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Draft programme of events for the forty-first session of the Governing Council

Note to Executive Board representatives

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Executive Board — 122th Session
Rome, 11-12 December 2017

For: Information

Draft programme of events for the forty-first session of the Governing Council

1. The Executive Board is invited to take note of the draft programme of events for the forty-first session of the Governing Council contained in this document.
2. The forty-first session will be held on Tuesday, 13 February and Wednesday, 14 February 2018 at IFAD headquarters in Rome.
3. This session will focus on the theme, From fragility to long-term resilience: Investing in sustainable rural economies.
4. The theme was chosen in response to the 2017 The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World report, which notes that not only is world hunger on the rise, but that the food security situation has worsened in parts of sub-Saharan Africa and south-eastern and -western Asia, particularly in situations of conflict or areas prone to climate-related shocks.
5. The purpose of the session is to identify innovative responses that meet the diverse investment needs of IFAD's Member States in their work to reduce poverty and foster rural transformation in an increasingly demanding global context.
6. The programme of events will include an inaugural session, thematic discussions and the consideration of business items.
7. This session of the Governing Council will provide numerous opportunities for interactive dialogue throughout its two days of work. Governors will also be given ample time to discuss key business items. The thematic sessions will be structured so as to encourage interactive dialogue and lively discussion between speakers and participating Governors.
8. The inaugural session will feature a video message from the United Nations Secretary-General as well as statements by a number of high-level dignitaries. The IFAD Lecture will also be held on the first day to enable the largest number of the Fund's Member States representatives and other stakeholders to be inspired, challenged and motivated as they seek innovative approaches to investing in rural people and bringing about inclusive and sustainable rural transformation.
9. This year, three thematic discussions will be held within the two-day programme. The first will look at how IFAD is helping build resilience in a world that is increasingly affected by climate-related shocks and conflict; the second will explore ways of creating sustainable livelihood opportunities for young rural people; and the third will feature a discussion on multilateralism to better understand the changing global environment in which IFAD works.
10. General statements will no longer feature on the agenda of the Council. Member States will be invited to provide general statements – preferably relating to the overarching theme of the session – in advance in either written or audio-visual format. Alternatively, they may opt to video-record their statements upon arrival. Detailed information on how to provide the statements in advance as well as the arrangements foreseen for their distribution at the session will be made available shortly. General statements in video format will be broadcast for viewing by all participants and will also be made available on the IFAD website in video and text format.

11. The programme also includes various opportunities for bilateral networking. A Heads of Delegation luncheon will be held on 13 February to allow for bilateral discussions among Governors in advance of the discussion of the key business items. A reception for all participants will be held at the close of the first day of business. A breakfast on the second day will allow Governing Council participants to network before the thematic discussions begin. Participants are also invited to a buffet lunch on 14 February.
12. The attached draft programme of events outlines a preliminary timetable for the Governing Council session. It encompasses the formal items, maximizing opportunities for input on substantive issues related to the activities of the Fund.
13. The timetable is to be considered a work in progress and therefore subject to change as confirmation of attendance is received.

Forty-first session of the Governing Council Draft programme of events

Tuesday, 13 February 2018

Morning session

- 9.30 - 12.00 Inaugural ceremony
12.00 - 13.00 Business items – Agenda items for approval and for information

Afternoon session

- 14.30 - 15.30 IFAD Lecture
15.30 - 18.30 Business items (continued)
19.00 - 21.00 Reception for all delegates

Wednesday, 14 February 2018

Morning session

- 8.30 - 9.30 Networking breakfast
9.30 - 11.00 Thematic interactive discussion – Governors' Dialogue focusing on Building Resilience
11.00 - 12.30 Thematic interactive discussion – Multilateralism

Afternoon session

- 14.00 - 15.00 Business items (continued)
15.00 - 16.30 Thematic interactive discussion – Financing for Investment in Youth
17.00 - 18.00 Closing