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## **Summary of project and programme proposals discussed by the Executive Board**

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**For: Information**

## Summary of project and programme proposals discussed by the Executive Board

### I. Project and programme proposals

The following proposals were approved at the 127<sup>th</sup> session of the Executive Board and are in line with the Debt Sustainability Framework.

#### A. Asia and the Pacific

##### **Bangladesh: President's report: Rural Microenterprise Transformation Project (EB 2019/127/R.23)**

1. The Executive Board approved a loan of US\$80 million and a grant of US\$1 million to the People's Republic of Bangladesh for the Rural Microenterprise Transformation Project. During the Board's deliberations, clarification was provided regarding a query from a Board member on gender mainstreaming and the participation of women in training activities. Board members expressed appreciation for the design of the project and the innovations proposed regarding value chain development, food safety compliance, nutrition sensitivity and new technologies such as blockchain, crowdfunding and e-commerce. The Board also acknowledged the exemplary long-standing collaboration between IFAD and the People's Republic of Bangladesh.

##### **Cambodia: President's report: Sustainable Assets for Agriculture Markets, Business and Trade Project (EB 2019/127/R.24)**

2. The Executive Board approved a loan of US\$53.2 million on highly concessional terms and a grant of US\$1.2 million to the Kingdom of Cambodia for the Sustainable Assets for Agriculture Markets, Business and Trade Project. The Board acknowledged the project's close alignment with the Government's development strategies and commended the design, which built on lessons learned from IFAD's experiences in developing rural value chains and climate-resilient infrastructure. The Board appreciated the integration of recommendations from previous evaluations into the design, including the balance of investments in human capital and tangible assets. Its focus on developing rural poor people's productive capacities through skills development and the use of new digital technologies – also a high priority for the Government – was also commended. In addition, the Board appreciated the alignment of this investment with other rural infrastructure projects in the country. Management updated the Board on ongoing discussions with the European Investment Bank for cofinancing that could fill the project's funding gap and scale up its results.

#### B. East and Southern Africa

##### **Angola: President's report: Smallholder Resilience Enhancement Project (EB 2019/127/R.27)**

3. The Executive Board approved a loan of EUR 26.2 million on ordinary terms for the Smallholder Resilience Enhancement Project in the Republic of Angola, subject to the completion of negotiations of the financing agreement before the 128<sup>th</sup> Executive Board session. A copy of the negotiated financing agreement will be tabled at the 128<sup>th</sup> Board session along with any substantive changes to the terms presented to the Board at its 127<sup>th</sup> session. The Board welcomed the alignment of this project with government strategies, including its focus on production for markets in northern Angola and climate change resilience building in the south. The Board also welcomed the project's focus on the private sector, youth and women. Board members commended the cofinancing arrangements, especially with the French Development Agency and the Arab Bank for Economic Development of Africa.

**Ethiopia: President’s report: Lowlands Livelihood Resilience Project (EB 2019/127/R.28)**

4. The Executive Board approved a loan of SDR 65.33 million on highly concessional terms to the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia for the Lowlands Livelihood Resilience Project. The project focuses on integrated land management, inclusive community development, improving productivity and reducing vulnerability. A joint statement was presented by List C-1 expressing unanimous support for the project. Management welcomes the offer from the Government of Italy to share the outcomes of its Drought Resilience Programme in the Afar region. Management also appreciates all comments and suggestions made by Board members, and will: (i) support implementation to address the human, peace and development nexus, including through aligning with the “New Way of Working”; (ii) fill baseline data gaps in the logical framework to the greatest extent possible early in implementation; and (iii) ensure synergies with other development interventions, notably the multi-donor-funded Productive Safety Net Programme.

**Mozambique: President’s report: Small-scale Aquaculture Promotion Project (EB 2019/127/R.29 + Add.1 + Sup.1)**

5. The Executive Board approved a loan of US\$8.6 million on highly concessional terms and a grant of US\$34.4 million under the Debt Sustainability Framework to the Republic of Mozambique for the Small-scale Aquaculture Promotion Project. The Board acknowledged the relevance of the project design to Mozambique’s socio-economic context and welcomed the fact that its design drew on lessons from the 2017 country strategy and programme evaluation by the Independent Office of Evaluation of IFAD. The project’s strategic alignment with other development partners’ interventions in Mozambique was also acknowledged. Management appreciates all comments and suggestions made by Executive Board members, and will ensure that the operation: (i) embraces market-led principles; and (ii) builds the capacity of public-sector institutions in the fisheries sector. While the Board was pleased to note that the project has earmarked climate financing, members emphasized the need to ensure that the project is fully embedded in Mozambique’s new decentralization agenda, which is expected to take effect after the general elections in October 2019.

