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Results of the Executive Board Vote by Correspondence on I tems Removed from the Formal Agenda of the 124th Session of the Executive Board

Note to Executive Board representatives <u>Focal points:</u>

Technical questions:

Dispatch of documentation:

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Executive Board — 125th Session Rome, 12-14 December 2018

For: Information

Results of the Executive Board Vote by Correspondence on I tems Removed from the Formal Agenda of the 124th Session of the Executive Board

- 1. At its 124th session in September 2018, the Executive Board agreed to the removal of a number of items from the formal agenda for the session and that approval could be sought through votes by correspondence. Furthermore, it was agreed that proposed amendments to the dates of the Board's 126th session and the fifth Executive Board retreat in 2019 would also be submitted for the Board's approval through vote by correspondence.
- 2. Accordingly, on 3 October 2018, Executive Board members and alternates were invited to cast their votes through a vote by correspondence for the following items:
 - Item I Draft Provisional Agenda for the Forty-Second Session of the Governing Council
 - Item II Invitation of Observers to Sessions of the Governing Council
 - Item III Amendments to Dates of the 126th Session of the Executive Board and Proposed Dates for the Fifth Executive Board Retreat and for Sessions of the Executive Board in 2020
 - Option 1: Executive Board session and retreat held together
 - Option 2: Executive Board session and retreat held separately
 - Item IV Attendance of Observers at Executive Board Sessions
- 3. As of the close of voting at midnight (Rome time), 23 October 2018, the number of votes required for validation had been received, as well as those necessary for the approval of the Draft Provisional Agenda for the Forty-Second Session of the Governing Council (item I); the Invitation of Observers to Sessions of the Governing Council (item II), and the Attendance of Observers at Executive Board Sessions (item IV). With regards to item III, Amendments to Dates of the 126th Session of the Executive Board and Proposed Dates for the Fifth Executive Board Retreat and for Sessions of the Executive Board in 2020, the majority of votes required for the approval of one of the options was not reached, and the item will therefore be submitted to the 125th session of the Executive Board for approval.
- 4. 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 (3,697.953) of the total number of votes in the Executive Board (5,546.927). 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, while rule 19.3 specifies that votes cast shall mean affirmative and negative votes.
- 5. Replies constituting 5,052.753 votes (approximately 91.1 per cent of the total of 5,546.927 votes) for items I, II and III, and 4,584.465 votes (approximately 82.7 per cent of the total 5,546.927 votes) for item IV were received from Executive Board members or their alternates by the prescribed deadline. Thus the requirement of rule 23 was met.
- 6. Specifically, a total of 5,052.753 votes were cast in favour of items I and II. For item III, 2,567.953 votes were cast in favour of option 1, and 2,484.800 votes were cast in favour of option 2. One alternate member abstained. Finally, for item IV, 4,449.106 affirmative votes and 135.359 negative votes were cast. The

requirement under rule 19.1 was therefore met for items I, II and IV, and not for item III.

- 7. In conclusion, the Executive Board approved:
 - (a) Item I: Draft Provisional Agenda for the Forty-Second Session of the Governing Council;
 - (b) Item II: Invitation of Observers to Sessions of the Governing Council; and
 - (c) Item IV: Attendance of Observers at the Executive Board Sessions.

Further to consultations with the List Convenors, a proposal for the dates of the 126th session of the Executive Board and the fifth Executive Board retreat will be submitted to the 125th session of the Executive Board.

8. The Executive Board was informed of the results of the vote by correspondence in a communication issued by the President of IFAD, dated 1 November 2018.

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Draft Provisional Agenda for the Forty-second Session of the Governing Council

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Deirdre McGrenra

Chief

For: Approval

Recommendation for approval

- 1. Rule 6 of the Rules of Procedure of the Governing Council provides that the President shall prepare, with the approval of the Executive Board, a provisional agenda for each session of the Governing Council. Accordingly, the Executive Board is invited to consider and approve the attached draft provisional agenda for the forty-second session of the Governing Council.
- 2. The Executive Board is also invited to note that the Governing Council will receive, together with the attached provisional agenda, a programme of events for the Council.

