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Results of the Executive Board Vote by Correspondence: Proposal on the arrangements regarding the 129th session of the Executive Board

Note to Executive Board representatives

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Executive Board — 129th Session
Rome, 20-22 April 2020

For: Information

Results of the Executive Board Vote by Correspondence: Proposal on the arrangements regarding the 129th session of the Executive Board

1. In light of the evolving situation relative to the Covid-19 pandemic, the guidelines issued by the World Health Organization and decrees issued by the Italian authorities, IFAD Management analysed options for holding governing body meetings virtually to ensure business continuity and timely organization of meetings.
2. In a communication issued on 27 March 2020, Management proposed that the 129th session be conducted by virtual means and in English only, should the current restrictive measures to contain Covid-19 continue to be in force when the session was scheduled to take place.
3. In accordance with rule 3 and rule 27 of the Rules of Procedure of the Executive Board¹, the Executive Board was invited to:
 - Authorize that the 129th session of the Executive Board be held virtually and in English only; and
 - Approve the proposed special procedures for the conduct of the virtual 129th session of the Executive Board through a vote by correspondence.
4. The closing date for replies from representatives was set at midnight (Rome time), Friday, 3 April 2020.
5. Under rule 23 of the Rules of Procedure of the Executive Board, a vote is considered valid if replies are received from members having at least two thirds (3,697.952) of the total number of votes in the Executive Board (5,546.927). Under rule 19.1, all decisions of the Board are to be taken by a majority of three fifths of the votes cast, provided that such majority consists of more than one half of the total votes in the Executive Board. Rule 19.3 specifies that "votes cast" shall mean affirmative and negative votes.
6. As at the close of voting, the outcome of the vote was as follows:
7. Replies constituting 4902.674 votes (approximately 88.6 per cent of the total votes available) were received from Executive Board members or their alternates by the deadline. Thus the requirement of rule 23 was met.
8. The outcome of the votes was as follows: 4,695.966 votes were cast, representing 84.9 per cent of total votes available, and 206.708 votes were recorded as abstentions. All the votes cast were in favour of the proposal, meeting the majority required by rule 19.
9. As such, the Executive Board authorized that the 129th session be held virtually and in English only; and approved the attached special procedures for the conduct of the session.

¹ These rules relate to the place of sessions, and to the languages of the Board.

27 March 2020

Approval through vote by correspondence of the proposal to hold the 129th session of the Executive Board virtually and in English only

Distinguished Executive Board Representatives,

In light of the evolving situation relative to the Covid-19 pandemic, the guidelines issued by the World Health Organization and decrees issued by the Italian authorities, IFAD is taking the necessary precautions and making arrangements to ensure business continuity, including with respect to the conduct of its governing body meetings.

In this regard, Management has analysed the options available should it prove necessary to hold the upcoming April session of the Executive Board virtually. Unfortunately, it has been ascertained that the provision of interpretation services in the four official languages of the Fund will not be possible by virtual means.

Rule 3 of the Rules of Procedure of the Executive Board foresees that "All sessions of the Board shall be held at the seat of the Fund, except for sessions held in conjunction with a session of the Governing Council held elsewhere."

Rule 27 of the Rules of Procedure of the Executive Board states that: "Arabic, English, French and Spanish shall be the languages of the Board. The Board may, from time to time, consider and prescribe, with a view to its most effective operation, guidelines for the interpretation of speeches and for the translation of proposals, decisions and documents."

Should the current restrictive measures to contain Covid-19 continue to be in force when the Executive Board is scheduled to take place, it is proposed that the session be conducted by virtual means and in English only. Documentation scheduled for consideration would still be provided in the four official languages of the Fund. Representatives would be welcome to provide comments in advance of the session in any of the four official languages.

To ensure business continuity and timely organization of the session, the Executive Board is invited to:

- Authorize that the 129th session of the Executive Board be held virtually and in English only; and
- Approve the attached special procedures for the conduct of the virtual 129th session of the Executive Board through a vote by correspondence, in accordance with rule 23 of the [Rules of Procedure of the Executive Board](#).

Executive Board Representatives of the
International Fund for Agricultural
Development and respective recipients
of copies for information

The Secretariat, in consultation with List Convenors, would subsequently issue a revised agenda for the session.

Executive Board representatives are invited to cast the votes of the members they represent in favour of, against, or to abstain with respect to each of these proposals. A written reply, specifying the vote cast ("yes", "no" or "abstain") should be submitted by midnight (Rome time), Friday, 3 April 2020.

In accordance with rule 23 of the Rules of Procedure of the Executive Board, representatives are kindly reminded that:

- (a) Members and alternate members may cast a "yes", "no" or "abstain" vote by submitting a written reply by fax (+39 06 5459 3212) and/or e-mail (gb@ifad.org);
- (b) The absence of a written reply by the stipulated deadline will not indicate abstention but rather the absence of a member in the voting procedure; and
- (c) In the event of no reply from a member, the vote of the alternate member shall prevail.

The Executive Board will be informed of the result of this vote by correspondence in a timely manner.

Accept, Distinguished Executive Board Representatives, the assurance of my highest consideration.



Luis Jiménez-McInnis
Secretary of IFAD

Special procedures for the 129th session of the Executive Board

In light of the decrees issued by the Italian authorities aimed at containing the spread of Covid-19 through restrictive measures currently effective until 3 April 2020, and in order to enable IFAD to deliver on its objective as stated in the Agreement Establishing IFAD, special procedures are foreseen for the virtual conduct of the 129th session of the Executive Board.

The Rules of Procedure of the Executive Board shall continue to apply insofar as they do not contradict said special procedures as set forth below.

1. Attendance at Meetings

- 1.1. Members and alternates may participate in the 129th session of the Executive Board by means of teleconferencing or any other electronic means that enable them to listen to the proceedings and address the meeting from a remote location.
- 1.2. Members and alternates shall be represented by a single representative with the right to speak. Additional representatives of members and alternates may attend the meeting as silent observers. The President shall designate a restricted number of key staff to ensure the efficient and effective running of the meeting. During the meeting, should connectivity issues arise, members and alternates may be requested to restrict participation to a single representative only.
- 1.3. Representatives of cooperating international organizations and institutions, observers from Member States, and other individuals or entities shall not be invited to the virtual 129th session of the Executive Board.
- 1.4. Representatives shall be responsible for the quality of their connection to the virtual meeting. Should a representative lose connectivity, deliberations shall continue and decisions made as appropriate, unless the quorum is lost due to the loss of connection.
- 1.5. Representatives may wish to share their position on agenda items with Management or fellow Executive Board representatives in advance of the session to ensure that said positions are duly recorded in the minutes of the virtual meeting.

2. Quorum

- 2.1. The quorum for any meeting of the Executive Board shall be constituted by the virtual presence of representatives of members or alternates exercising two-thirds of the total number of votes in the Executive Board.
- 2.2. In the event that the quorum is lost due to connectivity issues being experienced by a number of representatives, the meeting shall be suspended until such time as a quorum has been re-established.

3. Languages of the Executive Board

- 3.1. The virtual session of the 129th Executive Board shall be conducted in English only. No interpretation shall be provided.
- 3.2. Proposals, decisions and documents for consideration by the Board shall be provided in the four official languages of the Fund: Arabic, English, French and Spanish.