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Investing in rural people

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

Note to Executive Board representatives

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Executive Board — 113th Session
Rome, 15-16 December 2014

For: Information

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

1. The Executive Board is invited to take note of the draft programme of events for the thirty-eighth session of the Council contained in this document.
2. The thirty-eighth session of the Governing Council takes place at a unique time: 2015 marks a critical juncture in the development landscape. The Sustainable Development Goals being formulated within the context of the post-2015 development agenda will have a direct impact on poor rural people in developing countries. And there is growing recognition that global urbanization trends can make a crucial contribution to poverty reduction and development, and that rural transformation is central to sustainable development and poverty eradication.
3. Emerging realities indicate that balanced, mutually reinforcing and inclusive growth in both rural and urban areas is needed to leverage rural-urban interdependencies for sustainable development. This is the best way to ensure that nobody is left behind in the development process. But these realities demand new policy approaches and a wide range of investments to enable rural people to drive the rural transformation agenda.
4. The thirty-eighth session of the Governing Council therefore represents an important opportunity for IFAD to discuss perspectives on rural transformation for sustainable development. It will also allow for an examination of the challenges and opportunities that must be addressed to enable smallholder family farmers to produce, process and market the food they need while, on the other hand, ensuring that rural producers are able to build sustainable livelihoods around their productive activities.
5. With this in mind, the 2015 session of the Governing Council centres around the overarching theme *Rural transformation: key to sustainable development*.
6. As a high priority for the President, a special Governors' Round Table was established two years ago to answer the call from IFAD Governors for a setting within the Governing Council that would foster greater dialogue and a freer exchange of ideas on the main challenges facing smallholder farmers.
7. This year the Governors' Round Table will be held on the afternoon of the first day. It will deal with the questions of why rural transformation is central to sustainable development and how such transformation relates to important international development processes, in particular the post-2015 development agenda. The purpose of the round-table discussion this year is to generate ideas on how an inclusive rural transformation agenda can contribute to the future development of Member States and the role that IFAD can play to support them in achieving this vision. All IFAD Governors are invited to participate in the round table.
8. Four other events will be held:
 - (a) The first Governing Council lecture – to become an annual event – will be delivered by a noted scholar, practitioner, leader, author or celebrated public figure whose experience, ideas and perspectives advance the thinking around agriculture and rural development;
 - (b) A panel on indigenous peoples will focus on the role that they can play in rural transformation for sustainable development. Within the post-2015 framework, the panel will highlight the deep connection between human society and the natural world and will focus on the multifaceted nature of sustainable development as seen by indigenous peoples, encompassing the social and cultural, as well as the economic and environmental;

- (c) A panel on stories from the field will provide delegates with the opportunity to hear from and interact with IFAD country programme managers and learn more about how IFAD-funded projects and programmes are transforming the lives of rural people;
 - (d) A panel on gender equality and women's empowerment will showcase IFAD's achievements and highlight how greater equality between men and women brings higher economic growth and a better quality of life for all. The panel will also provide an opportune moment to discuss the challenges faced in the context of the post-2015 framework and the twentieth anniversary of the landmark Fourth World Conference on Women.
9. With a view to providing greater space for discussion among Ministers and Governors, a programme of seminars will also be held in conjunction with the Governing Council session.
 10. A networking breakfast on the second day will bring Governing Council participants and IFAD staff together to share information and lessons learned across all IFAD's regions of operation.
 11. The second global meeting of the Indigenous Peoples' Forum (IPF) will be held on 12 and 13 February, before the Governing Council session. The IPF was established under the IFAD Policy on Engagement with Indigenous Peoples as an instrument to systematically engage with 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 a global meeting of the IPF would be held every two years, in conjunction with the IFAD Governing Council.
 12. The attached draft programme of events outlines a preliminary timetable for the Governing Council session and associated events. The timetable is designed 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.
 13. The timetable is to be considered a work in progress and subject to change as confirmation of attendance is received.

2015 Governing Council

Rural transformation: key to sustainable development

Draft programme of events

Sunday, 15 February 2015

Programme of seminars	14.30-17.30
14.30-17.30	AgTalks – third session

Monday, 16 February 2015

Morning session	9.30-13.30
9.30-10.15	Inaugural ceremony
10.15-11.45	Panel: Indigenous Peoples
11.45-13.00	Thirty-eighth session of the Governing Council – Agenda items for approval and for information
13.00-13.30	General statements
Afternoon session	15.00-19.30
15.00-18.00	Governors' Round table
18.00-19.30	Continuation of agenda items, including general statements
19.30	Reception for all delegates

Tuesday, 17 February 2015

Morning session	8.30-13.45
8.30-9.00	Networking breakfast
9.00-10.00	Governing Council lecture series
10.00-11.30	Panel: Stories from the field
11.30-12.00	Continuation of agenda items for approval and information
12.00-13.30	Panel: Gender equality and women's empowerment
13.30-13.40	Report back from Governors' Round table
13.40-13.45	President's concluding remarks
13.45	Closure of the session
Programme of seminars	14.30-17.30
14.30-16.30	Briefing by Turkey on the G20 Presidency
16.30-17.30	IFAD's experience in Algeria