Draft Provisional Agenda for the Forty-second Session of the Governing Council

- 1. Opening of the session
- 2. Adoption of the agenda
- 3. Application for non-original membership (TBC)
- 4. Statement of the President of IFAD
- 5. Report on the Eleventh Replenishment of IFAD's Resources
- 6. Consolidated financial statements of IFAD for 2017
- 7. Proposal for an automated voting system at IFAD
- 8. IFAD's 2019 results-based programme of work and regular and capital budgets, the Independent Office of Evaluation of IFAD's (IOE) results-based work programme and budget for 2019 and indicative plan for 2020-2021, and the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC) and performance-based allocation system (PBAS) progress reports
- 9. Amendments to the Policies and Criteria for IFAD Financing
- 10. IFAD's Transition Framework
- 11. Other business

Annotations

1. Opening of the session

The forty-second session of the Governing Council will be held on Thursday and Friday, 14 and 15 February 2019.

2. Adoption of the agenda

The provisional agenda, prepared by the President and approved by the Executive Board in accordance with rule 6 of the Rules of Procedure of the Governing Council, is contained in the present document GC 42/L.1.

- 3. Application for non-original membership (TBC)
 - The Executive Board considered the application for membership received from ______. The recommendation of the Board in this regard, together with a draft resolution thereon, will be presented in document GC 42/L.2.
- 4. Statement of the President of IFAD Gilbert F. Houngbo will make a statement to the Governing Council.
- 5. Report on the Eleventh Replenishment of IFAD's Resources A report on the Eleventh Replenishment of IFAD's Resources will be presented in document GC 42/L.3.
- 6. Consolidated financial statements of IFAD for 2017
 In accordance with regulation XII of the Financial Regulations of IFAD and section 9 of the By-laws for the Conduct of the Business of IFAD, the Governing Council will be invited to consider document GC 42/L.4, which will contain the consolidated financial statements of IFAD for 2017, the report of the external auditor thereon and the external auditor's independent attestation on the management assertion report on the effectiveness of internal controls over financial reporting. The Executive Board reviewed these documents at its 123rd session in April 2018 and recommended that they be submitted for approval by the Governing Council.
- 7. Proposal for an automated voting system at IFAD
 In its report on the Review of the Established Practice for the Process Leading to
 the Appointment of the President of IFAD, the Governing Council Bureau
 recommended that the Secretariat explore electronic voting or other forms of
 automated processes and report to the Executive Board for possible submission of
 recommendations to the Governing Council in 2019. Document GC 42/L.5 will
 present Management's proposal in this regard.
- 8. IFAD's 2019 results-based programme of work and regular and capital budgets, the IOE's results-based work programme and budget for 2019 and indicative plan for 2020-2021, and the HIPC and PBAS progress reports
 - The budgets of IFAD and IOE for 2019, as recommended by the Executive Board for approval by the Governing Council, will be presented in document GC 42/L.6, together with a draft resolution thereon. This document will also report on IFAD's participation in the HIPC Initiative and on the implementation of IFAD's performance-based allocation system (PBAS) for the information of the Council.
- 9. Amendments to the Policies and Criteria for IFAD Financing
 Document GC 42/L.7 will propose amendments to the Policies and Criteria for IFAD
 Financing, which were last revised at the Governing Council's forty-first session in
 February 2018. The purpose of the proposed amendments is to ensure the
 implementation of the updates to IFAD's financing terms and IFAD's
 non-concessional borrowing policy, as reviewed and approved by the
 Executive Board at its 125th session in December 2018.

10. IFAD's Transition Framework

Document GC 42/L.8 will contain, for the information of the Governing Council, IFAD's Transition Framework, as approved at the 125th session of the Executive Board in December 2018.

11. Other business

Under this item, the Governing Council will consider any additional matters not included in the provisional agenda that may be proposed by members of the Council and/or the Secretariat.

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Invitation of Observers to Sessions of the Governing Council

Note to Executive Board representatives <u>Focal points:</u>

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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 abovementioned 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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Attendance of Observers at Executive Board Sessions

Note to Executive Board representatives <u>Focal points:</u>

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For: Approval

EB 2018/125/INF.3/Rev.2 Annex III

Recommendation for approval

The Executive Board is invited to consider the proposals contained in section III and approve the recommendations contained in section IV of this document.

Attendance of Observers at Executive Board Sessions

Ι. Introduction

1. It was agreed that IFAD Management would follow up on queries raised by members about the participation of representatives of the Rome-based agencies in IFAD's Executive Board. The purpose of this document is for the Executive Board to consider broadening the opportunities for attendance by silent observers at its sessions and thereby increase stakeholder engagement. The content of this document was discussed with the Convenors and Friends at their meeting on 14 June 2018.

