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Enabling poor rural people  
to overcome poverty

## **Minutes of the 109<sup>th</sup> session of the Executive Board**

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## Minutes of the 109<sup>th</sup> session of the Executive Board

### I. Introduction

1. The 109<sup>th</sup> session of the Executive Board was held in Rome from 17 to 19 September 2013. A list of delegations is attached as annex I.
2. The Executive Board had before it the documents listed in annex II.

### II. Opening of the session (agenda item 1)

3. President Kanayo F. Nwanze opened the 109<sup>th</sup> session of the Executive Board. In so doing, he welcomed the newly accredited representatives for Canada, India, Italy and the Netherlands; the observers for Cuba, Ireland, Madagascar, Sudan and Viet Nam; and the representatives for Australia and the Russian Federation attending as silent observers from non-Member States from the adjacent *salle d'écoute*. The President also welcomed other first-time participants in the Board's proceedings.
4. The President noted the passing of His Excellency Rodney M. Perera, Ambassador of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka to IFAD, who had been accredited to IFAD from 2003 to 2007 and an Executive Board representative from August 2004 to February 2005.
5. After recalling the Board's decisions at its April session, the President turned to the current session and informed representatives of the removal from the agenda of the item relative to Australia's re-accession to IFAD, pending greater clarity on the issue from the recently elected Government. He underlined IFAD's commitment to demonstrating its value as a development partner to the new Government.
6. On the recruitment of senior staff, the President informed the Board of the completion of the recruitment process for the Vice-President; the Secretary of IFAD; the Director, Office of the President and the Vice-President; and the Director, Information and Communications Technology Division. Furthermore, he announced the imminent departure of Mr Carlos Seré, Associate Vice-President, Strategy and Knowledge Management Department, who would leave the Fund in October to return to the world of agricultural research and development.
7. The President apprised the Board of the country visits he had undertaken over the last six months, ensuring IFAD's engagement in key global processes such as the post-2015 development agenda, the G8 New Alliance for Food Security and Nutrition, the World Economic Forum on Africa, and the Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa. In this context, he highlighted IFAD's continued focus on policy dialogue and advocacy for the important role of smallholders for achieving greater global food security, nutrition and development.
8. Turning to the upcoming Consultation on the Tenth Replenishment of IFAD's Resources, the President expressed his hope that the overwhelming support received from Member States during the last replenishment cycle would continue, to enable IFAD to achieve its goals. He noted recent recognition for IFAD's work, including by the United States Department of Treasury, which had recently bestowed its Development Impact Honours Award on IFAD for a project jointly supported by IFAD and the African Development Bank in Uganda. He also noted that IFAD had emerged as a leader in many areas related to gender equality and women's empowerment in the report the United Nations System-wide Action Plan on Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women, presented to the Substantive Session of the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations in July 2013.
9. Furthermore, IFAD's efforts to work more strategically, including by extending collaboration with the private sector, were ongoing and clearly visible at country-

level through the facilitation of mutually beneficial public-private partnerships and at the global level in the pursuit of strategic global partnerships. With respect to the latter, IFAD had recently formed a global strategic partnership with the Intel Corporation to support farm extension services for smallholders in Asia. On a related note, the President advised Board members that IFAD was taking concrete steps to create further investment opportunities for Member States through the development of the Additional Resource Mobilization Initiative, which would be the subject of an informal seminar prior to the December Board session.

10. Another important issue being explored by IFAD was that of maximizing the effectiveness of IFAD's engagement in middle-income countries (MICs), by defining appropriate modalities to reach poor rural women and men in those countries. In this connection, IFAD would welcome the assistance of Board members in further developing its engagement in MICs.
11. The representative for Denmark, speaking on behalf of its constituent, New Zealand, was pleased to announce a contribution from New Zealand to IFAD's Ninth Replenishment of 1.5 million New Zealand dollars, in recognition of IFAD's work in supporting sustainable economic development as a critical means of lifting communities out of poverty – in line with New Zealand's own development objectives.

### **III. Decisions of the Executive Board**

#### **A. Adoption of the agenda (agenda item 2)**

12. The Executive Board adopted the agenda as proposed in document EB 2013/109/R.1/Rev.1 and further revised it to reflect amendments agreed to by the Board (to be revised as EB 2013/109/R.1/Rev.2). The Board also noted the schedule of work, as outlined in EB 2013/109/R.1/Rev.1/Add.1, which was further revised to capture the amendments agreed to by the Board.
13. Amendments included the following:  
The removal of:
  - (a) the Livestock and Access to Markets Project in Pakistan; and
  - (b) Australia's re-accession and IFAD's vote allocation system.
14. The Board agreed to hold the agenda item on hosting the Secretariat of the International Land Coalition in closed session and that this arrangement could also be considered for the agenda item on the Global Mechanism. It was agreed that holding future discussions on hosting entities in IFAD in closed session would be considered, should the President deem the discussions sufficiently sensitive to warrant this.

#### **B. High-level preview of IFAD's 2014 results-based programme of work and regular and capital budgets, and the preview of the Independent Office of Evaluation of IFAD's results-based work programme and budget for 2014 and indicative plan for 2015-2016 (agenda item 3)**

15. The Executive Board considered IFAD's 2014 results-based programme of work and regular and capital budgets, the Independent Office of Evaluation of IFAD's results-based work programme and budget for 2014 and indicative plan for 2015-2016 (EB 2013/109/R.2).
16. The Executive Board took note of the summaries provided by the Chairpersons of the Audit Committee and the Evaluation Committee on the Committees' reviews of the document. The Chairperson of the Audit Committee noted that the bulk of the proposed increase in the 2014 budget was intended to finance structural changes

and investments in line with the recommendations of the Corporate-level evaluation on IFAD's institutional efficiency and the efficiency of IFAD-funded operations (CLEE). Nonetheless, the Chair noted the need for a more detailed explanation of the increase in the final submission of the 2014 budget, with regard to both CLEE-related costs and other cost drivers such as those related to staff costs.

