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Enabling poor rural people
to overcome poverty

Revision to the minutes of the EB105 session of the Executive Board

Note to Executive Board representatives

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Executive Board — 106th Session
Rome, 20-21 September 2012

For: Approval

Recommendation for approval

The Executive Board is invited to approve amendments to the minutes of its 105th session, as requested by some Executive Board representatives and shown in the present document, and to adopt the revised minutes.

Revision to the minutes of the EB105 session of the Executive Board

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

The representatives for Denmark, Finland, Norway and Sweden have requested that the minutes of the 105th session of the Executive Board (document EB/105), for agenda item 3, on the IFAD Policy on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment, be amended as shown below.

B. IFAD Policy on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment (Agenda item 3)

14. The Executive Board considered IFAD's Policy on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment (EB 2012/105/R.2/Rev.1), together with the Independent Office of Evaluation of IFAD's comments (EB 2012/105/R.2/Add.1/Rev.1) and an oral summary by the Chairperson of the Evaluation Committee on the Committee's consideration thereof, and subsequently approved the policy.
15. In considering the policy, the Board expressed general consensus on the high quality of the document presented, commended the work of the Programme Management Department, and recognized the important input by the Independent Office of Evaluation of IFAD (IOE) in the evaluation process. In this regard, some representatives requested Management to take into account at the strategy formulation and implementation stages the comments and recommendations provided by IOE. **The importance of adequate resourcing of the new policy from IFAD's (administrative) budget was further highlighted, with several Board Members stressing the importance of the allocation of resources (staff, finance, etc.) for the implementation of the policy. Furthermore, information on such resources was requested, as these reflect both management's commitment to the policy and the seriousness of its implementation.**
16. Furthermore, representatives were appreciative of the highly consultative process, including the strong engagement with the Board itself, with the Rome-based agencies and the United Nations system, which had informed the policy's preparation.
17. The Executive Board:
 - (a) Recalled IFAD's positive performance on gender equality and noted the importance of considering this policy in the context of the United Nations system-wide approach. Representatives underlined the centrality of implementing this policy in tandem with IFAD's local, international and multilateral partners and stakeholders. With regard to Rome-based

partnerships, the Board noted IFAD's involvement in the Inter-Agency Task Force on Rural Women and its work together with its sister agencies in Rome to develop a joint programme with the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and Empowerment of Women (UN Women);

- (b) Recognizing IFAD's emphasis on gender diversity in its own workforce, called on the Fund to engage with its national and international partners to promote gender equality, particularly in key decision-making positions;
 - (c) Noted Management's willingness to consider new ideas for indicators, which could prove useful in the implementation of the policy. On this note, several recommendations for more specific indicators were made by representatives, including, inter alia, the introduction of a more adequate proxy indicator for women's empowerment;
 - (d) Welcomed the fact that gender equality would continue to be fully mainstreamed into IFAD's projects and programmes and the emphasis on capacity-building through planned targeted training for IFAD staff as well as strategic policy dialogue with governments;
 - ~~(e) Took note that while IFAD did not make specific resource allocations to individual policies, commitments made with respect to reporting on human and financial resources dedicated to gender related activities would be honoured and the Board duly informed by means of the reporting mechanisms identified in the policy itself;~~
 - (e) **Welcomed the President's commitment to provide adequate reporting on human and, not least, financial resources dedicated to the roll-out of this policy, while taking note of limitations in tracking specific resource allocations to individual policies in IFAD's existing reporting system.**
 - (f) Welcomed the establishment of a corporate high-level task force on gender which would provide guidance and ensure accountability. In this regard, the Board encouraged IFAD to assign a member of Senior Management to chair this group; and
 - (g) Looked forward to receiving annual reports on the progress of this policy's implementation and welcomed the planned mid-term review (MTR), including a gender audit.
18. Highlighting the step-wise process of the policy's implementation as well as its intrinsic connection to IFAD's other strategic objectives, Management took note of the concerns raised and assured the Board that its input would be taken into consideration throughout the policy's implementation and reflected in the MTR and annual reporting. **The President assured the Board that by approving the policy, management would be held responsible for its implementation.**

At the request of the representative of Sweden, paragraph 39 of the item on Project/programme proposals for consideration by the Executive Board was amended as shown below.

39. The representative of the United States of America specified that due to her country's current legislative mandate against the provision of United States aid to or through the Government of Madagascar due to concerns over trafficking in persons, the United States opposed the use of IFAD funding in Madagascar and asked that this position be recorded in the minutes of the session. **The representative of Sweden expressed her country's opposition to the proposals presented for Madagascar due to the prevailing situation in-country.**