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Enabling poor rural people
to overcome poverty

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

Note to Executive Board representatives

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For: Information

Draft programme of events for the thirty-seventh 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 provisional agenda for the thirty-seventh session of the Governing Council, to be held on 19-20 February 2014, was considered and approved at the 109th session of the Executive Board in September 2013, and is attached for information (see annex). The Executive Board is invited to take note of the draft programme of events for the thirty-seventh session of the Council, which is also attached.
2. The 2014 Governing Council takes place at a unique time. As the post-2015 global development agenda is being worked out, the world faces an historic opportunity to put in place measures to shape the future we want. The central premise of the current debate is the need to eradicate poverty in all its forms.
3. In recent years the framing of the debate has shifted towards development models that are sustainable, inclusive and equitable, which are now seen as indispensable for achieving poverty reduction on a broad scale. This broadening of the discussion on development has important implications for the types of investments and policies to be prioritized, and offers a potentially ground-breaking opportunity to address the structural causes of poverty.
4. One piece of the picture that has not changed, however, is that the majority of the world's poor people still live in rural towns and settlements, most of them relying on family farming to some degree for their livelihoods¹. In this context, the United Nations has declared 2014 as the International Year of Family Farming – to highlight the major impact of family farmers on food security, poverty reduction, gender equality, opportunities for youth, and many other factors that can contribute to building a better world.
5. The thirty-seventh session of the Governing Council therefore offers a timely opportunity for IFAD to outline the rationale for increasing investments in smallholder family farmers, and then go on to describe the challenges and opportunities that must be addressed before elaborating on the kinds of investments that are required. With this in mind, the 2014 session of IFAD's Governing Council centres around the overarching theme *Investing in smallholder family farmers for the future we want*.
6. On this theme, the opening morning will include a panel discussion on *IFAD Investing in smallholder family farmers: Sharing experiences from the field*. The speakers will reflect on their experiences and will examine the challenges and opportunities of organizing smallholder farmers.
7. In response to calls from IFAD Governors for more opportunity to engage in dynamic exchange with one another, a Governors' round-table will be held in the afternoon of the first day. President Nwanze created this event in 2013 to foster a forum for IFAD Governors to more expansively strategize on the key issues impacting smallholder farmers and the rural poor. The session also serves to help shape IFAD's strategic priorities by benefiting from the input and experiences of its Governors. The round-table is intended for participation by all IFAD Governors.
8. Three other events will be held on the second day:
 - a) The networking breakfast will provide Governing Council participants with an opportunity to meet IFAD staff and to share information and lessons learned with others across all IFAD regions of operation;

¹ An estimated over 70 per cent of poor people live in rural areas (IFAD, 2010a).

- b) A private-sector panel will explore the potential opportunities for promoting alliances between smallholder farmers and private-sector entities;
 - c) A one-on-one discussion will be held with an internationally recognized leader who influences the development agenda. The discussion will be facilitated by an internationally renowned moderator.
9. Finally, preceding the Governing Council on 17 and 18 February 2014, the fifth global meeting of the Farmers' Forum will be held at IFAD. The Farmers' Forum is a bottom-up process of consultation and dialogue between small farmers' and rural producers' organizations, IFAD and governments, focusing on rural development and poverty reduction. Established in 2006, the Forum meets every other year in conjunction with the IFAD Governing Council.
 10. The attached draft programme of events outlines 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 high-level session with Governors 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.
 11. The timetable is to be considered a work in progress and subject to change as confirmation of attendance is received.
 12. The first session of the Consultation on the Tenth Replenishment of IFAD's Resources will take place on Friday, 21 February and Member States participating in the Consultation based on the deliberations of the Governing Council will be receiving relevant information.

2014 Governing Council - Investing in smallholder family farmers for the future we want

Draft programme of events

Wednesday, 19 February 2014

Morning session	9 a.m. to 1.30 p.m.
9 a.m. to 10 a.m.	Inaugural ceremony
10 a.m. to 11.30 a.m.	Panel: <i>IFAD Investing in smallholder family farmers: Sharing experiences from the field</i>
11.30 a.m. to 12.15 p.m.	Thirty-seventh session of the Governing Council – Agenda items for approval and for information
12.15 p.m. to 12.30 p.m.	Keynote speaker
12.30 a.m. to 1.30 p.m.	General statements
Afternoon session	3 p.m. to 7.30 p.m.
3 p.m. to 6 p.m.	Governors' Round-table
6 p.m. to 7.30 p.m.	Continuation of agenda items, including general statements
7.30 p.m.	Reception for all delegates

Thursday, 20 February 2014

Morning session	9 a.m. to 1.30 p.m.
8.30 a.m. to 9.30 a.m.	Networking breakfast
9.30 a.m. to 11.15 a.m.	Private-sector panel
11.15 a.m. to 11.45 a.m.	Continuation of agenda items for approval and for information
11.45 a.m. to 12.15 p.m.	Centre-stage event: <i>An interactive question-and-answer session with an internationally recognized leader who will be asked specific, focused and challenging questions by a journalist/moderator on the Governing Council theme</i>
12.15 p.m. to 1.15 p.m.	General statements
1.15 p.m. to 1.25 p.m.	President's concluding remarks
1.25 p.m. to 1.30 p.m.	Closure of the session

Friday, 21 February 2014

First session of the Consultation on the Tenth Replenishment of IFAD's Resources²

² For Member States participating in IFAD10.