Current framework for attendance of observers at П. **Executive Board sessions**

- 2. While under rule 8 of the Rules of Procedure of the Executive Board, 1 the Executive Board can invite as many representatives or persons as it wishes to present views before the Board, the authority of the President is limited to determining those staff members who may attend the Board sessions. Since 1997, the President is also authorized to invite only one observer per Board session and the invitation is extended only once per person.² The Board is informed of the attendance of such an observer at the opening of the relevant session.
- To promote transparency and broaden the opportunities for Member States that are 3. not Board representatives to attend Board sessions, in 2010 the Executive Board agreed to allow a single representative from each of the five regions covered by IFAD's operations to attend as a silent observer for items under consideration pertaining to country strategic opportunities programmes (COSOPs), project and programme proposals, and grant proposals. The names of said representatives must be communicated to the President by the Convenors.³ Such observers are introduced to the Board at the beginning of the agenda item in question and leave the meeting room upon conclusion of the item.
- Additional observers are allowed to follow the Board proceedings by closed circuit 4. television from the salle d'écoute, adjacent to the meeting room, and these include, representatives of Member States that are not Members of the Board, 4 and non-Member States at an advanced stage of their membership process. 5 The sale d'écoute is also accessible to IFAD staff: this enables staff to be prepared

"In addition to the representatives of members and alternates and the President, the meetings of the Board shall be open only to such staff members of the Fund as the President may, from time to time, designate for that purpose. The Board may also invite representatives of cooperating international organizations and institutions or any person, including representatives of other Members of the Fund, to present views on any specific matter before the Board."

EB 2010/101/INF.4/Rev.1 further states: "2(b) Those Member States wishing to attend an Executive Board session shall be allowed to follow the proceedings via closed circuit television in the salle d'écoute, limited to one representative

Footnote 3 of rule 8 of the Rules of Procedure of the Executive Board states as follows: "At its Sixty-Second Session on 3 December 1997, the Executive Board elaborated on rule 8 to include, at the President's discretion, one observer to attend any particular session of the Board. These observers will be admitted upon the request of either a Member State represented on the Board or an organization/institution. Such invitations will be extended only once per person [...]". ³ EB 2010/101/INF.4/Rev.1.

EB 2013/108/R.28. At its 108th session, in April 2013, the Board authorized the President to invite non-Member States of IFAD at an advanced stage of their membership process to follow the Board's proceedings via closed circuit television in the salle d'écoute.

when they are needed at the session. The salle d'écoute is also used to allow other members of a delegation of Board representatives to follow the session.⁶

111. Proposals for consideration

5. In view of the existing framework, it is proposed that: (a) opportunities for attendance by silent observers at Executive Board sessions be broadened; and (b) the access rights to be accorded to silent observers be clarified.

Α. Invitation of silent observers

- It is proposed that the Board expand the authority of the President to invite more 6. than one observer, and remove the restriction that such invitation be extended only once per person. If approved, this decision would supersede the 1997 decision. More specifically, under the proposed arrangements, the President would be allowed to invite any entity/individual to attend an Executive Board session as a silent observer, subsequent to a prior informal no-objection process with Board members⁷. The informal no-objection process would be similar to the one foreseen for the approval of projects under the lapse-of-time procedure⁸ and would entail the following steps:
 - The President would submit to the Board members a list of (i) entities/individuals she/he intends to invite as silent observers to a session, in advance, prescribing a specific time frame within which Board members may, should they so wish, object to the invitation of any of the entities/individuals proposed.
 - (ii) If no objection is received from any member within the specified period of time, the proposed silent observers will be deemed accepted by the Board. The President would then issue invitations to the approved entities/individuals to attend the session as a silent observer.
 - Should a member object to the invitation of a particular entity/individual, said (iii) entity/individual would not be invited to attend the Board session.
- 7. Invitations would be extended to observers by the President only on a per session basis, as deemed appropriate and without expectation of attendance on a permanent basis. In addition, such invitations would be extended only to those entities/individuals fulfilling either or both of the following requirements:
 - They are regularly invited as observers to IFAD Governing Council⁹ sessions; (i) and
 - Their presence at Board sessions would contribute to the achievement of (ii) IFAD's objectives and mandate.
- 8. This proposal would not affect:
 - (i) The current power of the Board to invite representatives or persons to present views before the Board, and the power of the President to determine which staff members may attend Board sessions; 10
 - The 2010 decision to allow a single representative from each of the five (ii) regions covered by IFAD's operations to attend as a silent observer for items

See EB 2010/100/R.38.