17. There was broad support for the proposed level of IFAD's programme of loans and grants for 2014 of US\$1.1 billion, including US\$100 million for the Adaptation for Smallholder Agriculture Programme (ASAP), as well as for the regular budget of US\$150.39 million.
18. While welcoming the expected mobilization of US\$1.86 billion in additional resources, Board representatives requested further information on the subject, including whether this remained a realistic target.
19. Appreciation was also expressed for the inclusion of gender-responsive budgeting, details of which would be contained in the final proposal to be submitted to the Board in December.
20. There was overall support for the budget of the Independent Office of Evaluation of IFAD (IOE), estimated at US\$6 million for 2014, and its associated work programme for 2014 and indicative plan for 2015-2016. Several representatives welcomed the new format of the document, which provided greater detail on cost breakdown, in line with the request made by the Executive Board in 2012.
21. The need for additional information on the following issues was raised by List A and other representatives:
  - (a) Savings and efficiency gains to be achieved in the medium term to offset the proposed nominal increase in the administrative budget of 4.3 per cent over 2013. In this regard, the Board recognized that IFAD's administrative budget had shown little or no increase for the last three years;
  - (b) The manner in which organizational changes had been reflected in the budget, including the transfer of fiduciary responsibilities from the Programme Management Department to the Controller's and Financial Services Division; and
  - (c) Budgetary implications of further collaboration among the Rome-based agencies, and achieving future efficiencies.
22. Management highlighted the fact that the proposed budget increase was due primarily to recurrent costs of the CLEE consolidated action plan, and assured the Board that IFAD would continue to make efforts to absorb any price increases, to the extent possible. Management also committed to providing additional information on the proposed budget increase in the final 2014 budget document.
23. Clarification was provided to the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela with respect to the medium-term projections for investment income. Additional information would be provided bilaterally.
24. Management took note of the request made by the Chair of the Audit Committee to receive additional background data on the budget increase, and committed to providing this material.
25. Noting the concerns expressed by List A and Mexico about the importance that there be no salary increase, clarification on both the compensation and the pay-for-performance system was provided, emphasizing that no salary increases were being proposed by Management, and that increases in staff costs did not reflect salary increases.
26. Regarding IOE's budget, the Board requested and was provided with clarification on the following:

- (a) The division between regular staff and consultants, and the scope for IOE to introduce savings with regard to the corresponding costs, including through increased use of local consultants and applying criteria in the hiring process which take costs into account; and
  - (b) IOE's efforts to ensure maximum value for money by exploring options to reduce overall country programme evaluation costs and reviewing the cost budgeted for the second edition of the Evaluation Manual.
27. The Board welcomed IOE's proposed evaluation synthesis report on IFAD's engagement in middle-income countries, which would feed into discussions under the Consultation on the Tenth Replenishment of IFAD's Resources (IFAD10), and supported IOE's proposal to conduct a corporate-level evaluation on IFAD's engagement in fragile states.

## **C. Evaluation (agenda item 4)**

### **(a) Reports of the Chairperson of the Evaluation Committee**

28. The Executive Board considered the Report of the Chairperson on the seventy-seventh session of the Evaluation Committee (document EB 2013/109/R.3), the Report of the Chairperson on the Evaluation Committee's country visit to Viet Nam (document EB 2013/109/R.4), and the Report of the Chairperson on the seventy-eighth session of the Evaluation Committee (document EB 2013/109/R.5).
29. Members welcomed the report on the country visit to Viet Nam, and highlighted the strength of performance of IFAD's Viet Nam portfolio, the performance of the country office, and IFAD's impact on agricultural policies over the last 20 years.
30. It was pointed out that Viet Nam could serve as a model for IFAD's interventions in middle-income countries (MICs). Collaboration with the World Bank was encouraged to leverage its significant portfolio and develop future opportunities for cofinancing.
31. Management commended the Evaluation Committee for its work and provided clarification on several issues related to CLEE recommendations for enhancing the effectiveness of IFAD's governing bodies.
32. Management pointed out that project approval under the lapse-of-time (LOT) procedure did not constitute a delegation of authority to the President. The President underscored that approval of projects presented in-session and submitted under the LOT procedure remained the responsibility of the Executive Board.
33. Management reminded the Board that country strategic opportunities programmes (COSOPs) are negotiated between IFAD and the respective countries, based on a collaborative process involving civil society and non-governmental organizations, and often entailing subsequent parliamentary approval. Management stressed the value of comments from Board members on COSOPs for the implementation process; however, COSOPs are not subject to Board approval. Executive Board representatives underscored the strategic importance of the COSOPs, and expressed support for enhanced contributions to COSOP development from Member State field experts and capitals at an early stage in the development process and the inclusion of local experts in country programme management teams. A representative described the practice at another international financial institution of holding informal workshops at an early stage in the strategy development process to discuss country strategies. It was agreed that this approach could be discussed at a future meeting of Convenors and Friends.
34. On the topic of frequency and content of Governing Council sessions, Management pointed out that Governing Council sessions were a key opportunity for the majority of IFAD Member States to engage with IFAD on institutional governance and policy matters. While noting some representatives' wish that changes in the frequency and format of Governing Council meetings be considered, Management proposed further reflection on whether tasking IOE with conducting a study in this respect

was an effective use of IOE resources and pointed out that any proposal for change would need to be decided upon by the Governing Council. Members supported further discussion of this topic at Convenors and Friends.

35. With respect to amending the rules for participation in Executive Board field visits, some representatives supported the proposal to ensure participation in future field visits by members of the Evaluation Committee. One member suggested that recommendations generated by field visits be incorporated into dedicated action plans. Management indicated that extensive consultations had been undertaken to prepare the existing rules, that their implementation had yet to begin, and that any recommendation to modify the rules could be considered once lessons learned could be drawn from implementation of the existing rules. The Chairperson of the Evaluation Committee underscored the value of linking country visits to the IOE work programme.
36. Members asked for an update on the status of deliberations regarding a code of conduct. Management reported that the issue was on the agenda for the November meeting of Convenors and Friends and that this timing would allow for consultation among List members and with capitals. Members took note of the Evaluation Committee Chair's reports and the comments received thereon. With respect to the matrix of CLEE recommendations regarding the efficiency of IFAD governing bodies, the Board would consider this item in December together with a report on the discussion of the issue with Convenors and Friends due to be held in November.