Provisional agenda for the thirty-seventh session of the Governing Council

1. Opening of the session
2. Adoption of the agenda
3. Election of the Bureau of the Governing Council
4. Application for non-original membership
5. Statement of the President of IFAD
6. General statements
7. Report on the Ninth Replenishment of IFAD's Resources
8. Tenth Replenishment of IFAD's Resources
9. Consolidated financial statements of IFAD for 2012
10. IFAD's 2014 results-based programme of work and regular and capital budgets, the IOE results-based work programme and budget for 2014 and indicative plan for 2015-2016, and the HIPC and PBAS progress reports
11. Report on the special expenditure for reform actualization
12. Global Mechanism of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification
13. Other business

Annotations

1. Opening of the session

The thirty-seventh session of the Governing Council will be held on Wednesday, 19 February and Thursday, 20 February 2014.

2. Adoption of the agenda

The provisional agenda, prepared by the President and approved by the Executive Board in accordance with rule 6 of the Rules of Procedure of the Governing Council, is contained in the present document (GC 37/L.1).

3. Election of the Bureau of the Governing Council

The Governing Council is invited to elect a chairperson and two vice-chairpersons for the coming two years, in accordance with rule 12 of its Rules of Procedure.

4. Application for non-original membership

The Executive Board considered the application for membership received from the Russian Federation. The recommendation of the Board in this regard, together with a draft resolution thereon, will be presented in document GC 37/L.2.

5. Statement of the President of IFAD

Mr Kanayo F. Nwanze will make a statement to the Governing Council.

6. General statements

Governors are invited to make statements under this agenda item and are strongly encouraged to submit a video recording of their individual statements or to prepare statements by cluster, i.e. IFAD List or geographical country grouping.

7. Report on the Ninth Replenishment of IFAD's Resources

In accordance with resolution 166/XXXV, document GC 37/L.3 will present a report on the status of commitments, payments, borrowing and other relevant matters concerning the replenishment, together with the Executive Board's comments, if any, and its recommendations thereon.

8. Tenth Replenishment of IFAD's Resources

(a) Consultation on the Tenth Replenishment of IFAD's Resources: Establishment and selection of chair

Article 4.3 of the Agreement Establishing the International Fund for Agricultural Development provides for periodic review by the Governing Council of the adequacy of IFAD's resources in order to assure continuity in the Fund's operations. Document GC 37/L.4 will be presented to the Council and will contain a draft resolution on the establishment of the Consultation on the Tenth Replenishment of IFAD's Resources.

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

Document GC 37/L.5 will present a proposal for the establishment of a regularly replenished special expenditure budget for activities related to consultations on replenishment of IFAD's resources, to fund all future consultation-related activities.

9. Consolidated financial statements of IFAD for 2012

In accordance with regulation XII of the Financial Regulations of IFAD and section 9 of the By-laws for the Conduct of the Business of IFAD, the Governing Council will be invited to consider document GC 37/L.6, which will contain the financial statements of IFAD for 2012, the report of the external auditor and the external auditor's independent attestation on internal controls over financial reporting. The 108th session of the Executive Board reviewed the statements in April 2013 and recommended that they be submitted for approval by the Governing Council.

10. IFAD's 2014 results-based programme of work and regular and capital budgets, the IOE results-based work programme and budget for 2014 and indicative plan for 2015-2016, and the HIPC and PBAS progress reports

The budgets of IFAD and the Independent Office of Evaluation of IFAD for 2014, as recommended by the Executive Board for approval by the Governing Council, will be presented in document GC 37/L.7, together with a draft resolution thereon. This document will also report on the implementation of IFAD's performance-based allocation system and participation by IFAD in the Debt Initiative for Heavily Indebted Poor Countries, for the information of the Council.

11. Report on the special expenditure for reform actualization

In adopting resolution 169/XXXV in February 2012, the Governing Council approved the repurposing of the balance of the appropriation for the special expenditure for the Voluntary Separation Programme as a special expenditure for reform actualization to finance implementation of the outcomes of the major human resources reform initiatives. In accordance with the Council's request, document GC 37/L.8 will provide a final report on the expenditures incurred in this respect.

12. Global Mechanism of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification

Document GC 37/L.9 will contain, for the information of the Governing Council, a report on IFAD's hosting of the Global Mechanism of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, as considered by the Executive Board at its 110th session in December 2013.

13. Other business

Under this item, the Governing Council will consider any additional matters not included in the provisional agenda that may be proposed by members of the Council and/or the Secretariat.