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Invitation of Observers to Sessions of the Governing Council

Note to Executive Board representatives

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Executive Board — 124th Session
Rome, 11-13 September 2018

For: Approval

Recommendation for approval

The Executive Board is invited to approve the recommendation for the invitation of the International Network for Bamboo and Rattan (INBAR), which meets the criteria set out in paragraphs 8 and 9 of document EB 87/31/R.57, as observer to sessions of the Governing Council.

Invitation of Observers to Sessions of the Governing Council

1. Observers are invited to attend IFAD Governing Council sessions in accordance with the provisions of the Agreement Establishing IFAD and various Governing Council and Executive Board rules and decisions, in particular those set out in document EB 87/31/R.57.
2. The Executive Board accepted that invitations to sessions of the Governing Council should be extended to entities concerned with promoting agricultural development in the developing Member States of IFAD and whose presence at Governing Council sessions could help achieve the realization of IFAD's objectives. The Executive Board decided that these entities should be of potential assistance in accomplishing IFAD's purposes by: (a) cofinancing projects or programmes with IFAD; or (b) providing direct support to IFAD's operations and activities. In this connection, IFAD has received an application for observer status at Governing Council sessions from the International Network for Bamboo and Rattan (INBAR). Information on the organization is provided in the annex.

Recommendation

3. Whereas INBAR meets the criteria established by the Executive Board, as stipulated in paragraphs 8 and 9 of document EB 87/31/R.57 and as INBAR's mission is to improve the well-being of producers and users of bamboo and rattan within the context of a sustainable bamboo and rattan resource base, it is therefore proposed that the Executive Board authorize the President to invite the above-mentioned organization to attend the forty-second session and future sessions of the Governing Council as observer.

International Network for Bamboo and Rattan (INBAR)

I. Introduction

1. INBAR is a multilateral development organization that promotes environmentally sustainable development using bamboo and rattan. INBAR was officially established in 1997, with support from the Government of the People's Republic of China, Government of Canada, Directorate-General for International Cooperation of the Kingdom of the Netherlands and IFAD. It currently has 43 governments as members, over 40 of which are from the Global South.

A. Mission

2. The mission of INBAR is to improve the well-being of producers and users of bamboo and rattan within the context of a sustainable bamboo and rattan resource base. INBAR does this by consolidating, coordinating and supporting strategic and adaptive research and development.

B. Activities and objectives

3. INBAR's work is based on the following strategic goals:
 - Promoting bamboo and rattan in socio-economic and environmental development policies at national, regional and international levels;
 - Representing the needs of members on the global stage;
 - Sharing knowledge and providing training on the relevance of bamboo and rattan as plants and commodities; and
 - Encouraging new research and on-the-ground innovations.
4. INBAR is increasingly focusing on regional and global issues and programmes, such as the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and associated Sustainable Development Goals, as well as the outcomes of the Paris Agreement on Climate Change.
5. INBAR works towards its objectives in the following ways:
 - Policy assistance: INBAR has provided inputs and policy briefs and helped to facilitate the drafting process of over 20 important bamboo policies at a subnational and national level. INBAR has also worked to facilitate the development of standards, such as construction standards, which have been adopted widely across Member States.
 - Global representation: INBAR plays an active role in promoting the usefulness of bamboo and rattan on the world stage, hosting events and taking part in discussions and conferences with its Member States, as well as several United Nations bodies and partners. INBAR Member States also make joint decisions to contribute to international initiatives: in 2014, INBAR's members committed to working towards a plan to reforest 5 million hectares of degraded land using bamboo.
 - Sharing knowledge and building-capacity: INBAR's annual training and capacity-building programmes share knowledge and experience about bamboo and rattan management, commodity production techniques and technologies, construction and renewable energy, and high-level awareness-raising at the consumer and policy level. INBAR has trained over 15,000 people from across the world, most of whom live in rural communities in the Global South.
 - Research and on-the-ground innovations: INBAR's programme work demonstrates and scales up bamboo and rattan research and innovations. INBAR has led or provided assistance to projects that show how bamboo and

rattan contribute to landscape restoration, carbon storage, disaster-resilient housing and reconstruction, poverty alleviation, women's empowerment and climate-smart agriculture. IFAD-funded projects alone have resulted in the generation of an estimated 250,000 jobs.

C. Membership and governance

6. INBAR is a membership-based organization made up of 43 Member States. States of the United Nations or of its specialized agencies and regional organizations constituted by sovereign states can become Members by accession to the Agreement on the Establishment of INBAR. INBAR is governed by a Council, a Board of Trustees, and a Secretariat headed by a Director-General.

Structure

7. INBAR is an intergovernmental organization.

Countries of operation

8. INBAR is active in East Africa, West Africa, South-East Asia and Latin America.

Funding

9. INBAR's Member States pay an annual contribution based on a number of factors, including the state's level of development and value of international bamboo and rattan trade. Annual membership contributions are decided by the Secretariat and approved by the Council every two years. In addition, INBAR receives a core contribution annually from the Government of the host country, China, to support its activities. INBAR also receives funding from donors for individual projects. Current donors include IFAD, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands and the World Bank.

Relationships with IFAD and other international organizations

10. Since 1997, IFAD grant investments in bamboo development managed by INBAR have resulted in the creation of an estimated 50 enterprises and local collectives that generate an income from bamboo. Currently, IFAD, together with the European Union, is supporting an INBAR-led project on South-South Knowledge Transfer Strategies, which aims to scale up financing for pro-poor bamboo livelihoods, income generation, employment creation and environmental management in Africa. Agreements for an intra-African South-South Cooperation project and cooperation activities in Latin America and India are also planned.
11. INBAR is a permanent observer to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, and the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity. In December 2017, INBAR became an observer to the United Nations General Assembly. It is also engaged in other United Nations global initiatives, and is a partner of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the United Nations Environment Programme, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Industrial Development Organization and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization. It also works closely with the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation. INBAR is a member of United Nations Economic and Social Council.
12. INBAR is a founding member of the Association of International Research and Development Centers for Agriculture, and works closely with several members of the Consortium of International Agricultural Research Centers (former CGIAR Centers), especially the Center for International Forestry Research and the World Agroforestry Centre. In China, INBAR is a partner of the influential environmental think tank, the China Council for International Cooperation on Environment and Development.

13. INBAR has worked with a large number of organizations who are donors or partners in INBAR's programme work. These include government ministries, the European Union, the World Bank and Citi Foundation.

Location

14. INBAR has its headquarters in Beijing, China, with regional offices in Ecuador, Ethiopia, Ghana and India.

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