**(b) Corporate-level evaluation on direct supervision and implementation support**

37. The Executive Board next addressed the Corporate-level evaluation on direct supervision and implementation support, as contained in document EB 2013/109/R.6, and the Management response thereto, as contained in the addendum.
38. Members congratulated IOE on the report, and IFAD Management on their response. Members supported the recommendations, underscoring the value of joint review and implementation support missions and of enhancing government ownership and capacity. Members stressed the potential for increased collaboration with other cofinancing institutions and the importance of undertaking supervision with a scaling-up mindset.
39. Members underscored that the direct supervision and implementation support reforms could contribute to cost reduction and improved effectiveness. Members noted the efforts to contain costs in country offices while ensuring effective results. They also suggested that supervision and implementation support missions could be an opportunity for additional resource mobilization.
40. The Executive Board endorsed the evaluation report, and the recommendations contained therein and noted Management's response thereto.

**(d) Appointment of the Director, Independent Office of Evaluation of IFAD (closed session)**

41. Meeting in closed session, the Executive Board considered item 4(d) on the appointment of the Director, IOE.
42. It was agreed that:
  - (a) The Executive Board will revise the Evaluation Policy as per the Report of the Ad hoc Working Group on the Appointment of the Director of the Independent Office of Evaluation of IFAD and the outcome of the Executive Board vote on this matter, as contained in document EB 2013/109/INF.6, and upon the completion of that work, will relaunch the recruitment process for the Director of IOE accordingly.



- (b) The decision of the Executive Board to designate the current Deputy Director of IOE as Officer-in-Charge of IOE that was taken on the basis of document EB 2012/106/R.7 is rescinded. A neutral, external interim officer-in-charge of IOE will be appointed to assist the Executive Board with the revision of the Evaluation Policy and to work with the Board and Management until a new Director assumes office. The new interim officer-in-charge will be recommended to the Board by the Chair of the Evaluation Committee, and will be appointed through a vote by correspondence. The President informed the Board that Management will apply sanctions as recommended by the Sanctions Committee in the case set out in EB 2013/109/R.11 and EB 2013/109/R.11/Add.1.
43. The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela wished to record its abstention with respect to the approval of the proposal submitted in relation to the Appointment of the Director, IOE, and indicated reasons to justify such abstention.
44. In particular, the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela wished to record its opinion that the new evidence and arguments regarding the appointment of the Director, IOE should have been more thoroughly considered and supported the suggestion to postpone discussion of this item until the December Board session. This suggestion did not meet with consensus and, as such, the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela abstained on the proposal contained in document EB 2013/109/C.R.P.1, which was submitted in closed session on 18 September. The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela considered that further reflection was needed, including on the IFAD Evaluation Policy, with respect to the selection procedure for the Director, IOE.

#### **D. IFAD Consolidated Action Plan to Enhance Operational and Institutional Efficiency (agenda item 5)**

45. The Executive Board reviewed document EB 2013/109/R.12, containing an updated consolidated action plan agreed by Management during the IFAD9 Consultation to address the recommendations of the CLEE, as well as the comments of IOE thereon as contained in the addendum.
46. The Board welcomed the action plan presented by Management as it responded to many of the CLEE recommendations and built on IFAD's reform agenda, and expressed its strong support for IFAD's commitment to improving efficiency.
47. Board representatives provided numerous comments, in particular:
- (a) Highlighting the importance of increased thematic and country selectivity, the Board welcomed Management's proposal to submit a paper outlining options on country selectivity to better prioritize IFAD's support and ensure maximum impact of its resources. It was recommended that this issue be discussed during the IFAD10 Consultation.
- (b) Support was also expressed for the proposed review of IFAD's country presence vision and strategy. In this context, the importance of completing IFAD's accountability framework was highlighted.
- (c) Regarding human resources management, the Board broadly welcomed the introduction of a time-recording system for staff, as agreed during the IFAD9 Consultation.
- (d) Noting the strengthening of the corporate budget function, including the creation of a Budget and Organizational Development Unit to enhance linkages between budget and workforce planning, the Board highlighted the importance of addressing recommendations in the financial management area.

48. On a related note, the Audit Committee Chair expressed strong interest in the proposal made by the Evaluation Committee at its seventy-eighth session to hold joint meetings to discuss the consolidated action plan in more detail.
49. Management noted that significant progress had already been made to improve IFAD's efficiency, and highlighted the need for the Board to provide prioritization and strategic guidance, rather than focusing on implementation modalities.
50. The Board would be kept informed of progress on implementing the consolidated action plan.

**E. President's Report on the Implementation Status of Evaluation Recommendations and Management Actions (PRISMA) (agenda item 6)**

51. The Board turned to document EB 2013/109/R.13, the President's Report on the Implementation Status of Evaluation Recommendations and Management Actions (PRISMA) and IOE's comments thereon, as contained in the annex.
52. The Chairperson of the Evaluation Committee reported on the deliberations of the Evaluation Committee with respect to the PRISMA at the seventy-seventh session of the Evaluation Committee.
53. Members expressed appreciation to Management for the concise new format of the PRISMA and for the steps taken by Management to enhance the performance of IFAD, and thanked IOE for its useful feedback. Some members specifically highlighted their support for the treatment of gender equality and women's empowerment and the associated action taken by Management on this issue, including the policy framework, enhanced results management, and tracking of dedicated resources and project funds.
54. The Executive Board took note of the contents of the report.

**F. Country strategic opportunities programmes (COSOPs) and country programme evaluations (agenda items 7 and 4(c))**

55. The Board reviewed the COSOPs for Kenya, Rwanda, Cambodia, Nepal and Haiti. In line with the proposal to present country programme evaluations to the Board in conjunction with the related COSOPs, the country programme evaluations for Kenya, Rwanda and Nepal were also considered under this item. Furthermore, IOE also provided comments on the COSOPs for these three countries, in accordance with the request made by the Board at its April 2013 session to receive notes from IOE on COSOPs for which country programme evaluations had been conducted.

