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## Information note to Members of the Executive Board on the Proposal for an automated voting system at IFAD

### Note to Executive Board representatives

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For: Information

## Information note to Members of the Executive Board on the Proposal for an automated voting system at IFAD

1. At its 125<sup>th</sup> session in December 2018, the Executive Board endorsed the submission of the proposal regarding the way forward for an automated voting system at IFAD for the approval of the Governing Council at its forty-second session.
2. The revised document "Proposal for an Automated Voting System at IFAD" (EB 2018/125/R.50/Rev.2) takes into account the deliberations at the 125<sup>th</sup> Board session. To reflect such deliberations, the following revisions were made to the document presented to the Board:
  - To emphasize the need for a final decision on whether to proceed with an automated voting system, the words "should the decision be made to proceed" were added in paragraph 7;
  - As a consequence of the changes agreed at the 125<sup>th</sup> session of the Executive Board, i.e. the removal of the last sentence of the recommendation contained in the original document, all references to the date "February 2021" for the implementation of an automated voting system – specifically in paragraphs 6, 21, 23, 24, 25 and 26 – have been removed. As a result, paragraph 25 has been deleted and the next paragraph has been renumbered accordingly;
  - In paragraph 23, it has been clarified that the Executive Board will decide whether to proceed with an automated voting system and, in the new paragraph 26, that the Secretariat is authorized to further pursue the process of assessing the feasibility of an automated voting system based on the principles contained in the document.
3. The Executive Board representatives recalled the utmost importance of ensuring that, if the Executive Board were to recommend implementing such a system in the future, the system should fulfill the following high-level requirements:
  - it should ensure the secrecy and integrity of the vote;
  - it should be portable and designed in such a way as to minimize the risk of cyberattacks.
4. Upon the Governing Council's approval, the IFAD Secretariat will initiate the procurement process for the selection of a system that can satisfy IFAD's requirements, and will report back to the Executive Board on the results of this process. The Executive Board would then be in a position to make an informed decision on the possible implementation of such a system.
5. Should the decision be made to implement an automated voting system, the system could be tested on the margins of the Governing Council session in 2020.