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Investing in rural people

Draft Programme of Events for the Forty-third 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 Mc Grenra
Chief
Institutional Governance and
Member Relations
Tel.: +39 06 5459 2374
e-mail: gb@ifad.org

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For: Information

Draft Programme of Events for the Forty-third Session of the Governing Council

The Executive Board is invited to take note of the draft programme of events for the forty-third session of the Governing Council contained in this document.

1. The forty-third session of the Governing Council (GC43) will be held on Tuesday, 11 February and Wednesday, 12 February 2020 at the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) headquarters in Rome. FAO hosted the forty-second session of the Governing Council at its headquarters in 2019, underscoring its close ties with IFAD and, more generally, symbolizing the joint work of the Rome-based agencies (RBAs) to promote food security throughout the world. The hospitality of FAO will be once again instrumental in creating a conducive environment for discussions among the Governors of the Fund.
2. The forty-third session takes place within the 10-year time frame for achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The SDG global architecture is becoming increasingly complex. This session therefore provides an opportunity for IFAD to clearly demonstrate the contribution it is able to make towards the achievement of the SDGs, particularly SDG2, and position itself as a leader in international development finance in an increasingly competitive and fragmented ODA landscape. After years of progress, food insecurity is growing again for the second year running, and the number of chronically food-insecure people has risen to over 821 million. It is imperative to change this trajectory and have SDG2 "back on track". In a context of scarce resources and limited programmatic approaches, concrete and substantial actions are needed on all fronts.
3. In light of the 2030 deadline, GC43 will focus on the overarching theme "Investing in sustainable food systems to end hunger by 2030". The theme highlights how IFAD's role and experience in supporting sustainable, inclusive, nutritious and efficient food systems uniquely place it in a position to contribute to SDG2. IFAD 2.0 will be the strategy underpinning IFAD's transformation into an institution that contributes meaningfully to ending hunger by 2030.
4. The programme of events will include an inaugural session, interactive dialogue with the Governors, and the consideration of business items.
5. The conversations with Governors are designed to encourage lively discussion around the Governing Council theme, which will be the strategic thread connecting the sessions and events.
6. Two interactive sessions will be held over the two-day programme. The first – Rural development as a means of addressing conflict, promoting peace and building smallholders' resilience to climate shocks – will showcase the importance of rural development for long-term sustainable peace and prosperity, and demonstrate the ways in which the RBAs work together to build prosperous societies by mitigating and responding to climate shocks. The session will also serve to illustrate the flexibility of IFAD's new financial model to adapt to different contexts and situations; highlight its work with other United Nations partners; and tie in with the 2019 edition of the State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World (SOFI Report). The second session – Disability, food security and rural development: How can innovation and technology help? – will approach disability from three perspectives, by looking at how persons with disabilities are more likely to be affected by poverty and food insecurity; how rural development projects can be designed to include persons with disabilities and address the challenges they face, and how innovative agricultural solutions that increase the productive and entrepreneurial capacities of

farmers with disabilities make sound economic sense and are good for rural development.

7. In an IFAD Talk to be held on the first day, Mr Rodger Voorhies, President of the Global Growth & Opportunity Division, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, will describe the foundation's efforts to alleviate hunger and poverty for millions of farming families in sub-Saharan Africa and south Asia. It does so by increasing agricultural productivity in a sustainable way, making high-quality digital financial services widely accessible to people living in the poorest parts of the world, and promoting sustainable approaches to gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls.
8. The programme will also provide opportunities for bilateral networking. Lunches open to all delegates will be held on both days 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.
9. Following the positive experience last year of removing general statements from the agenda, Member States will once again be invited to provide their statements – preferably relating to the overarching theme – prior to the session in either written or audiovisual form. 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 both in video and in text format.
10. Finally, the seventh global meeting of the Farmers' Forum will be held at IFAD, before the Governing Council session. Established in 2006, the Farmers' Forum is a bottom-up process of consultation and dialogue between small farmers' and rural producers' organizations, IFAD and governments. The closing session of the forum, to be held on Monday, 10 February 2020, will be open to Governors and Executive Board representatives.
11. 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.
12. The first session of the Consultation on the Twelfth Replenishment of IFAD's Resources will take place on Thursday, 13 and Friday, 14 February 2020. Member States participating in the Consultation, as decided during the deliberations of the Governing Council, will receive the relevant information in due course.

Investing in sustainable food systems to end hunger by 2030

Forty-third session of the Governing Council Draft programme of events

Tuesday, 11 February 2020

9.30 Opening and inaugural session

Welcoming statement by the outgoing Chairperson of the Governing Council

Adoption of the agenda

Election of the Governing Council Bureau

9.45 Inaugural ceremony

Welcoming statement by the Chairperson of the Governing Council

Welcoming statement by Mr Gilbert F. Hounbo, President of IFAD

Keynote speakers from Lists A, B and C

Statement by Mr Gilbert F. Hounbo, President of IFAD

11.00 Business items to be considered:

Agenda item 5: Update on conversations with IFAD's Governors at the forty-second session of the Governing Council

Under this item, Management will provide a short update on the conversations held with Governors on three key topics during the 2019 session: (i) Future of IFAD - Financial architecture; (ii) Future of IFAD - Engagement with the private sector; and (iii) Repositioning of the United Nations development system and its implications for IFAD.