**(a) East and Southern Africa**

**(i) Kenya**

56. The Board reviewed with interest the COSOP for the Republic of Kenya, as contained in EB 2013/109/R.14 and Add.1. The relevance of IFAD's focus on intensification, value addition, market access and sustainable natural resource management was recognized, as was the emphasis placed on arid and semi-arid lands that have a higher incidence of poverty and food-insecure people. The fact that the COSOP capitalized on a country programme evaluation to define these priority areas of intervention was also commended. It was explained that following the electoral process, Kenya was engaged in a substantive institutional reform agenda. The second midterm plan for Kenya's long-term development strategy, Vision 2030, should be tabled shortly, while the modalities for decentralization and devolution of responsibilities were being defined by the State and County governments. It was confirmed that in-country annual COSOP reviews would provide an opportunity to ensure that implementation of the IFAD country programme remained aligned with the country strategies and governance modalities, as they evolved. It was further clarified that given that the United

Nations had headquarters in Nairobi and that the city was a regional hub, IFAD's country office capacity for policy dialogue and donor coordination would be reinforced. Finally, the importance of geographic and thematic targeting at programme design was highlighted as a means of reaching the most vulnerable smallholders and ascertaining IFAD's comparative advantage.

(ii) **Rwanda**

57. The COSOP for Rwanda, as contained in EB 2013/109/R.15 and Add.1, was reviewed by the Board and no comments were made.

**(b) Asia and the Pacific**

(i) **Cambodia**

58. The Executive Board reviewed the COSOP for Cambodia, as contained in document EB 2013/109/R.16. The representative of the Government of Cambodia expressed his country's full support and ownership of the COSOP. Board representatives commended the highly collaborative nature of the strategy's development and welcomed its focus on resilience. Representatives also noted the leading role IFAD was playing in the development of the country's agricultural sector despite the absence of a country office. The Board enquired about the risks for IFAD target groups posed by violent conflicts over land, and encouraged IFAD to facilitate dialogue with the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries on land policies. It was clarified that IFAD was fully aware of the land situation; IFAD recognized that it could not prevent land grabbing throughout Cambodia, but that it could protect smallholders' land rights by helping them develop productive, successful farm businesses on the land.

(ii) **Nepal**

59. The Board welcomed the COSOP for Nepal, as contained in document EB 2013/109/R.17 and Add.1. The Board noted that the strategy built on the recommendations of the country programme evaluation and had involved a six-month participatory design process. The Board commended the alignment of the COSOP with the rural development strategy in Nepal, and the fact that it reflected the increasing flow of remittances from migrant workers and the climate change risks faced by the country. The Board commented on the difficulty of operating in the post-conflict environment and the challenges posed by political instability and the process of peace consolidation. Board members highlighted the importance of developing new partnerships with local governments, civil society organizations and the private sector, and of working with bilateral and multilateral partners. IFAD agreed that cofinancing for ongoing and new operations would help strengthen project delivery and build synergies. Finally, the Board voiced appreciation for the innovative proposals contained in the COSOP, such as the new project in the pipeline linking microenterprise support to remittances, and the proposal for a joint project management unit for all projects under the Ministry of Finance, to boost country programme performance.

**(c) Latin America and the Caribbean**

**Haiti**

60. The Executive Board supported the COSOP for the Republic of Haiti as contained in document EB 2013/109/R.18. It commended the candid self-evaluation evident in the COSOP, the strong alignment with the policies and strategies of the Government of Haiti and the IFAD Strategic Framework, and the relevance of the focus of the COSOP, in particular with respect to the climate change and adaptation agenda. The importance of mainstreaming gender issues in the COSOP was noted, as was the need to strengthen the monitoring and evaluation systems and the institutional support.

## **G. Project/programme proposals for consideration by the Executive Board (agenda item 8)**

### **(a) East and Southern Africa**

#### **Uganda: Project for Financial Inclusion in Rural Areas**

61. The Executive Board considered the proposal contained in document EB 2013/109/R.19 and adopted the following resolution:

“RESOLVED: that the Fund shall provide a loan on highly concessionary terms to the Republic of Uganda in an amount equivalent to nineteen million three hundred thousand special drawing rights (SDR 19,300,000), and upon such terms and conditions as shall be substantially in accordance with the terms and conditions presented herein.”

### **(b) Asia and the Pacific**

#### **(i) Bangladesh: Climate adaptation and Livelihood Protection Project**

62. The Executive Board considered the proposal contained in document EB 2013/109/R.39 with its addendum and negotiated financing agreement, and adopted the following resolution:

“RESOLVED: that the Fund shall provide a grant to the People’s Republic of Bangladesh in an amount of fifteen million United States dollars (US\$15,000,000) equivalent to nine million nine hundred thousand special drawing rights (SDR 9,900,000) and upon such terms and conditions as shall be substantially in accordance with the terms and conditions presented herein.”

63. In addition, the Fund will address the concerns expressed by Germany, the United Kingdom and some other representatives with regard to a number of issues raised in the recent report by Transparency International Bangladesh related to the delivery capacity of the project implementing agency. The Fund will report back to the Board through the first supervision report for this project, which will contain a dedicated section on the issues raised by the Transparency International report, including how the project implementing agency is addressing the report’s findings, and an assessment of the financial management and capacity of the project implementing agency. The supervision report, which will be published, will also outline steps taken by IFAD to manage risks and address any shortcomings.

#### **(ii) Pakistan: President's memorandum: Gwadar-Lasbela Livelihoods Support Project – Amendment to the financing agreement**

64. The Executive Board considered the proposal contained in document EB 2013/109/R.21, and approved an exception to section 4.08(a)(ii) of the General Conditions for Agricultural Development Financing, and that expenditures up to a total equivalent of US\$300,000 distributed as follows: US\$228,300 for category II (vehicles); US\$25,700 for category III (equipment and materials); US\$35,700 for category VII (salaries and allowances); and US\$10,300 for category VIII (incremental operating costs) of the allocation table (paragraph 1, schedule 2 of the financing agreement), incurred after 11 May 2011 but before the date of entry into force of this financing agreement, be considered eligible for the purposes of the agreement, if otherwise eligible, notwithstanding the fact that they were incurred before the start of the project implementation period.

