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Enabling poor rural people  
to overcome poverty

## Rolling plan for country visits 2014-2016

### Note to Executive Board representatives

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For: **Approval**

## Recommendation for approval

The Executive Board is invited to approve one of the two proposed dates for the 2014 Executive Board country visit, the destination thereof and the draft rolling plan for the next three years.

## Rolling plan for country visits 2014-2016

1. In adopting the IFAD Evaluation Policy, the Executive Board decided that Evaluation Committee members would undertake an annual visit to a borrowing Member State. To date, members of the Evaluation Committee have undertaken visits to the following countries:

| <i>Year</i> | <i>Country</i>       | <i>Region</i> |
|-------------|----------------------|---------------|
| 2004        | Syrian Arab Republic | NEN           |
| 2005        | Indonesia            | APR           |
| 2006        | Mexico               | LAC           |
| 2007        | Mali                 | WCA           |
| 2008        | The Philippines      | APR           |
| 2009        | India                | APR           |
| 2010        | Mozambique           | ESA           |
| 2011        | Brazil               | LAC           |
| 2012        | Ghana                | WCA           |
| 2013        | Viet Nam             | APR           |

APR: Asia and the Pacific Division; ESA: East and Southern Africa Division; LAC: Latin America and the Caribbean Division; NEN: Near East, North Africa and Europe Division; WCA: West and Central Africa Division

2. These country visits were organized by the Independent Office of Evaluation of IFAD (IOE) until 2010. Following the Peer Review of IFAD's Office of Evaluation and Evaluation Function, it was decided that IFAD Management would take charge of organizing the visits; this transfer of responsibility took effect with the visit to Brazil in 2011.
3. In December 2012, the Executive Board approved a new modality for country visits (EB 2013/109/R.4), which requires the Board to decide on the destination of future annual visits. The Board also stipulated that a maximum of three additional members of the Executive Board who are not members of the Evaluation Committee would join the country visits on a self-financing basis. These new rules for the annual country visit apply from 2014 onwards.
4. In line with the above, this note provides a rolling plan for country visits for 2014-2016. The plan has been developed in consultation with IOE.
5. Rotation among the five geographical regions will guide the selection of destinations. Once a region is chosen, two criteria will determine country selection: (i) the presence of a relatively large country programme and (ii) whether the country has been subject to a recent evaluation. The application of these criteria results in a very limited set of potential countries for the country visit in a given year.

6. A review of the cycle of past destinations reveals that most of the country visits in recent years have taken place in the Asia and the Pacific (APR) region. The Near East, North Africa and Europe region (NEN) emerges as the least represented region, with only one visit taking place several years ago, in 2004. Only one visit has taken place so far to the Eastern and Southern Africa (ESA) region. The Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) region is well-represented, with two visits to the region.
7. In Management's consultations with Evaluation Committee members and Convenors and Friends, it was emphasized that least developed countries and fragile states should be prioritized when selecting countries for the country visit, even if this requires some reordering of the regional rotation cycle in a given period. On this basis, IFAD Management proposes a switch between the NEN region and the ESA region for the 2014 visit since this would enable the selection of a least developed country.
8. In light of the above, IFAD Management proposes the following rolling plan for the next three years.

| <i>Year</i> | <i>Region</i> | <i>Country</i>                            | <i>Recent evaluation</i>   | <i>IOE remarks</i>                           |
|-------------|---------------|---|--|--|
| 2014        | ESA           | United Republic of Tanzania               | Interim evaluation of two projects undertaken in 2011. Country programme evaluation (CPE) will be ongoing in 2014. | Confirm                                      |
| 2015        | NEN           | To be determined                          |  | IOE will be consulted in due course          |
| 2016        | LAC           | Ecuador or Plurinational State of Bolivia | Ecuador CPE, 2013<br>Bolivia CPE, 2014   | Adjust if a later date CPE becomes available |

9. Of the countries proposed in the table above, the United Republic of Tanzania has the following characteristics: it is a least developed country and has a very large programme, the second largest in the region; a country programme evaluation will be under way in 2014; and the overall political and security situation is stable. Consequently, IFAD Management seeks the Board's approval for the United Republic of Tanzania to be the destination of the 2014 country visit. The common calendar of meetings of permanent representatives<sup>1</sup> has been consulted and two possible time periods have been identified. These are:
- (i) 12 to 16 May 2014
  - (ii) 22 to 26 September 2014
10. For the 2015 visit, IFAD Management will propose a country after due consultation with IOE. Effort will be made to undertake a visit to a country in the LAC region in 2016 – possibly to Ecuador or the Plurinational State of Bolivia – depending when the last evaluation was carried out, the country's political and security situation, and the state of development and stability (with priority given to least developed countries and fragile states).
11. Accordingly, the Executive Board is invited to approve one of the two proposed dates for the 2014 Executive Board country visit, the destination thereof and the draft rolling plan for the next three years.

<sup>1</sup> Maintained by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, IFAD and the World Food Programme.