11.30 Overarching theme: Investing in sustainable food systems to end hunger by 2030: A conversation with IFAD's Governors

Despite producing the bulk of the world's food, smallholder farmers are among the most susceptible to food insecurity and malnourishment. IFAD is unique in its mission to invest in these poor, small-scale food producers, and in women, young people and other vulnerable groups living in rural areas: those most at risk of being left behind. Equally, IFAD has unrivalled experience in supporting sustainable, inclusive, nutritious and efficient food systems. IFAD 2.0 is a logical next step that builds off this experience and the concrete steps that have already been taken. It will be the strategy underpinning IFAD's transformation into an institution that can contribute more meaningfully to ending hunger by 2030.

13.30 Lunch in honour of special guests
(by invitation)

In parallel:

Buffet lunch for all delegates

15.00 Business items for approval (continued)

Agenda item 6: Report on the Eleventh Replenishment of IFAD's Resources; and agenda item 7: Establishment of the Consultation on the Twelfth Replenishment of IFAD's Resources

The role of IFAD12 in the achievement of the SDGs: A conversation with IFAD's Governors

The IFAD12 Consultation is an important moment – 10 years away from 2030 – for Member States to commit to investing in IFAD's capacity and unique role within the global food security architecture so that it can more than double its impact on poverty and hunger by 2030. This will entail leveraging private sector investment, targeting flawed food systems, increasing social inclusion through an emphasis on gender, youth and climate change adaptation. IFAD is already one of the largest multilateral financiers of rural and agricultural development, with proven ability to deliver impact and value for money. The foundation for IFAD's contribution to the SDGs is a sound financial architecture that allows for optimal use of donors' core contributions and addresses the challenges posed by the Debt Sustainability Framework, taking on board existing and emerging risks. The new financial architecture will put IFAD on the long-term stable footing it needs to maximize its contribution to the SDGs.

17.30 IFAD talk**18.30 Synthesis of deliberations of the Farmers' Forum****18.40 Reception for all delegates****Wednesday, 12 February 2020****9.30 Business items for approval (continued)**

Agenda item 8: Consolidated financial statements of IFAD for 2018; and agenda item 9: IFAD's 2020 results-based programme of work and regular and capital budgets, the Independent Office of Evaluation of IFAD's results-based work programme and budget for 2020 and indicative plan for 2021-2022, and the HIPC and PBAS progress reports

Trends in development financing: Questions and new challenges - A conversation with IFAD's Governors

At a time when traditional ODA finance continues to decline and fiscal spending in many countries is constrained, a shift to new financial and operational strategies is needed. A private sector window will be a key component in increasing the reach and impact of IFAD's operations by crowding in private sector investments. It will also enable the Fund to expand the range and flexibility of the tools it offers clients to respond to the specific challenges that they face. These changes will require the buy-in and support of Member States.

11.30 Interactive session 1

Rural development as a means of addressing conflict, promoting peace and building smallholders' resilience to climate shocks

At times Member States have discouraged IFAD from working in areas that from their perspective are outside its mandate. The reality is that many IFAD projects operate in areas affected by conflict. These projects have an impact by addressing underlying conditions that give rise to conflict, helping communities and individuals achieve long-term peace and prosperity. The flexibility of IFAD's new financial model will enhance its ability to adapt to these particularly challenging situations. IFAD's impact in conflict-affected areas is also being strengthened through its work with

the other RBAs. Member States see closer RBA collaboration and a more integrated United Nations system as a high-priority area of action, and domestic narratives are increasingly prioritizing long-term development solutions as alternatives to humanitarian assistance. To strengthen the humanitarian-development-peace nexus, IFAD and its sister RBAs are significantly stepping up their collaboration and leveraging their comparative advantages to help create together the conditions for prosperous resilient societies and long-term peace.

13.00 **Buffet lunch for all delegates**

14.30 **Special event**

Creating jobs for rural youth: Opportunities in agribusiness

Generating rural employment will be the defining challenge of this era alongside climate change. Globally, there are over 1.2 billion young people between the ages of 15 and 24, with the majority living in rural areas of low- and middle-income countries and, according to the ILO, around 70 million of them are unemployed. IFAD's comparative advantage lies in empowering rural young women and men through jobs and entrepreneurship opportunities. IFAD has long recognized the value of agribusiness as a pathway to self-employment and jobs across the different segments of value chain, from farm production to services such as storage, transport, processing, and marketing. Its Rural Youth Action Plan is a cross-sectoral approach to facilitate youth engagement in agribusiness by addressing the need for critical productive, services and relevant skills (from financial literacy to vocational training). A key cross-cutting factor in the success of the plan will be to open up access to affordable energy and new technologies. Such opportunities can stimulate inventiveness and creativity among youth, make traditional rural occupations more appealing and create new job prospects for them.

16.00 **Interactive session 2**

Disability, food security and rural development: How can innovation and technology help?

IFAD has committed to the implementation of the recently approved United Nations Disability Inclusion Strategy to improve performance on disability inclusion. Many IFAD projects already work with persons with disabilities but the approach has not been systematic. A recent study by IFAD provides clear evidence that persons with disabilities living in poor rural areas are economically active and have the potential to generate income and take a productive pathway out of poverty. The task for IFAD is to explore how rural development projects can be designed to include them and address the challenges they face. Given IFAD's role in promoting innovation in agriculture as a way to increase food security and promote rural development, it is ideally placed to identify innovative agricultural solutions that can increase the productive and entrepreneurial capacities of farmers with disabilities and help lift them out of poverty and food insecurity.

17.30 **Business items for approval and information (continued)**

Agenda item 10: Establishment of the Emoluments Committee; and agenda item 11: Proposal for an automated voting system

17.45 **Concluding remarks by the President of IFAD**

17.50 **Closing statement by the Chairperson**

18.00 **Closure of the session**
