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## April 2015 Executive Board retreat: Follow-up

### Note to Executive Board representatives

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Executive Board — 116<sup>th</sup> Session  
Rome, 16-17 December 2015

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For: Approval

## Recommendation for approval

The Executive Board is invited to approve the proposed date for the 2016 Executive Board retreat.

### April 2015 Executive Board retreat: Follow-up

1. The first retreat of the IFAD Executive Board was held on 24 April 2015, and provided Board representatives the opportunity to discuss issues of effectiveness, policy and strategic direction of the Fund among themselves and with IFAD Senior Management in an informal setting.
2. At the September 2015 Executive Board session, representatives delivered a joint statement on behalf of all Lists expressing appreciation for the successful and productive retreat, and agreed to hold such retreats annually based on the same format. Moreover, to ensure that the Board could be more active in providing the required strategic direction to the Fund, it was agreed that a follow-up be discussed in detail by Convenors and Friends, and later shared with Executive Board members.
3. The Executive Board retreat is an informal forum that offers Board members a space to exchange views on issues pertinent to IFAD's effectiveness. Its purpose is to enhance Board members' interaction in an informal setting, and thus will not be perceived as a formal decision-making event.
4. In line with the above and following an informal meeting with Convenors and Friends, it is suggested to hold the next Executive Board retreat on 15 April 2016, after the 117<sup>th</sup> Executive Board session. The Executive Board is invited to provide approval of this proposal.
5. An update on issues discussed at the first retreat and at the informal meeting with Convenors and Friends is summarized below:
  - (a) Enhanced dialogue within and among the respective Lists by initiating meetings among Convenors and Friends, as well as holding more informal meetings with the Secretary of IFAD.
  - (b) The need to make more strategic use of time during meetings, and to contribute to the quality of meetings through:
    - (i) Agenda setting. Convenors are increasingly involved in setting the agenda of the Executive Board. They actively contributed to setting the agenda for the 115<sup>th</sup> session, and will continue to do so for future sessions.
    - (ii) List statements at Executive Board sessions. As seen in paragraph 2 above, representatives are working closely together to deliver joint List statements on various agenda items. Members are encouraged to share List statements with the Office of the Secretary of IFAD prior to, during or immediately after sessions, to the extent possible.
    - (iii) Induction/information-sharing sessions with members. A briefing session on IFAD's governance for new Executive Board representatives was organized by the Office of the Secretary of IFAD on 14 September 2015. Another briefing session in the format of panel discussions on the same topic was held on 6 October for all Member State representatives,

with the participation of convenors and the chairs of IFAD's subsidiary bodies and working groups as panelists.

- (c) Strengthened Member State involvement and participation in the Ad Hoc Working Group on Governance, regional and List meetings, and in induction events.
- (d) Proposal of specific critical areas for discussion with IFAD Management. Some of the topics arising from the April 2015 retreat include:
  - (i) The changing role of IFAD in view of the outcomes of Sustainable Development Goal discussions, the Paris Climate Change Conference (COP21) and the Financing for Development Conference in Addis Ababa. An oral update on the Financing for Development Conference was shared at the 115<sup>th</sup> session of the Executive Board, while oral updates on the outcomes of the Paris Climate Change Conference and the United Nations summit for the adoption of the post-2015 development agenda will be provided at the 116<sup>th</sup> session of the Executive Board in December 2015.
  - (ii) Rome-based agency (RBA) collaboration. An IFAD perspective paper on RBA cooperation was shared at the 115<sup>th</sup> session of the Executive Board. In addition, a baseline paper will be presented to the Board at its 116<sup>th</sup> session.
  - (iii) IFAD Strategic Framework 2016-2025. To date, two Executive Board informal seminars on the IFAD Strategic Framework have been held. The comments of Board members and external stakeholders have been incorporated and the revised document will be submitted to the Board for approval at its 116<sup>th</sup> session.
  - (iv) Indigenous peoples. The Independent Office of Evaluation of IFAD (IOE) has completed an evaluation synthesis report on IFAD's engagement with indigenous peoples, which was considered by the Evaluation Committee in October this year. Management is preparing a "how to" note on integrating indigenous-peoples-related issues into the design phase.
  - (v) Implementation of the Sovereign Borrowing Framework and its impact on IFAD. Papers related to an annual progress report on the KfW Development Bank facility, a report on the signing of the second individual loan agreement under the KfW Framework Agreement, and an update on the identification of sources for sovereign borrowing and negotiations with potential lenders will be presented at the 116<sup>th</sup> session of the Executive Board. A review of the Sovereign Borrowing Framework is also scheduled for submission to the Board in September 2016.