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## Results of the Executive Board vote by correspondence regarding the proposal to open up attendance at informal seminars of the IFAD Executive Board to all Member States

### Note to Executive Board representatives

#### Focal points:

#### Technical questions:

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#### Dispatch of documentation:

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Executive Board — 117<sup>th</sup> Session  
Rome, 13-14 April 2016

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For: Information

## Results of the Executive Board vote by correspondence regarding the proposal to open up attendance at informal seminars of the IFAD Executive Board to all Member States

1. At the 116<sup>th</sup> session of the Executive Board in December 2015, the Executive Board decided to approve the proposal to open up attendance at informal seminars of the IFAD Executive Board to all Member States by correspondence, in accordance with rule 23 of the Rules of Procedure of the Executive Board (Voting by Correspondence). In line with this decision, members and alternate members were subsequently requested to submit their vote on the proposal (herewith attached) by correspondence by midnight (Rome time), 25 February 2016.
2. As of the close of voting, the number of votes required for validation had been received, as well as those necessary to approve the proposal to open up attendance at informal seminars of the IFAD Executive Board to all Member States. Under rule 23 of the Rules of Procedure of the Executive Board, a vote is considered valid if replies are received from members having at least two thirds (3,307.351) of the total number of votes in the Executive Board (4,961.026). Under rule 19.1, all decisions of the Board are to be taken by a majority of three fifths of the votes cast, provided that such majority consists of more than one half of the total votes in the Executive Board.
3. Replies constituting 4,106.725 votes (approximately 83 per cent of the total number of votes in the Executive Board, i.e. 4,961.026) were received from Executive Board members or their alternates by the prescribed deadline. All of the 4,106.725 votes cast were in favour of approval of the proposal to open up attendance at informal seminars of the IFAD Executive Board to all Member States.

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## Proposal to open up attendance at informal seminars of the IFAD Executive Board to all Member States

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## Recommendation for approval

The Executive Board is invited to approve the proposal to open up attendance at informal seminars of the Executive Board to all Member States, as described in paragraphs 5 to 7 of this document.

## Proposal to open up attendance at informal seminars of the IFAD Executive Board to all Member States

### Introduction

1. At the 116<sup>th</sup> session of the Executive Board in December 2015, the Secretary of IFAD proposed that Board representatives consider the possibility of opening up attendance at the informal seminars of the Executive Board to all Member States.
2. The Executive Board welcomed the proposal as a way of ensuring broader participation, openness and transparency, and requested that the Office of the Secretary submit a document to the Board requesting approval through vote by correspondence during the intersessional period prior to the 2016 April Board session.
3. This document sets out the detailed proposal for approval by the Executive Board.

### Current practice

4. Currently, attendance at informal seminars is only open to Executive Board representatives and, as agreed to by the Board at its 100<sup>th</sup> session in September 2010, representatives of Member States that are not members of the Executive Board may follow deliberations from the *salle d'écoute*:

"Expanding the discussion to attendance at informal seminars, following a request made by the representative of Sweden, Management agreed to allow one person per Member State not member of the Executive Board to follow the proceedings in the *salle d'écoute* upon notice to the Office of the Secretary."<sup>1</sup>

### Proposal

5. It is felt that the fruitful discussions held during these seminars would be enhanced by active participation from Membership. Accordingly, it is proposed that attendance at Executive Board informal seminars be expanded to include all Member States of the Fund. This would mean that one representative from any Member State would be allowed to participate in the informal seminars together with Board members, unless the Board decides otherwise for specific instances.
6. Standard arrangements for the organization of the seminars will be maintained, and these events will continue to be held in English only. The informal seminars will take place in the Oval Room, and should there be a large number of participants and last-minute attendees, representatives of Member States will be able to follow deliberations from the *salle d'écoute*.
7. Upon the approval of the Executive Board, the practice proposed in paragraphs 5 and 6 will be implemented and will replace the practice agreed in September 2010 as set out in paragraph 4 above. Practical arrangements may be revisited in due course if necessary.

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<sup>1</sup> [EB/100/Rev.1](#), paragraph 74.