**C. Near East, North Africa and Europe**

**Sudan: President’s report: Sustainable Natural Resources and Livelihoods Programme (EB 2019/127/R.30 + Sup.1)**

6. The Executive Board approved a loan of EUR 11.3 million on highly concessional terms and a grant of EUR 45.2 million under the Debt Sustainability Framework to the Republic of the Sudan for the Sustainable Natural Resources and Livelihoods Programme. Board members acknowledged the timeliness of the programme in accompanying the changes in Sudan during its transition. This transition comes with high hopes and prospects, and IFAD’s support is much needed. It was acknowledged that the project does not represent “business as usual”, supporting rural livelihoods through the creation of 12,000 jobs – 50 per cent of them for women. Board members also appreciated the programme’s alignment with the Sustainable Development Goals and Sudan’s national agricultural investment plans. While supporting the project, France expressed a concern that, given Sudan’s high debt distress, the programme will be partly financed through a loan of EUR 11.3 million, and requested that its reservation be recorded in the minutes of the session. In light of its policies for certain development projects, the United States opposed the proposal and therefore did not join the Board in supporting the programme.

## D. West and Central Africa

### **Burkina Faso: Agricultural Value Chains Project in the Southwest, Hauts-Bassins, Cascades and Boucle du Mouhoun Regions (EB 2019/127/R.31 + Add.1 + Sup.1)**

7. The Executive Board approved a loan of EUR 59.6 million on highly concessional terms and a grant of EUR 890,000 to Burkina Faso for the Agricultural Value Chains Project in the Southwest, Hauts-Bassins, Cascades and Boucle du Mouhoun Regions. The project focuses on food production, processing, rural microenterprises and business development services. Also in support of this project, the Executive Board approved a loan of EUR 8.22 million on highly concessional terms to cofinance the African Development Bank-funded Land Improvement and Development of the Leraba Plain Project in the Hauts-Bassins. The Executive Board commended the project's consistent approach in supporting agribusiness activities, especially for women and youth, and appreciated the Rome-based agencies' collaboration to enhance institutional capacity-building and promote land-tenure policy-making. The project's alignment with the United Nations integrated strategy for Sahel and the G5 Sahel Priority Investment Programme was praised along with the grant component on citizen engagement aimed at increasing project transparency and accountability.

### **Cameroon: President's memorandum – Youth Agropastoral Entrepreneurship Promotion Programme (PEA-Jeunes) – Extension of the time limit for signature of the amendment to the financing agreement (EB 2019/127/R.48)**

8. The Executive Board approved for the Republic of Cameroon an extension of three months – to 16 December 2019 – of the time limit for signature of the amendment to the original financing agreement for the provision of additional financing to PEA-Jeunes.

### **Liberia: President's report: Smallholder Agriculture Transformation and Agribusiness Revitalization Project (EB 2019/127/R.32)**

9. The Executive Board approved a loan of US\$16.79 million on highly concessional terms and a Debt Sustainability Framework grant of US\$6.21 million to the Republic of Liberia for the Smallholder Agriculture Transformation and Agribusiness Revitalization Project. The project aims to increase the productivity and commercial engagement of smallholder farmers while proactively addressing issues related to gender, youth, nutrition, environment and climate change.

The Executive Board expressed its support for the project, acknowledging the importance of building partnerships in a fragile situation like that in Liberia. The Board highlighted the large unmet demand for services and investment in Liberia's rural sector and expressed its agreement with the project's focus, which could meet this demand.

### **Niger: President's report: Project to Strengthen Resilience of Rural Communities to Food and Nutrition Insecurity (EB 2019/127/R.33 + Corr.1)**

10. The Executive Board approved a loan on highly concessional terms of EUR 56.7 million and a Debt Sustainability Framework grant of EUR 21 million to the Republic of the Niger for the Project to Strengthen Resilience of Rural Communities to Food and Nutrition Insecurity. The project focuses on improving agricultural production and productivity, gender transformation, nutrition and youth entrepreneurship.
11. The Executive Board acknowledged the project's relevance and commended IFAD for a well-written and articulated project design document, which addresses Niger's major rural development challenges. The Board also encouraged the strong collaboration among the Rome-based agencies present in Niger in the project's

implementation. In addition, the Board recognized IFAD's significant efforts to mobilize cofinancing and private sector involvement in this project.

**Senegal: President's report: Rural Youth Agripreneur Support Project (Agrijeunes Tekki Ndawñi)(EB 2019/127/R.34 + Add.1 + Sup.1)**

12. The Executive Board approved a loan of EUR 45.86 million on highly concessional terms to the Republic of Senegal for the Rural Youth Agripreneur Support Project. Comments were received from France and answered through correspondence. During the Board session, Cameroon, Canada, Italy and Spain expressed their support for the project. Clarifications were provided on issues of land access, the sustainability of financial services and synergies among partners. Building on experience gained in several IFAD projects in Africa focused on apprenticeship, credit and technical support, the project will support young people in establishing diverse agro-enterprises, thereby boosting their families' incomes.