(iii) **Viet Nam: Sustainable Rural Development for the Poor Project in Ha Tinh and Quang Binh Provinces (SRDP)**

65. The Executive Board considered the proposal contained in document EB 2013/109/R.22 and adopted the following resolutions:

“RESOLVED: that the Fund shall provide a loan on highly concessional terms to the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam in an amount equivalent to fourteen million nine hundred thousand special drawing rights (SDR 14,900,000) and upon such terms and conditions as shall be substantially in accordance with the terms and conditions presented herein.

RESOLVED FURTHER: that the Fund shall provide a grant to the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam in an amount equivalent to three hundred thirty thousand special drawing rights (SDR 330,000) and upon such terms and conditions as shall be substantially in accordance with the terms and conditions presented herein.

RESOLVED FURTHER: that the Spanish Food Security Cofinancing Facility Trust Fund, acting through IFAD in its capacity as Trustee, shall provide a loan on highly concessional terms to the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam in an amount equivalent to seven million nine hundred thousand Euro (EUR 7,900,000) and upon such terms and conditions as shall be substantially in accordance with the terms and conditions presented herein.”

**(c) Latin America and the Caribbean**

**Cuba: Cooperative Rural Development Project in the Oriental Region (PRODECOR)**

66. The Executive Board considered the proposal contained in document EB 2013/109/R.24 and adopted the following resolutions:

“RESOLVED: that the Fund shall provide a loan on ordinary terms to the Republic of Cuba in an amount equivalent to six million eight hundred fifty thousand special drawing rights (SDR 6,850,000) and upon such terms and conditions as shall be substantially in accordance with the terms and conditions presented herein.

RESOLVED FURTHER: that the Fund shall provide a loan from the Spanish Food Security Cofinancing Facility Trust Fund on ordinary terms to the Republic of Cuba in an amount equivalent to twenty million eight hundred thousand euros (EUR 20,800,000) and upon such terms and conditions as shall be substantially in accordance with the terms and conditions presented herein.

RESOLVED FURTHER: that the Fund shall provide a grant to the Republic of Cuba in an amount equivalent to three hundred forty thousand special drawing rights (SDR 340,000) and upon such terms and conditions as shall be substantially in accordance with the terms and conditions presented herein.”

67. The project was approved with the agreement that approval would enter into force six weeks from the closure of the 109<sup>th</sup> session of the Board, that is, 31 October 2013. During that period, the United States representative and other representatives who could not take a position in the session would be permitted to register their position. The Board would be advised immediately following this deadline of any additional positions or views so registered. The Office of the Secretary will communicate officially with Board members in this regard, through the Member States Interactive Platform.

## **H. Consultation on the Tenth Replenishment of IFAD's Resources: Establishment and selection of chair (agenda item 9)**

68. The Executive Board considered document EB 2013/109/R.25 entitled Consultation on the Tenth Replenishment of IFAD's Resources: Establishment and selection of chair. The Board approved the submission of the draft report and draft resolution as contained therein to the thirty-seventh session of the Governing Council. Two Board members expressed a preference for the option of holding the second session of the Consultation in late June, taking into due consideration the month of Ramadan, and no disagreement was expressed with those dates. With respect to attendance at the Consultation sessions, the importance of ensuring participation at a level of seniority that includes adequate committing authority, as is the practice in all international financial institutions, was highlighted. Board representatives were also reminded to provide early notification to the Office of the Secretary of the names of the representatives who would attend the Consultation sessions in order to facilitate timely outreach and provision of documentation.
69. Furthermore, to ensure transparency, the Board was informed that the designated candidate for the external chairing of the Consultation process would also be engaged for preliminary activities related to IFAD10 in 2013.

## **I. Financial matters (agenda item 10)**

### **(a) Reports of the Chairperson of the Audit Committee**

70. The Executive Board reviewed the reports on the 127<sup>th</sup> and 128<sup>th</sup> meetings of the Audit Committee, as contained in documents EB 2013/109/R.26 and EB 2013/109/R.27 respectively.
71. The Chairperson of the Audit Committee highlighted the Committee's discussion on the revised Debt Sustainability Framework document, on which additional information and minor changes were requested before submission of the document to the Executive Board. Committee members requested clear, comprehensive information on the modalities of compensation repayments, especially with regard to the determining of the amount of the contribution from Member States.
72. With respect to IFAD's investment portfolio, the Committee had been provided with an explanation of the negative performance of the portfolio and informed of the measures undertaken by Management to address this issue. The Committee then requested Management to present the report on the investment portfolio to the Executive Board, along with document EB 2013/109/R.38/Add.1, containing an external study on the issue.
73. The Audit Committee Chairperson indicated that both the United States and Italy had deposited instruments of contribution.
74. Executive Board members were informed that the Netherlands would no longer be a member of the Audit Committee, and that List A had proposed that Canada be appointed in its place. In accordance with rule 11.1 of the Rules of Procedure of the Executive Board, the Board approved the appointment of Canada to the Audit Committee to serve the remainder of the term of office, finishing in April 2015.
75. The Board, having reviewed the two reports of the Chairperson on the 127<sup>th</sup> and 128<sup>th</sup> meetings of the Audit Committee respectively, noted the information provided therein.

### **(b) Establishment of the special expenditure budget for activities related to the replenishments of IFAD's resources**

76. The Board considered the proposal to establish a special expenditure budget for activities related to the replenishments of IFAD's resources, as contained in document EB 2013/109/R.28, noting that this document had also been considered and endorsed by the Audit Committee at its 128<sup>th</sup> meeting.

77. The Board endorsed the recommendation for the establishment of a special expenditure budget for IFAD replenishment exercises and the programming of the IFAD10 special expenditure budget. The Board approved the submission of both the recommendation and the draft resolution contained in document EB 2013/109/R.28 to the Governing Council at its thirty-seventh session in February 2014 for consideration and approval.

**J. Draft provisional agenda for the thirty-seventh session of the Governing Council (agenda item 11)**

78. The Executive Board considered the draft provisional agenda for the thirty-seventh session of the Governing Council (EB 2013/109/R.29/Rev.1) and approved it in accordance with rule 6 of the Rules of Procedure of the Governing Council. The Board noted that the Council was scheduled for Wednesday, 19 February and Thursday, 20 February 2014, and that the Governing Council would also receive a programme of events for the session.

