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Enabling poor rural people
to overcome poverty

Draft programme of events for the thirty-sixth session of the Governing Council

Note to Executive Board representatives

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Executive Board — 107th Session
Rome, 12-13 December 2012

For: Information

Draft programme of events for the thirty-sixth session of the Governing Council

1. Rule 6 of the Rules of Procedure of the Governing Council provides that the President shall prepare, with the approval of the Executive Board, a provisional agenda for each session of the Governing Council. Accordingly, the Executive Board is invited to consider and approve the draft provisional agenda for the thirty-sixth session of the Governing Council as provided in document EB 2012/107/R.40. The Executive Board is also invited to take note of the draft programme of events for the thirty-sixth session of the Governing Council, which is attached to the present document.
2. The international community's clear commitment to working in partnership is evident in the Busan Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation, signed at the fourth High-Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness in November 2011. Moreover, recognizing the potential of the combined forces of organizations working in partnership, the United Nations has declared 2012 as the International Year of Cooperatives. This international year is intended to highlight the strengths of the cooperative business model as an alternative means of doing business and furthering socio-economic development.
3. The thirty-sixth session of the Governing Council is therefore an opportune occasion for IFAD to showcase the contribution and value of smallholders' organizations in producing for the market, making effective use of value chains and building effective partnerships with other actors in the private sector.¹ In this context, the 2013 session of IFAD's Governing Council centres around the overarching theme – *The power of partnerships: Forging alliances for sustainable smallholder agriculture*.
4. Partnerships serve smallholder agriculture in many ways. They allow poor farmers to expand their operations cost effectively and gain entry to otherwise inaccessible markets and value chains; encourage development of policies reflecting the needs of all stakeholders, large and small; support the protection of natural resources; provide access to knowledge, research and technology; encourage sharing of experiences among countries facing similar challenges; and improve access to financing. As reflected in the Strategic Framework 2011-2015, IFAD is increasingly engaging in partnerships with the private sector as part of its overall efforts to enable rural people to overcome poverty and achieve food security.
5. The forthcoming discussion on partnerships at the Governing Council session comes at an opportune time to help position IFAD at the forefront of this ongoing debate. Partnership-building is at the core of the present development dialogue: it is taking centre stage in discussions on the Millennium Development Goals and Sustainable Development Goals; it is a key priority of the G8 and the G20; and it forms the basis of emerging private-sector initiatives and of IFAD's own interactions with its constituency and Governing Bodies.
6. Discussions will open on the first day with a review of private-public partnership experiences. The special side event *Partnerships: Sharing experiences from the field* will explore examples of successful partnerships forged among smallholder farmers and between smallholders' organizations and other private- and public-sector actors. The session will bring together smallholder farmers and other parties involved in partnerships that have been mutually beneficial, and provide them with an opportunity to share their experiences and illustrate the benefits and challenges they have encountered.
7. In the afternoon, the high-level panel will begin with a one-on-one discussion with an internationally renowned leader involved in promoting partnership-building, who will then be joined on stage by technical experts to discuss whether working in

¹ The private sector includes farmers and producers' organizations and associations, local agribusinesses, multinational corporations, private foundations, research institutes and other private organizations.

partnerships is a viable option for smallholders to increase their productivity, access markets and receive a fair reward for their work. Panel participants will be chosen from academia, cooperatives, private companies or trade facilitators, and contacts have been made with the relevant organizations with a view to ensuring their participation.

8. Taking into account the feedback received, Governors will be invited to participate in a high-level round table, to be held on the second day, on the topic of financing for agricultural and rural development. This event will highlight existing experiences among Member States and will serve as a forum to gain fresh insights into new ways of financing agriculture and rural development, and to discuss the lessons learned over the years with regard to traditional development aid.
9. Two informal events will be held the day before the 2013 Governing Council for the first time:
 - (a) A round table to discuss IFAD's partnership with the Arab States of the Gulf and opportunities for greater engagement and collaboration. The objective is to agree on concrete activities to deepen and enhance the development impact of the partnership between the Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf (GCC) and IFAD. Participants will include Member States, research institutions, think tanks and select organizations such as NGOs and financing institutions from the Arab States of the Gulf.
 - (b) A thematic side meeting on impact assessment to enable IFAD to learn from wider experience and validate its approach for the 2013-2015 impact evaluation agenda, as part of the deliverables for the Ninth Replenishment period. Participants will include representatives of governments, policymakers, private-sector partners and centres of excellence in impact evaluation. The objectives are to mobilize support, validate IFAD's approach and enrich it with state-of-the-art know how.
10. Finally, on 11 and 12 February 2013, the first global meeting of the Indigenous Peoples' Forum (IPF) will be held at IFAD. The IPF was established under the IFAD Policy on Engagement with Indigenous Peoples,² as an instrument to systematically engage indigenous peoples at the local, national and international levels through a process of dialogue and consultation among representatives of indigenous peoples, IFAD staff and Member States. Furthermore, the policy established that the IPF should meet every other year, in conjunction with the IFAD Governing Council.
11. A draft programme of events for the Governing Council session is attached, with a preliminary timetable for the proposed schedule of work. It encompasses the formal items as set out in the provisional agenda for consideration by the Governing Council, and the panel discussions and other events. The timetable seeks to allow sufficient time to handle the formal agenda while maximizing opportunities for interactive dialogue on substantive issues related to the activities of the Fund.
12. The timetable is to be considered a work in progress and subject to change as confirmation of attendance is received.

² Approved by the Executive Board in September 2009.

Pre-Governing Council - Thematic side meetings

Tuesday, 12 February 2013

2.30 p.m. to 4.30 p.m. Plenary Hall: *Measuring impact – Understanding pathways to rural transformation*
 Oval room: *Towards greater partnership and collaboration between IFAD and the Arab States of the Gulf*

Governing Council - Draft programme of events

Wednesday, 13 February 2013

Morning session 9 a.m. to 1.30 p.m.

9 a.m. to 10.30 a.m. Inaugural ceremony

10.30 a.m. to 12.30 p.m. Plenary Hall: **Special side event: Partnerships: Sharing experiences from the field**
 Italian Conference room: **Appointment of the President of IFAD** (for Governors only)

12.30 p.m. to 1.30 p.m. Thirty-sixth session of the Governing Council – Agenda items, including general statements

Afternoon session 3 p.m. to 7.30 p.m.

3 p.m. to 3.30 p.m. Keynote speakers

3.30 p.m. to 5.30 p.m. **High-level panel discussion: The power of partnerships: Forging alliances for sustainable smallholder agriculture.** A one-on-one discussion with an internationally recognized leader, followed by an expert technical panel.

5.30 p.m. to 7.30 p.m. Continuation of agenda items, including general statements

7.30 p.m. Reception for all delegates

Thursday, 14 February 2013

Morning session 9 a.m. to 1.20 p.m.

9 a.m. to 9.30 a.m. General statements

9.30 a.m. to 10 a.m. Keynote speakers

10 a.m. to 12 p.m. **High-level round table with Governors: Partnership for financing for agriculture**

12 p.m. to 1 p.m. General statements

1 p.m. to 1.15 p.m. President's concluding remarks

1.15 p.m. to 1.20 p.m. Closure of the session