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Draft Programme of the Forty-fourth Session of the Governing Council

Note to Executive Board representatives

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Executive Board — 131st Session
Rome, 7-9 December 2020

For: Information

Draft Programme of the Forty-fourth Session of the Governing Council

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

1. The forty-fourth session of the Governing Council (GC44) will be held on Wednesday, 17 February and Thursday, 18 February 2021. Bearing in mind restrictions related to the COVID-19 pandemic and in line with the revised Rules of Procedure of the Governing Council, the session will be conducted virtually.¹
2. The forty-fourth session takes place at a challenging time. The COVID-19 pandemic and looming economic and food crises threaten to devastate the lives of millions of the world's poorest and most vulnerable people, reverse decades of development gains and halt progress towards the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Investing in rural communities has never been more urgent. The session will provide an opportunity to reflect on the global impact of COVID-19 and how to create the conditions for rural poor women, men and young people, indigenous peoples and persons with disabilities to build resilient and sustainable livelihoods and look forward to an equitable and prosperous future. The session will also provide IFAD with an opportunity to demonstrate how essential rural development is to effective and sustained global recovery.
3. The overarching theme of the session will be "Rural development: a prerequisite for global resilience". Discussions under this theme will explore a number of interlinked areas, such as fostering green, low-carbon agriculture; building safe and healthy food systems; creating more inclusive value chains; shaping a digital rural world through innovation and technology; ensuring productive social protection measures; and leveraging private sector partnerships to maximize impact.
4. The virtual session will not exceed four hours on either of the two scheduled days, and will be organized so as to facilitate the participation of Governors from all time zones. It will include an inaugural session, an "IFAD Talk" and abundant opportunities for Governors to engage and interact. Among the business items scheduled for discussion are the appointment of the President of IFAD and the approval of the Report of the Consultation on the Twelfth Replenishment of IFAD's Resources (IFAD12 Report). Participants will also hear from several high-level speakers and have the possibility to engage in a range of interesting virtual side events.
5. A dynamic website is being developed specifically for the session to provide additional opportunities for virtual networking and interactive features of interest to Governors and the public. Following the positive experience of recent years, Member States will once again be invited to provide their statements – preferably relating to the overarching theme – before the session in either written or audiovisual form. The statements will be made available on the IFAD website both in video and in text format.
6. On Tuesday, 16 February 2021 – the day before the Governing Council session – the reconvened fourth session of the Consultation on the Twelfth Replenishment of IFAD's Resources will take place, as agreed to by Consultation members. Member

¹ Rule 4 Place of Sessions – "[...] Governing Council sessions may be held by virtual means when the Chairperson, after consultation with the other members of the Bureau and the President, determines that holding a physical, in-presence session is not feasible or appropriate for all representatives. In such instances, Members, cooperating international organizations and institutions, and representatives of other entities as defined in Rule 43, may participate in the session by means of teleconference, videoconferencing or other electronic means. [...]"

States participating in the Consultation will receive the relevant information in due course.

7. Finally, also preceding the Governing Council session, the Fifth Global Meeting of the Indigenous Peoples' Forum at IFAD will be held virtually. The Forum is a vibrant platform for meaningful dialogue where indigenous peoples' representatives voice their concerns, and convey their requests and recommendations on how to improve the partnership with IFAD and the effectiveness of IFAD's engagement with indigenous peoples. The fifth global meeting will have as a theme "The value of indigenous food systems: Resilience in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic". The closing session of the Forum, to be held on Monday, 15 February 2021, will be open to Governors and Executive Board representatives.
8. The attached draft programme provides a preliminary overview of the Governing Council session. A timetable will be issued in due course taking into account the virtual format of the session, once the various sections have been finalized and confirmation of attendance from invitees has been received.

I. Rural development: a prerequisite for global resilience

Forty-fourth session of the Governing Council (virtual session), 17-18 February 2021

Draft programme

DAY ONE:

Wednesday, 17 February 2021

Opening and inaugural session

Welcoming statement by the Chairperson of the Governing Council

Adoption of the agenda

Inaugural ceremony

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

Keynote speakers from Lists A, B and C

Statement by Mr Gilbert F. Hounou, President of IFAD

Business items for approval:

- Report of the Emoluments Committee
- Proposal for an automated voting system at IFAD

Break

IFAD Talk

Synthesis of deliberations of the Indigenous Peoples' Forum

Break

Appointment of the President – *private meeting (closed session) for those casting votes*

DAY TWO:

Thursday, 18 February 2021

Event on IFAD12

Business items for approval and for information:

- Twelfth Replenishment of IFAD's Resources

Break

Event/interactive session on overarching theme:

Rural development: a prerequisite for global resilience

Business items for approval and for information:

- Amendments to IFAD's basic legal texts
- Consolidated financial statements of IFAD for 2019
- IFAD's 2021 results-based programme of work and regular and capital budgets, the IOE results-based work programme and budget for 2021 and indicative plan for 2022-2023, and the HIPC and PBAS progress reports
- Election of members and alternate members of the Executive Board

Concluding remarks by the President of IFAD

Closing statement by the Chairperson

Closure of the session