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Summary of Project and Programme Proposals Discussed by the Executive Board

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For: Information

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I. Project and programme proposals

1. The following proposals were approved at the 125th session of the Executive Board and are in line with the Debt Sustainability Framework (DSF).

A. Asia and the Pacific

Indonesia: Youth Entrepreneurship and Employment Support Services Programme

(EB 2018/125/R.32 + Add.1 + Sup.1)

2. The Executive Board unanimously approved a loan of US\$55.3 million on ordinary terms and a grant of US\$2 million to the Republic of Indonesia for the financing of the Youth Entrepreneurship and Employment Support Services Programme. The Board acknowledged the programme's focus on youth and its close alignment with IFAD's new Rural Youth Action Plan, approved at the current Board session. The strategic relevance of improving young people's skills to enable them to capitalize on employment and business opportunities was welcomed, as was the focus on facilitating young people's access to markets and services to allow them to develop profitable farms and enterprises. Finally, the Executive Board appreciated the support for developing enabling policy and institutional frameworks in favour of vulnerable rural youth in Indonesia.

B. East and Southern Africa

Burundi: Agricultural Production Intensification and Vulnerability Reduction Project

(EB 2018/125/R.33 + Sup.1)

3. The Executive Board approved a grant of US\$27.48 million under the DSF to the Republic of Burundi for the Agricultural Production Intensification and Vulnerability Reduction Project (PIPARV-B). The project focused on integrated land management, inclusive community development, improved productivity and vulnerability reduction. A joint statement was presented by List C expressing support for the project. In light of United States policies for certain development projects in countries whose governments are not addressing trafficking in persons, the United States representative opposed the proposal and therefore did not join the Board in supporting the project.

Kenya: President's Memorandum: Aquaculture Business Development Programme

(EB 2018/125/R.34)

4. The Executive Board unanimously approved an additional loan of EUR 24.15 million on highly concessional terms to the Republic of Kenya to finance the ongoing Aquaculture Business Development Programme. The additional financing was needed to fill the financing gap of US\$27.9 million associated with the IFAD loan (no. 2000002052) to the Government of Kenya approved in December 2017. The representative for the Dominican Republic, on behalf of List C, noted the strategic opportunity that investment in aquaculture presents for young people in developing countries and expressed support for the proposed additional financing. The representative for Angola remarked on the considerable potential of the aquaculture subsector, and the fact that in many African countries, this potential had not been significantly exploited. The Board commended the Government's interest in the programme which was clear from the high level of government counterpart funding.

C. West and Central Africa

Nigeria: President's Memorandum: Value Chain Development Programme (EB 2018/125/R.35)

5. The Executive Board unanimously approved an additional loan of US\$89.1 million on blend terms to the Federal Republic of Nigeria to scale up the Value Chain Development Programme (VCDP). The Executive Board representatives for Germany; Kenya, on behalf of List C-1; Mexico; United Kingdom; and the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, on behalf of List B welcomed the transformative impact that the Value Chain Development Programme was having in Nigeria. The Board: (i) requested further information on conflict between farmers and pastoralists in targeted states and government responses to date; (ii) highlighted the need for greater mainstreaming of environment and climate change adaptation measures in the programme by means of IFAD's Social, Environmental and Climate Assessment Procedures (SECAP) and invited the country team for Nigeria and the West and Central Africa Division to report back on progress in SECAP implementation in one year's time; and (iii) highlighted the need for increased government cofinancing. The representative for Nigeria thanked IFAD and the Member States, on behalf of his Government, for their support in scaling up the programme and underscored the instrumental role it was playing in enhancing smallholders' livelihoods and promoting employment for young people.