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Investing in rural people

## Country visits of the IFAD Executive Board 2015-2016

### 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 2015 Executive Board country visit and the destination thereof.

### Country visits of the IFAD Executive Board 2015-2016

1. In December 2012, the Executive Board approved a new modality for country visits, which requires the Board to decide on the destination of future annual visits. As per the new procedures, country visits will be open to participation by Executive Board members who are not members of the Evaluation Committee, and will comprise nine members: four from List A, two from List B and three from List C. The Lists will decide on the participation accordingly. The visits will be fully funded by IFAD. The Board also stipulated that a maximum of three additional members of the Executive Board who are not members of the Evaluation Committee may join the country visits on a self-financing basis. These new rules were to be applied for the annual country visits from 2014 onwards.
2. In December 2013, Management presented a rolling plan for the Executive Board's country visits for 2014-2016. The Executive Board approved the proposed country visit in 2014 to the United Republic of Tanzania and the draft rolling plan for the following two years, which foresaw a country visit to the Near East, North Africa and Europe region (NEN) in 2015.
3. In identifying the destination, 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.
4. In light of the above and having consulted with the relevant parties, the following is proposed as a rolling plan for the 2015 and 2016 country visits.

<i>Year</i>	<i>Region</i>	<i>Country</i>	<i>Recent evaluation</i>	<i>IOE remarks</i>
2015	NEN	Morocco	Al Haouz project evaluation (2013)	
2016	LAC	Ecuador or the Plurinational State of Bolivia	Ecuador Country Programme Evaluation (CPE) (2013) Bolivia CPE (2014)	To be revised if a more recent CPE is undertaken

5. Morocco is the proposed destination for the 2015 country visit. The country has an overall stable political and security situation, a large IFAD programme and scope for a visit to a recently evaluated project – the Rural Development Project in the Mountain Zones of the Al-Haouz Province. This project, evaluated in late 2013, helped to conceptualize a new programmatic approach under a second phase, with the longer-term objective of reducing poverty by 30 per cent by 2030. The IFAD country portfolio comprises four ongoing projects focusing on rural and value chain development and is one of the largest programmes in the region. Consequently, IFAD Management seeks the Board's approval for Morocco to be the destination of the 2015 country visit.
6. 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) 18 to 22 May 2015

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

(ii) 16 to 20 November 2015

7. For the 2016 visit, efforts will be made to undertake a visit to a country in the Latin America and the Caribbean region – possibly to Ecuador or the Plurinational State of Bolivia – depending on when the last evaluation was carried out, the countries' political and security situations, and the state of development and stability (with priority given to least developed countries and fragile states).
8. Accordingly, the Executive Board is invited to approve one of the two proposed dates for the 2015 Executive Board country visit and the destination thereof.