**K. Other business (agenda item 12)**

**(a) Revision of the minutes of the 108<sup>th</sup> session of the Executive Board**

79. The Executive Board adopted the minutes of the 108<sup>th</sup> session of the Executive Board, as amended by document EB 2013/109/R.31.

**(b) Report on IFAD's institutional partnership agreements**

80. The Executive Board next reviewed document EB 2013/109/R.32 which summarized discussions on the IFAD Partnership Strategy held during the 106<sup>th</sup> session of the Board, and on the procedure for the negotiation, signature and approval of agreements and similar legal instruments at the 107<sup>th</sup> session. The document also provided an overview of IFAD's existing partnerships, approaches, approval and implementation modalities, and the way forward.
81. Members requested further information regarding the closing of dormant agreements, and developments regarding private sector partnerships, especially given the need for additional resource mobilization. Some members suggested that the tools in use at other Rome based agencies be considered for decision-making and monitoring purposes. Clarification was requested on the envisioned results of partnerships; whether the agreements assigned specific responsibilities and accountabilities to the signatories; and how best practices would be captured to facilitate learning. One representative requested additional information on the criteria that would be applied to seek ex ante and ex post approval of cooperation agreements by the Executive Board.
82. Management indicated that it had undertaken a review to determine which agreements were active, which would be revived, and which would be terminated. Management suggested that maintaining dormant partnership agreements with key partners could be useful, to allow for possible reactivation in the future. Management also stressed the growing importance of private sector collaboration, indicating that resources had been dedicated to expanding efforts in this area, and informed the Board that discussions with the other Rome-based agencies were ongoing.
83. The Board, having reviewed document EB 2013/109/R.32, took note of the information contained therein and endorsed the conclusions reached therein, including with respect to Management's proposed approach to cultivating and implementing future partnerships.

**(c) Election of Governing Council representatives to the IFAD Staff Pension Committee**

84. Considering the document on the Election of representatives of the Governing Council to the IFAD Staff Pension Committee (EB 2013/109/R.33), the Executive Board was informed that Dr Moshibudi Rampedi, Counsellor (Agricultural Affairs), Alternate Permanent Representative of the Republic of South Africa had been proposed to serve as Member; Ms Donatienne Hissard, Alternate Permanent Representative of France, as First Alternate Member; and Mr Tareq Aldriweesh, Alternate Permanent Representative of Saudi Arabia, as Second Alternate Member. Recalling that representatives elected to serve on the Pension Committee do so in their individual capacity, the Board elected the proposed representatives to serve for a period of three years, ending on 30 September 2016.
85. In response to a query from the representative for Indonesia, it was clarified that the rotation in the composition of the Committee was determined by informal consultation among the Lists.

**(d) Hosting of the Secretariat of the International Land Coalition**

86. Meeting in closed session, the Executive Board considered document EB 2013/109/R.34 pertaining to the Hosting of the Secretariat of the International Land Coalition, and authorized the President to negotiate and finalize the terms of a new hosting agreement with the Coalition Council as outlined in paragraphs 17 to 20 of said document. The terms of the new hosting agreement, as negotiated, will be submitted to the Executive Board for its approval at a subsequent session.

**(e) Update on developments with respect to the housing of the Global Mechanism of the UNCCD**

87. Meeting in a closed session, the Executive Board was updated on the developments with respect to the housing of the Global Mechanism of the UNCCD.

**(f) Reallocation of cancelled project amounts**

88. Further to the request made by the representative for India, the Executive Board considered an item on the treatment of cancelled project amounts.
89. Noting the complexity of any proposal related to this issue, it was agreed that Management would review this matter through the Performance-based Allocation System (PBAS) Working Group, and submit a proposal for the Board's consideration in December 2013.

**L. Closing of the session**

90. Having summarized the session's proceedings, the President took a moment to refer to the wish that some countries had expressed to see an increase in the number of their nationals hired at IFAD. In this regard, the President highlighted that the proportion of staff of a particular nationality was not necessarily commensurate with their country's financial contribution. IFAD country offices should also be taken into account in that, in some cases, a reduced number of staff in IFAD headquarters was offset by the benefit of having a country office. He also underlined his duty to ensure that IFAD had the most competent staff in its area of work, and invited members to propose qualified candidates for vacant positions.
91. In closing, the President thanked Board representatives for the guidance and suggestions provided during the session, and took the opportunity to deeply thank Ms Cheryl Morden for her efforts and dedication as Officer-in-Charge of the Office of the Secretary. Ms Morden would leave the Office of the Secretary on 17 October to continue with her dual duties in IFAD as Deputy Director of the Office of Partnership and Resource Mobilization, and Chief of the North America Liaison Office.



#### **IV. Documents presented for information**

92. The following documents were presented to the Board for information purposes:

- Planned project activities 2013-2015 (document EB 2013/109/R.35)
- Applicability of performance audits to IFAD (EB 2013/109/R.36)
- Report on the status of contributions to the Ninth Replenishment of IFAD's Resources (EB 2013/109/R.37)
- Report on IFAD's investment portfolio for the first and second quarters of 2013 (EB 2013/109/R.38+Add.1)



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المشاركون في الدورة التاسعة بعد المائة للمجلس التنفيذي

**Delegations at the 109<sup>th</sup> session of  
the Executive Board**

**Délégations à la cent neuvième session  
du Conseil d'administration**

**Delegaciones en el 109<sup>o</sup> período de  
sesiones de la Junta Ejecutiva**

Executive Board — 109<sup>th</sup> Session  
Rome, 17-19 September 2013

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<sup>1</sup> Pursuant to document EB 2002/77/R.12: Procedure for the Review of Country Strategic Opportunities Papers (COSOPS) by the Executive Board. Paragraph 15 (2) Process.

