executive Board indicated its support of the COSOP for the Democratic Republic of the Congo and commended the appropriateness of the objectives. The Board welcomed the dual focus on (i) community organizations, which would gradually lead to more formal decentralization over time (in areas where IFAD already operates) and (ii) farmers’ groups developing into producers’ organizations, as a sustainable means to ensure the provision of inputs, and technical and marketing services (in rural zones surrounding urban areas). **Recalling the country’s strategic importance and high rate of hunger, despite its agricultural potential, the representative for Belgium recalled her country’s experience of engagement and cofinancing of projects in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. While commending the quality of the country assessment undertaken, she identified the absence of lessons learned as a concern and called for IOE to more routinely provide external evaluations for the preparation of COSOPs in fragile countries such as the Democratic Republic of the Congo. While** the outposting of a country programme manager in Kinshasa, supported by a country programme officer and a country programme assistant was welcomed as key to managing policy dialogue and the supervision of the country strategy, **the representative for Belgium called for further reflection by IFAD with regard to its supervision and monitoring systems in fragile states, where a robust country presence was important.** ~~The representative for Belgium~~ **She further** underscored the need to ensure coordination with ongoing donor initiatives, including those of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), and with bilateral partners’ initiatives in agricultural and rural development. **Questioning the COSOP’s target regions, the representative for Belgium requested further clarification on the choices made, as these seemed not to be regions with the greatest food insecurity. While commending IFAD for its continued engagement under difficult circumstances, she also informed the Board of Belgium’s cessation of grant funding for one of IFAD’s projects in the country, in light of the slow progress made regarding disbursements since 2005.** IFAD highlighted that in a fragile state such as the Democratic Republic of the Congo, coordination with other donors and partnership-building were the core of the COSOP and that initiatives within the COSOP framework were founded on experience and lessons learned by IFAD and its development partners.”