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Investing in rural people

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

Note to Executive Board representatives

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Executive Board — 116th Session
Rome, 16-17 December 2015

For: Information

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

1. The Executive Board is invited to take note of the draft programme of events for the thirty-ninth session of the Council contained in this document.
2. This session of the Governing Council takes place at a unique moment. The world has set an ambitious target: to end poverty and hunger by 2030. Taken together, three elements – the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the Addis Ababa Action Agenda and the United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP21) – offer a new road map for improved well-being and prosperity for all.
3. To achieve equitable and sustainable development for present and future generations, investments in the post-2015 world must be inclusive. Inclusion is at the core of IFAD's work, as it has long recognized the critical importance of social and economic empowerment of rural people living in poverty, both individually and collectively, and has promoted policies and investments that enhance their capabilities and livelihoods.
4. The thirty-ninth session of the Governing Council therefore represents an important opportunity for IFAD to put these and other critical questions on the table: How to ensure that no one is left behind in the progress towards achieving the SDGs. And how truly inclusive investment must result in fair prices for smallholders, opportunities to connect to high-value market segments, decent employment opportunities, and women's participation and empowerment. IFAD's Governing Council, and the Farmers' Forum that precedes it, will bring together the parties that should have a say in how inclusive investments are framed and how they evolve. These events will serve to launch a dialogue on how IFAD can contribute to realizing the promise of the post-2015 agenda going forward.
5. With this in mind, the 2016 session of the Governing Council will focus on the overarching theme "Inclusive investment – Rural people, state and business in the post-2015 agenda".
6. The Governing Council will include the following events.
 - (a) A private sector panel will reflect on why inclusive investment makes business sense and how the private sector – encompassing smallholders, small and medium-sized enterprises, commercial banks and multinationals – fits into the 2030 development agenda. The panel will be an interactive and dynamic event, led by a seasoned journalist/moderator who will ensure an engaging dialogue with the panellists and the audience.
 - (b) The Governors' Round Table will focus on "Leveraging Financing for Smallholder Agriculture – What is Needed to Achieve SDG 2" and on the Addis Ababa Action Agenda. The Agenda is of particular significance to IFAD as it both endorses the type of investments IFAD pursues as a strategy to deliver on the SDGs and recognizes IFAD's role in mobilizing investments to enable rural people living in poverty to improve their food security and nutrition, raise their incomes, and strengthen their resilience.
 - (c) A panel on "Innovative Investments in Rural Development" will showcase a number of innovations supported by IFAD through investment and grant programmes in agricultural technologies, rural finance, empowerment strategies and private-sector engagement. The panel will focus on the potential role of innovation in bringing about transformational changes for IFAD's target group.
 - (d) Following the success of last year, the second Governing Council lecture will be delivered by a noted scholar, practitioner, leader, author or public figure

whose experience and ideas advance the current thinking on agriculture and rural development.

7. 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.
8. 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.
9. Finally, preceding the Governing Council on 15 and 16 February 2016, the sixth 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 that focuses 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 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.
11. The timetable is to be considered a work in progress and subject to change as confirmation of attendance is received.

2016 Governing Council Inclusive investment – Rural people, state and business in the post-2015 agenda

Draft programme of events

Tuesday, 16 February 2016

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| Programme of seminars | 9.30-13.30 and 15.30-17.30 |
| 9.30 – 11.30 | Briefing by China on the G20 Presidency |
| 11.30 – 13.30 | Briefing by France and Morocco on the United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP21) |
| 15.30 – 17.30 | The sixth global meeting of the Farmers' Forum – Session open to Governors and Executive Board representatives |

Wednesday, 17 February 2016

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| Morning session | 9.30-13.30 |
| 9.30 – 10.20 | Inaugural ceremony |
| 10.20 – 11.50 | Panel: Private Sector |
| 11.50 – 13.00 | Thirty-ninth session of the Governing Council – Agenda items for approval and for information |
| 13.00 – 13.30 | General statements |
| Afternoon session | 15.00-19.00 |
| 15.00 – 17.30 | Governors' Round Table |
| 17.30 – 19.00 | Continuation of agenda items, including general statements |
| 19.00 | Reception for all delegates |

Thursday, 18 February 2016

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| Morning session | 8.30-13.30 |
| 8.30 – 9.30 | Networking breakfast |
| 9.30 – 10.00 | General statements |
| 10.00 – 11.30 | Governing Council lecture series |
| 11.30 – 13.00 | Continuation of agenda items, including general statements |
| Afternoon session | 15.00-17.00 |
| 15.00 – 15.30 | Report back from Governors' Round Table |
| 15.30 – 16.45 | Panel: Innovative Investments in Rural Development |
| 16.45 – 16.50 | President's concluding remarks |
| 16.50 – 17.00 | Closure of the session |