## List of documents placed before the 109<sup>th</sup> session of the Executive Board

| Document No.  | Agenda item | Title   |
|---|-------------|---|
| EB 2013/109/R.1/Rev.1   | 2           | Provisional agenda  |
| EB 2013/109/R.1/Rev.1/Add.1 + Add.1/Rev.1                     | 2           | Schedule of work for the session  |
| EB 2013/109/R.2   | 3           | High-level preview of IFAD's 2014 results-based programme of work and regular and capital budgets, and the preview of the Independent Office of Evaluation of IFAD's results-based work programme and budget for 2014 and indicative plan for 2015-2016 |
| EB 2013/109/R.3   | 4(a)(i)     | Report of the Chairperson on the seventy-seventh session of the Evaluation Committee  |
| EB 2013/109/R.4   | 4(a)(ii)    | Report of the Chairperson on the Evaluation Committees country visit to Viet Nam  |
| EB 2013/109/R.5   | 4(a)(iii)   | Report of the Chairperson on the seventy-eighth session of the Evaluation Committee   |
| EB 2013/109/R.6 + Add.1                                       | 4(b)        | Corporate-level evaluation on direct supervision and implementation support   |
| EB 2013/109/R.7   | 4(c)(i)     | <b>Kenya</b> - Country Programme Evaluation   |
| EB 2013/109/R.8   | 4(c)(ii)    | <b>Rwanda</b> - Country Programme Evaluation  |
| EB 2013/109/R.9   | 4(c)(iii)   | <b>Nepal</b> - Country Programme Evaluation   |
| EB 2013/109/R.10 + Add.1 + EB 2013/109/R.11 + Add.1 + C.R.P.1 | 4(d)        | Appointment of the Director, Independent Office of Evaluation of IFAD ( <b>Confidential</b> )   |
| EB 2013/109/R.12 + Add.1                                      | 5           | IFAD Consolidated Action Plan to Enhance Operational and Institutional Efficiency   |
| EB 2013/109/R.13 + Add.1 <sup>2</sup>                         | 6           | President's Report on the Implementation Status of Evaluation Recommendations and Management Actions (PRISMA)   |
| EB 2013/109/R.14 + Add.1                                      | 7(a)(i)     | <b>Kenya</b> - Country strategic opportunities programme  |
| EB 2013/109/R.15 + Add.1                                      | 7(a)(ii)    | <b>Rwanda</b> - Country strategic opportunities programme   |
| EB 2013/109/R.16  | 7(b)(i)     | <b>Cambodia</b> - Country strategic opportunities programme   |

<sup>2</sup> Document posted in English only.



|   |           |   |
|---|-----------|---|
| EB 2013/109/R.17 + Add.1                      | 7(b)(ii)  | <b>Nepal</b> - Country strategic opportunities programme  |
| EB 2013/109/R.18                              | 7(c)      | <b>Haiti</b> - Country strategic opportunities programme  |
| EB 2013/109/R.19                              | 8(a)      | <b>Uganda:</b> Project for Financial Inclusion in Rural Areas   |
| EB 2013/109/R.39 + Add.1 + Sup.1 <sup>3</sup> | 8(b)(i)   | <b>Bangladesh:</b> Climate Adaptation and Livelihood Protection Project   |
| EB 2013/109/R.20 <sup>4</sup>                 | 8(b)(ii)  | <b>Pakistan:</b> Livestock and Access to Markets Project  |
| EB 2013/109/R.21                              | 8(b)(iii) | <b>Pakistan:</b> Presidents memorandum: Gwadar-Lasbela Livelihoods Support Project - Amendment to the financing agreement |
| EB 2013/109/R.22                              | 8(b)(iv)  | <b>Viet Nam:</b> Sustainable Rural Development for the Poor Project in Ha Tinh and Quang Binh Provinces (SRDP)            |
| EB 2013/109/R.24 + Corr.1 <sup>5</sup>        | 8(c)      | <b>Cuba:</b> Cooperative Rural Development Project in the Oriental Region   |
| EB 2013/109/R.25                              | 9         | Consultation on the Tenth Replenishment of IFAD's Resources: Establishment and selection of chair                         |
| EB 2013/109/R.26                              | 10(a)(i)  | Report of the Chairperson on the 127 <sup>th</sup> meeting of the Audit Committee   |
| EB 2013/109/R.27                              | 10(a)(ii) | Report of the Chairperson on the 128 <sup>th</sup> meeting of the Audit Committee   |
| EB 2013/109/R.28                              | 10(b)     | Establishment of the special expenditure budget for IFAD replenishment exercises  |
| EB 2013/109/R.29/Rev.1                        | 11        | Draft provisional agenda for the thirty-seventh session of the Governing Council  |
| EB 2013/109/R.30 <sup>6</sup>                 | 12        | Australia's reaccession and the IFAD votes allocation system  |
| EB 2013/109/R.31                              | 13(a)     | Revision to the minutes of the 108th session of the Executive Board   |
| EB 2013/109/R.32                              | 13(b)     | Report on IFAD's institutional partnership agreements   |
| EB 2013/109/R.33                              | 13(c)     | Election of representatives of the Governing Council to the IFAD Staff Pension Committee                                  |
| EB 2013/109/R.34                              | 13(d)     | Hosting of the Secretariat of the International Land Coalition  |

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<sup>3</sup> Document posted in English only.

<sup>4</sup> Item withdrawn from the agenda.

<sup>5</sup> Document posted in English, French and Arabic.

<sup>6</sup> Item withdrawn from the agenda.

**Documents presented for information**

|                          |    |  |
|--------------------------|----|--|
| EB 2013/109/R.35         | 14 | Planned project activities 2013-2015   |
| EB 2013/109/R.36         | 15 | Applicability of performance audits to IFAD  |
| EB 2013/109/R.37         | 16 | Report on the status of contributions to the Ninth Replenishment of IFAD's Resources |
| EB 2013/109/R.38 + Add.1 | 17 | Report on IFAD's investment portfolio for the first and second quarters of 2013      |

