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Selection of the External Chair of the Consultation on the Twelfth Replenishment of IFAD's Resources

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Executive Board — 126th Session
Rome, 2-3 May 2019

For: Approval

Recommendation for approval

The Executive Board is invited to approve the process for selection of the external chair of the Consultation on the Twelfth Replenishment of IFAD's Resources, including the criteria for the selection and the role of the chair, as contained in parts III, IV and V of this document.

Selection of the External Chair of the Consultation on the Twelfth Replenishment of IFAD's Resources

I. Introduction

1. Article 4, section 3 of the Agreement Establishing IFAD requires the Governing Council to periodically review the adequacy of the resources available to IFAD in order to ensure continuity in the Fund's operations. In order to allow for the timely review of resource availability before expiration of the Eleventh Replenishment of IFAD's Resources (IFAD11), this document is presented to the Executive Board to facilitate discussion and consensus on the process and criteria for selection of the chair of the IFAD12 Consultation, and on the role of the chair.
2. With the agreement of the Executive Board, the selection of the chair of the IFAD12 Consultation will be undertaken in accordance with the procedure outlined in this paper.
3. The draft resolution for establishment of the IFAD12 Consultation, including the name of the individual proposed as chair of the IFAD12 Consultation, will be submitted to the Executive Board for approval at its 127th session prior to submission to the Governing Council for consideration at its forty-third session.

II. Background

4. IFAD's first eight replenishments were chaired by the President. IFAD had formally discussed the issue of an external chair for the replenishment consultations in the context of IFAD7¹ and IFAD8,² but had not taken it forward. After further informal and formal consultations, including through the Convenors and Friends, the initial proposal to appoint an external chair for the IFAD9 Consultation was endorsed by the Governing Council in February 2011.³ The role of the external chair has since been maintained for the IFAD10 and IFAD11 Consultations.
5. In 2014, the corporate-level evaluation (CLE) of IFAD's replenishment noted that the introduction of an external chair has been one of the most significant changes to date in IFAD's replenishment process. The CLE recognized that there is almost unanimous appreciation for the role of the external chair, who is able to act as an honest broker. The CLE concluded that the good practice of having an independent external chair should be continued in the future.
6. The CLE also highlighted that early appointment of the external chair allowed advance consultation with key Member States, helping Management to establish an appropriate agenda for the Consultation and to reflect on related organizational matters in order to ensure that the entire process is conducted smoothly.
7. Engagement of an external chair for replenishment negotiations also represents current best practice among international financial institutions and other multilateral organizations that undertake replenishment processes.

¹ See EB-2006-87-Minutes, para. 57.

² See EB 2006/88/R.38.

³ See GC 34/L.4/Rev.1.

8. Based on favourable experiences with an external chair during the IFAD9, IFAD10 and IFAD11 Consultations, it is recommended that the practice of appointing an external chair be continued for the IFAD12 Consultation.

III. Process for the selection of the external chair of the IFAD12 Consultation

9. Further to discussions held with Convenors and Friends on 23 November 2018, the table below outlines the proposed process for selecting and appointing the external chair for the IFAD12 Consultation.

Table 1
Process for the selection of the external chair

<i>Action</i>	<i>Timing</i>
1. Selection criteria, as endorsed by the Convenors, submitted to the Executive Board for consideration.	126 th session of the Executive Board – 2-3 May 2019
2. A call for expressions of interest is published on the IFAD website and the Member States Interactive Platform, where Member States and Management can encourage suitable individuals to apply.	By mid-May 2019
3. After screening the expressions of interest received, Management prepares – together with the List Convenors – a shortlist of up to 10 profiles.	By mid-June 2019
4. The shortlist is reviewed by a committee composed of Management and Convenors and Friends.	Convenors and Friends meeting in June 2019
5. Taking into consideration the feedback received and any additional information requested, the President selects one candidate to be proposed to the Executive Board, which then makes a recommendation to the Governing Council. The candidate's name is reflected in the resolution establishing the IFAD12 Consultation, to be considered by the Executive Board at its 127 th session in September 2019.	By mid-July 2019
6. Executive Board approval of submission of the resolution establishing the IFAD12 Consultation, including appointment of the selected candidate as external chair, for formal adoption by the Governing Council.	127 th session of the Executive Board – September 2019
7. Adoption of the resolution and formalization of the appointment of the selected candidate as external chair of the IFAD12 Consultation.	Forty-third session of the Governing Council – February 2020

10. Early appointment of the external chair would allow the chair to: consult in advance with Member States; help Management to develop an appropriate agenda for the Consultation; and reflect on organizational matters to ensure smooth conduct of the entire process. As such, the selected candidate would be engaged by IFAD immediately following the Board's approval. However, the candidate's confirmation as chair of the IFAD12 Consultation would remain subject to formal approval of the Governing Council.

IV. Selection criteria

11. The criteria used for selecting the IFAD12 chair would build on the criteria used for selection of previous IFAD replenishment chairs, with an increased emphasis on financial aspects:
- (a) Strong knowledge of multilateral development banks and their processes, including:
 - (i) Knowledge of the replenishment process; and
 - (ii) Ability to understand the technical and development issues discussed during the meeting, including familiarity with development financing institutions' funding methodologies and capital markets.
 - (b) Experience in chairing high-level international meetings, including the ability to:
 - (i) Reconcile varying points of view on complex issues;

- (ii) Assist in ensuring clarity in the discussion; and
- (iii) Remain impartial.
- (c) Effective liaison skills;
- (d) Familiarity with IFAD and a strong belief in IFAD's mandate and the importance of agricultural development and rural poverty reduction.
- (e) High level of personal integrity, and absence of any national or international mandate or commitments, or conflicts of interest, or capable of demonstrating that any ongoing commitment will not hinder in any way the fulfilment of the role of the chair.

V. Role of the chair

12. The responsibilities of the IFAD12 chair would be similar to those of previous IFAD replenishment chairs. Under the authority of the IFAD12 Consultation, the chair would:
- (a) Chair formal Consultation meetings;
 - (b) Oversee all aspects of the Consultation meetings, discussions and deliberations, providing guidance and support to the Secretariat;
 - (c) Critically review and comment on draft documentation and reports prepared for each Consultation, ensuring quality control and strategic coherence;
 - (d) With support from the Secretariat, synthesize discussions and prepare a summary of each meeting concisely and accurately, reflecting the status of negotiations;
 - (e) Lead and facilitate discussions and negotiations among Member States, as well as between IFAD's leadership and Member States, to build consensus in order to achieve successful outcomes for reviewing the adequacy of the Fund's resources;
 - (f) Mobilize external support for IFAD, including at the political level, within Member States in collaboration with delegates and IFAD Management;
 - (g) Ensure that the final report and recommendations of the Consultation respond to the terms of reference of the Consultation and conform to the Agreement Establishing IFAD and other documents adopted by the Governing Council; and
 - (h) Work with the President and staff to prepare for meetings and negotiations in order to ensure that issues are presented effectively.