In May 2019, in the spirit of mutual collaboration among the Rome-based agencies, the President requested – and the Executive Board approved - that FAO and WFP be invited on a regular basis by the President to Executive Board sessions as silent observers without requiring further approval by the Board.

Rule 24 of the Rules of Procedure of the Executive Board.

Observers are invited to sessions of the Governing Council in accordance with rule 43 of the Rules of Procedure of the Governing Council and a number of decisions taken by the Governing Council and the Executive Board (see GC 77/7; GC 78/4; EB 87/31/R.57; EB/31; EB 88/34/R.52; EB/34).

Rule 8 of the Rules of Procedure of the Executive Board.

- pertaining to COSOPs, project and programme proposals, and grant proposals under consideration; ¹¹
- (iii) The observers who are currently allowed to follow the Board proceedings by closed circuit television from the salle d'écoute, adjacent to the meeting room, i.e. representatives of Member States that are not members of the Board, and non-Member States at an advanced stage of their membership process; 12
- (iv) The access of additional members of a delegation of Board representatives to follow the session from the salle d'écoute. 13

B. Access rights of silent observers

- 9. It is proposed that the Executive Board consider the following access rights to be accorded to silent observers at its sessions:
 - (i) I tems under discussion. Silent observers would attend the proceedings of the Executive Board session to which they are invited with the exception of closed sessions and any other item that the President (as Chair of the Board) or the Executive Board deems should be restricted.
 - (ii) Right to speak. Pursuant to rule 15 of the Rules of Procedure of the Executive Board, the President, as Chair of the Board, accords the right to speak at each session. Silent observers would not normally be allowed to speak at the Board sessions to which they are invited, unless their interventions were solicited with a view to contributing to the achievement of IFAD's objectives and mandate.
 - (iii) Access to documents. In accordance with the IFAD Policy on the Disclosure of Documents, all Executive Board documents (with certain exceptions) are posted on the public website. As such, silent observers already have access to the majority of Board documents.

IV. Recommendations

- 10. It is recommended that the Executive Board consider the proposals contained in section III and authorize the President: (i) to invite any entity/individual that fulfills the requirements set out in paragraph 7 above, to attend an Executive Board session as a silent observer, subsequent to an informal no-objection process with Board members; and (ii) to accord the related access rights to silent observers, as set out in paragraph 9 above.
- 11. Should the Board approve the foregoing proposals, the current footnote 3 contained in the Rules of Procedure of the Executive Board will be modified to read as follows (text to be deleted is shown in strikethrough, text to be added is underlined):

At its Sixty-Second Session on 3 December 1997, the Executive Board elaborated on rule 8 to include, at the President's discretion, one observer to attend any particular session of the Board. These observers will be admitted upon the request of either a Member State represented on the Board or of an organization/institution. Such invitations will be extended only once per person. Bearing in mind rules 8 and 13 of the Rules of Procedure of the Executive Board, at its 108th session in April 2013, the Executive Board approved the recommendation contained in document EB 2013/108/R.28 authorizing the President to invite, and make suitable arrangements for, non-Member States at an advanced stage of their membership process to follow

¹³ EB 2010/100/R.38.

¹¹ EB 2010/101/INF.4/Rev.1.

¹² See EB 2010/101/INF.4/Rev.1 and EB 2013/108/R.28.

the proceedings of the Executive Board and its subsidiary bodies as silent observers.

At its 124th session in September 2018, the Executive Board approved the recommendations contained in document EB 2018/124/R.38 authorizing the President: (i) to invite any entity/individual that fulfills the requirements set out in paragraph 7 of said document to attend an Executive Board session as a silent observer, subsequent to an informal no-objection process with Board members; (ii) to accord the related access rights to silent observers, as set out in paragraph 9 of the document. This decision does not affect: (a) the current power of the Executive Board to invite representatives or persons to present views before the Board and the power of the President to determine which staff members may attend Board sessions (rule 8); (b) the 2010 decision to allow a single representative from each of the five regions covered by IFAD's operations to attend as a silent observer for items pertaining to country strategic opportunities programmes, project and programme proposals, and grant proposals under consideration (EB 2010/101/INF.4/Rev.1); (c) the observers that are currently allowed to follow the Board proceedings by closed circuit television from the sale d'écoute, adjacent to the meeting room, i.e. representatives of Member States that are not members of the Board (EB 2010/101/INF.4/Rev.1), and non-Member States at an advanced stage of their membership process (EB 2013/108/R.28); and (d) the access of additional members of a delegation of Board representatives to follow the session from the salle d'écoute (EB 2010/100/R.38).