**Information notes**

|                                |  |   |
|--------------------------------|--|---|
| EB 2013/109/INF.1              |  | Arrangements for the 109 <sup>th</sup> session of the Executive Board   |
| EB 2013/109/INF.2              |  | Status report on arrears in principal, interest and service charge payments   |
| EB 2013/109/INF.3              |  | Debt rescheduling Agreement between IFAD and the Republic of Mali   |
| EB 2013/109/INF.4              |  | Results of the Executive Board vote by correspondence regarding the memorandum of understanding between the Asian Development Bank and the International Fund for Agricultural Development  |
| EB 2013/109/INF.5              |  | Results of the UN System-wide Action Plan (UN-SWAP) for implementation of the CEB Policy on Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women  |
| EB 2013/109/INF.6              |  | Results of the Executive Board vote by correspondence regarding the motions contained in the Report of the Ad-Hoc Working Group on the Appointment of the Director of IFAD's Independent Office of Evaluation ( <b>Confidential</b> ) |
| EB 2013/109/INF.7              |  | Grants, projects/programmes approved under the lapse-of-time procedure  |
| EB 2013/109/INF.8 <sup>7</sup> |  | List of documents for the 109 <sup>th</sup> session of the Executive Board  |

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<sup>7</sup> Document posted in English only.

|               |                              |
|---------------|------------------------------|
| Document:     | <u>EB 2013/109/R.1/Rev.2</u> |
| Agenda:       | <u>2</u>                     |
| Date:         | <u>17 September 2013</u>     |
| Distribution: | <u>Public</u>                |
| Original:     | <u>English</u>               |

**E**

Enabling poor rural people  
to overcome poverty

## Agenda

### **Note to Executive Board representatives**

Focal point:

Technical questions and dispatch of documentation:

**Deirdre McGrenra**  
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## Agenda

### I. Items for approval, review and/or confirmation

1. Opening of the session
2. Adoption of the agenda **[A]**  
For ease of reference, each agenda item is assigned a letter to indicate the action required of the Board, as follows:  
A = For approval  
R = For review  
C = For confirmation
3. High-level preview of IFAD's 2014 results-based programme of work and regular and capital budgets, and the preview of the Independent Office of Evaluation of IFAD's results-based work programme and budget for 2014 and indicative plan for 2015-2016 **[R]**
4. Evaluation
  - (a) Reports of the Chairperson of the Evaluation Committee **[R]**
    - (i) Report of the Chairperson on the seventy-seventh session of the Evaluation Committee
    - (ii) Report of the Chairperson on the Evaluation Committee's country visit to Viet Nam
    - (iii) Report of the Chairperson on the seventy-eighth session of the Evaluation Committee
  - (b) Corporate-level evaluation on direct supervision and implementation support **[R]**
  - (c) Country programme evaluations **[R]**
    - (i) Kenya
    - (ii) Rwanda
    - (iii) Nepal
  - (d) Appointment of the Director, Independent Office of Evaluation of IFAD **[A]**  
(closed session)
5. IFAD Consolidated Action Plan to Enhance Operational and Institutional Efficiency **[R]**
6. President's Report on the Implementation Status of Evaluation Recommendations and Management Actions (PRISMA) **[R]**
7. Country strategic opportunities programmes **[R]**
  - (a) East and Southern Africa
    - (i) Kenya
    - (ii) Rwanda
  - (b) Asia and the Pacific
    - (i) Cambodia
    - (ii) Nepal

- (c) Latin America and the Caribbean
    - Haiti
  - 8. Project/programme proposals for consideration by the Executive Board **[A]**
    - (a) East and Southern Africa
      - Uganda: Project for Financial Inclusion in Rural Areas
    - (b) Asia and the Pacific
      - (i) Bangladesh: Climate Adaptation and Livelihood Protection Project
      - (ii) Pakistan: President's memorandum: Gwadar-Lasbela Livelihoods Support Project – Amendment to the financing agreement
      - (iii) Viet Nam: Sustainable Rural Development for the Poor Project in Ha Tinh and Quang Binh Provinces (SRDP)
    - (c) Latin America and the Caribbean
      - Cuba: Cooperative Rural Development Project in the Oriental Region (PRODECOR)
  - 9. Consultation on the Tenth Replenishment of IFAD's Resources: Establishment and selection of chair **[A]**
  - 10. Financial matters
    - (a) Reports of the Chairperson of the Audit Committee
      - (i) Report of the Chairperson on the 127<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Audit Committee **[R]**
      - (ii) Report of the Chairperson on the 128<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Audit Committee **[R]**
    - (b) Establishment of the special expenditure budget for activities related to the replenishments of IFAD's resources **[A]**
  - 11. Draft provisional agenda for the thirty-seventh session of the Governing Council **[A]**
  - 12. Other business
    - (a) Revision of the minutes of the 108<sup>th</sup> session of the Executive Board **[A]**
    - (b) Report on IFAD's institutional partnership agreements **[R]**
    - (c) Election of Governing Council representatives to the IFAD Staff Pension Committee **[A]**
    - (d) Hosting of the secretariat of the International Land Coalition **[A]** (closed session)
    - (e) Update on developments with respect to the housing of the Global Mechanism of the UNCCD **[I]** (closed session)
    - (f) Reallocation of cancelled project amounts **[R]**
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## II. Documents presented for information

Documents presented for information will be discussed during a Board session only if deemed necessary by Management or at the specific request of a Board member. Such requests should be submitted in writing to the Secretary of IFAD three weeks before the Board session.

The schedule of work will include only items to be discussed during the Board session (i.e. items for approval, review or confirmation and documents for information for which a written request for discussion at the Board has been received) and will be posted on the IFAD website two weeks before the session.

13. Planned project activities **[I]**
  14. Applicability of performance audits to IFAD **[I]**
  15. Report on the status of contributions to the Ninth Replenishment of IFAD's Resources **[I]**
  16. Report on IFAD's investment portfolio for the first and second quarters of 2013 **[I]**
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### Information notes

- a. Arrangements for the 109<sup>th</sup> session of the Executive Board
- b. Status report on arrears in principal, interest and service charge payments
- c. Debt rescheduling Agreement between IFAD and the Republic of Mali
- d. Results of the system-wide action plan for the implementation of the United Nations Policy on Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women
- e. Grants, projects/programmes approved under the lapse-of-time procedure
- f. Results of the Executive Board vote by correspondence regarding the memorandum of understanding between the Asian Development Bank and the International Fund for Agricultural Development
- g. Results of the Executive Board vote by correspondence on the motions contained in the Report of the Ad-Hoc Working Group on the Appointment of the Director of IFAD's Independent Office of Evaluation
- h. List of documents for the 109<sup>th</sup> session of the Executive Board