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## Draft Programme of Events for the Forty-second Session of the Governing Council

### Note to Executive Board representatives

#### Focal points:

#### Technical questions:

Atsuko Hirose  
Secretary of IFAD  
Tel.: +39 06 5459 2254  
e-mail: a.hirose@ifad.org

#### Dispatch of documentation:

Deirdre McGrenra  
Chief  
Governing Bodies  
Tel.: +39 06 5459 2374  
e-mail: gb@ifad.org

Executive Board — 125<sup>th</sup> Session  
Rome, 12-14 December 2018

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For: Information

## Draft Programme of Events for the Forty-second Session of the Governing Council

1. The Executive Board is invited to take note of the draft programme of events for the forty-second session of the Governing Council contained in this document.
2. The forty-second session will be held on Thursday, 14 February and Friday, 15 February 2019 at the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) headquarters in Rome. The decision to accept the offer extended by FAO to use their headquarters building to hold the meeting offers a tangible demonstration of enhanced collaboration among the Rome-based organizations of the United Nations and the shared determination to work together to channel resources towards the poor people of the world.
3. This 2019 session will focus on the theme Rural Innovation and Entrepreneurship. IFAD, with its specialized mandate of enabling rural transformation, has a pivotal role to play in creating the conditions for innovation and entrepreneurship to thrive in rural areas. The choice of the theme reflects the commitments made under the Eleventh Replenishment of IFAD's Resources to embrace a culture of results and innovation and the intention to position IFAD as a forward-looking specialized agency, capable of enacting an ambitious approach to rural transformation. Transformational approaches are needed to address the root causes that generate and reproduce problems across rural communities. Business as usual will not suffice if IFAD and the larger development community are to provide countries with the means to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals: bold ideas, innovations and entrepreneurial spirit are needed to eradicate poverty and end hunger.
4. The programme of events will include an inaugural session, interactive dialogue among guests and delegates, and the discussion and consideration of business items.
5. The inaugural session will be graced by His Holiness Pope Francis and will feature statements by a number of heads of state and government and the performance of the violinist Ms Midori Goto, United Nations Messenger of Peace.
6. The interactive sessions are designed to encourage lively discussion between speakers and participants around the Governing Council theme. Their overarching focus will be on IFAD's support for innovation and entrepreneurship at country and project level and its engagement in innovative processes at global level, which together form a coordinated, multisectoral set of interventions that bring about change and continuously generate lessons for the portfolio as a whole.
7. This year, three interactive sessions will be held over the two-day programme. The first session will explore how IFAD is working to ensure that its value chain development activities are gender- and nutrition-sensitive; the second will look at the role of social entrepreneurship and innovation in promoting resilience and addressing global challenges; and the third will feature a discussion on the impact of new technology on the future of farming.
8. In an IFAD Talk to be held on the second day, Dr Gunhild A. Stordalen of the EAT Foundation will inspire, challenge and motivate participants with her ideas about how to enable structural and rural transformation in developing countries in a way that is socially and economically inclusive.
9. Side events will also be organized to offer opportunities to engage informally with IFAD partners. For example, on 14 February, participants are invited to the IFAD Recipes for Change campaign. IFAD's Recipes for Change Chef, Mr Carlo Cracco, will explain how to cook using crops that are under threat from climate change. This will highlight the innovative work that IFAD is doing to help

smallholder farmers in developing countries adapt to climate change and protect these important crops.

10. The programme will also allow space for bilateral networking. A Heads of Delegation luncheon will be held on 14 February where Governors can discuss key business items in advance of the formal session. A reception for all participants will be held at the close of the first day of business.
11. Following the positive experience last year of removing general statements from the agenda of the Council, Member States will once again be invited to provide their statements – preferably relating to the overarching theme of the Council – prior to the session in either written or audio-visual format. Alternatively, they may opt to videorecord their statements upon arrival. 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. Detailed information on how to provide statements in advance and on their distribution arrangements at the session will be made available shortly.
12. Finally, preceding the Governing Council on Tuesday, 12 and Wednesday, 13 February 2019, the fourth global meeting of the Indigenous Peoples' Forum (IPF) will be held at IFAD. The IPF was established under the IFAD Policy on Engagement with Indigenous Peoples as an instrument to systematically engage with indigenous peoples at the local, national and international levels through a process of dialogue and consultation among representatives of indigenous peoples' institutions, IFAD staff and Member States. Furthermore, the Policy established that a global meeting of the IPF would be held every two years, in conjunction with the IFAD Governing Council. The closing session of the forum – which will take place on Wednesday, 13 February – will be open to Governors and Executive Board representatives.
13. The attached draft programme of events outlines a preliminary timetable for the Governing Council session. The timetable is to be considered a work in progress and therefore subject to change as confirmation of attendance is received.

## Forty-second session of the Governing Council

### Draft programme of events

#### Thursday, 14 February 2019

##### Morning session

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|---------------|--|
| 9.30 - 11.30  | Inaugural ceremony   |
| 11.30 - 13.30 | The future of IFAD: Financial architecture – A conversation with IFAD's Governors<br>(As input to the conversation some business items will be considered) |

##### Afternoon session

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|---------------|---|
| 15.30 - 17.30 | The future of IFAD: Engagement with the private sector<br>(As input to the conversation some business items will be considered) |
| 17.30 - 17.45 | Synthesis of deliberations of the Indigenous Peoples' Forum   |
| 17.45 - 18.15 | RBA Award of Excellence   |
| 18.30 - 20.30 | Reception for all delegates   |

#### Friday, 15 February 2019

##### Morning session

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|---------------|---|
| 9.00 - 11.00  | A dialogue with IFAD's Governors: Repositioning of the United Nations Development System  |
| 11.00 - 11.30 | Launch of the AgriBusiness Capital Fund<br>Introductory statement by Mr Neven Mimica, European Commissioner for International Cooperation and Development |
| 11.30 - 13.00 | Interactive session 1: Innovations in value chains to promote gender equality and nutrition-sensitive outcomes  |
| 13.00 - 13.30 | IFAD Talk<br>Dr Gunhild A. Stordalen, President of the EAT Foundation   |

##### Afternoon session

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|---------------|--|
| 15.00 - 16.30 | Interactive session 2: Empowering social entrepreneurship for inclusive rural transformation         |
| 16.30 - 16.45 | Business items for approval and for information  |
| 16.45 - 18.15 | Interactive session 3: The future of farming – New technologies to transform smallholder agriculture |
| 18.15 - 18.30 | Closing  |