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Revision to the minutes of the 117th session of the Executive Board

Note to Executive Board representatives

Focal points:

Technical questions:

Cheryl Morden
Secretary of IFAD, a.i.
Office of the Secretary
Tel.: +39 06 5459 2254
e-mail: c.morden@ifad.org

Dispatch of documentation:

William Skinner
Chief
Governing Bodies Office
Tel.: +39 06 5459 2974
e-mail: gb_office@ifad.org

Executive Board — 118th Session
Rome, 21-22 September 2016

For: Approval

Recommendation for approval

The Executive Board is invited to approve amendments to the minutes of its 117th session, as shown in the present document, and to adopt the revised minutes.

Revision to the minutes of the 117th session of the Executive Board

For ease of reference, insertions are shown in bold and deletions in strikethrough.

1. At the request of the representative for the United States of America, paragraph 29 of the minutes under agenda item 3 on Update on IFAD's approach to engagement in countries in fragile situations should be amended as shown below:

"29. Both the Board and Management agreed on the necessity to address the issue of fragility and vulnerability also through the PBAS in order to avoid any penalties for countries in fragile situations. ~~The planned revision of the PBAS should take into account fragility as a factor~~ The Board asked Management to consider fragility and how it could be taken into account through the PBAS or other mechanisms."

2. The United States of America also requested changes to paragraph 45 of the minutes, under agenda item 5, Update on country presence. The changes are as shown below:

"45. Looking ahead, Board representatives shared their views on the corporate decentralization plan and the related corporate-level evaluation on IFAD's decentralization to be submitted in December. These views would be taken into account by Management in finalizing the document. In particular, the Board requested:

- The inclusion of a review of the criteria for opening country offices and an assessment of the performance of ICOs and IFAD in the area of non-lending activities against specific indicators;
- The annual inclusion of detailed cost-benefit analyses in the budget document. Representatives nonetheless acknowledged the Fund's ongoing efforts to contain costs related to ICOs, ~~the evolution of the concept of country presence over the years and the unmatched budget discipline and cost management demonstrated by the institution;~~ and
- Clarification – which was provided by Management – on the delays in concluding host-country agreements, on delegation of authority in the area of financial management and its internal control, on cost analysis, on the human resources framework, and on information and communication technology for ICOs."

3. In addressing the comments received from the United States of America, Management also proposes that the following text be added to paragraph 47:

"47. Furthermore, Management assured the Board that IFAD would continue its cooperation with development partners and would negotiate the terms of host-country agreements with host governments in order to ensure that the status and interests of IFAD staff were respected. Management, in response to a concern by representatives regarding cost neutrality, clarified that costs had evolved in line with progress in the corporate approach to decentralization from

field to country presence, and currently, to fully decentralized corporate country offices.”

4. The representative for France has requested that paragraph 59 of the minutes under agenda item 6(b) Evaluation – Corporate-level evaluation on IFAD’s performance-based allocation system (PBAS) – be amended as follows:
 - “59. In conclusion, the Executive Board decided that Management should work closely with the Executive Board’s PBAS Working Group in considering and developing the proposed changes to the PBAS and to the proposed PBAS reporting format for the Board session in December 2016, and in agreeing on possible interim deliverables. The terms of reference of the Working Group should be adjusted accordingly, if necessary.”