

Document:	EB 2021/134/R.60
Agenda	25(a)
Date:	30 November 2021
Distribution:	Public
Original:	English

E



Report of the Proceedings of the Follow-up to the Sixth Executive Board Retreat

Informal Meeting with Executive Board Representatives: Outcomes of and Follow-up to the United Nations Food Systems Summit

Note to Executive Board representatives

Focal points:

Technical questions:

Luis Jiménez-McInnis
Secretary of IFAD
Tel.: +39 06 5459 2254
e-mail: l.jimenez-mcinnis@ifad.org

Dispatch of documentation:

Deirdre Mc Grenra
Chief
Institutional Governance and
Member Relations
Tel.: +39 06 5459 2374
e-mail: gb@ifad.org

Executive Board — 134th Session
Rome, 13-16 December 2021

For: Information

Contents

I. Introduction	1
A. From words to action – walking the walk	1
B. Outcomes of the United Nations Food Systems Summit – Impact on IFAD and IFAD’s impact	1
C. IFAD’s engagement in COP26 and upcoming global policy processes	2
D. Next steps/wrap-up and closing remarks	3

Annexes

- I. Provisional programme
- II. Delegations at the Follow-up to the Sixth Executive Board Retreat: Informal meeting with Executive Board representatives on the outcomes of and follow up to the United Nations Food Systems Summit

I. Introduction

1. A follow-up session on the sixth annual Executive Board retreat was held on 8 October at Officine Farneto in Rome. The purpose of the session was to enable Executive Board representatives and Senior Management to discuss the outcomes of the United Nations Food Systems Summit (FSS) and IFAD's role in transforming its outcomes into action, bearing in mind the upcoming 26th Conference of Parties of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP26) and the Finance in Common Summit (FiCS). The session was designed to: (i) allow for reflection on these global events, their impact on IFAD's work and how IFAD can maximize its contribution; (ii) create a space for informal dialogue and exchange; and (iii) continue building trust and cultivate a productive working relationship among Board representatives and Senior Management.
2. The moderator of the session was Ronald Hartman, Director, Global Engagement, Partnership and Resource Mobilization Division. The session was held in hybrid format.

A. From words to action – walking the walk

Introduction by the President

3. The President opened the retreat by thanking Board members for their attendance. Setting the stage for the discussions, he noted that the main purpose of the session was to discuss the FSS follow-up and IFAD's active engagement in COP26 as part of the general global effort.
4. While recognizing the uncertainties remaining around the FSS, the President called for an open exchange on the topic, focused on IFAD's implementation on the ground. The President also referred to the 2022 budget submission to be tabled at the December Board session for approval and informed members that they would have the opportunity to further discuss the new climate facility during the session. In that context, additional information would be provided to address some of the issues raised by members.

B. Outcomes of the United Nations Food Systems Summit – Impact on IFAD and IFAD's impact

Presentation

5. The FSS had three main outcomes: (i) the Secretary-General's Statement of Action; (ii) commitments from Heads of State; and (iii) the establishment of a follow-up mechanism led by the Rome-based agencies (RBAs). IFAD's focus throughout the process had been on ensuring that the voices of the rural poor were part of the discussions, supporting national dialogues and independent dialogues, and launching the Rural Development Report 2021, which contained key policy messages on how to operationalize IFAD's food systems approach. It was noted that moving forward, IFAD would co-lead two coalitions; Decent Work and Living Income (DWLI) and Public Development Banks (PDBs). It would also provide technical support to a number of other coalitions important to IFAD's mission.
6. In terms of implementation of FSS outcomes, IFAD's focus would be on supporting countries' national pathways through the programme of loans and grants (PoLG), using country strategic opportunities programmes (COSOPs) as the main entry point for identifying synergies and closely coordinating with governments to respond to their needs. IFAD would also seek to leverage new financing instruments such as its enhanced Adaptation for Smallholder Agriculture Programme (ASAP+) and its non-sovereign operations, and to prioritize non-lending support, in particular policy engagement, to create the conditions for sustainable results. Building partnerships at the community, subnational and national levels, as well as with United Nations agencies, other RBAs and actors in the financial system was key to drawing in diversified sources of finance to support food systems and deliver impact.

7. Members were asked to consider: (i) the most important opportunities for IFAD to influence post-Summit outcomes; (ii) what Board members could do to maximize the effectiveness of the United Nations system in translating global outcomes into in-country support and interventions; (iii) in what way the Summit's outcomes should influence the PoLG, programme of work and COSOPs.

Discussion

8. Member States thanked Management for the comprehensive presentation on IFAD's contribution to the FSS, its role in the follow-up mechanism and support to Member States in the implementation of their national pathways.
9. As a starting point for the discussions, the question of how the FSS changed the way in which IFAD worked on the ground was raised. Member States called on IFAD to remain focused on its comparative advantage, ensure alignment with national priorities and leverage successful existing processes. In this regard, members highlighted the need to ensure that COSOPs were adapted to support national pathways and were based on an assessment of needs and capacities. The outcomes of the FSS should not distract IFAD from its country programmes but rather serve as a catalyst to improve them. It was noted that by bringing IFAD closer to the field, Decentralization 2.0 would be key in facilitating dialogue with national governments and local partners on policies, COSOPs and project design.
10. The role of partnerships was also emphasized by members, in particular RBA coordination in the context of the implementation of the ongoing United Nations reform and in close collaboration with United Nations Country Teams and resident coordinators. In partnership with the other RBAs, IFAD would support the integration of the national pathways and the broader outcomes of the FSS with the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework. With reference to the FSS follow-up mechanism, Member States emphasized the need to leverage existing structures (i.e. the Committee on World Food Security and High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development) and the RBAs' respective comparative advantages. The format of this mechanism would need to be worked out in due course.
11. IFAD's co-leadership of the DWLI and PDB coalitions, and its recognized role in the area of finance as a means of implementation were welcomed and supported by members. The question of financing to support the implementation of these initiatives was raised. Management indicated that both coalitions were built on work already under way by the Fund, and that IFAD would engage with multiple stakeholders to support the implementation. The upcoming FiCS was highlighted as a key milestone for IFAD's engagement with PDBs.

C. IFAD's engagement in COP26 and upcoming global policy processes

Presentation

12. Management gave a brief presentation on the global state of climate change financing, IFAD's vision and ambition in combating climate change, and its planned engagement at COP26. After highlighting the leadership role that IFAD aspires to in terms of mobilizing and programming climate adaptation finance, and aligning operations with the Paris Agreement, Management outlined the strategic opportunity that IFAD's pavilion at COP26 presented to galvanize efforts to scale up climate adaptation finance. Members supported this ambition. Members were then invited to support IFAD by participating in events and other activities at COP26 that would help to raise IFAD's visibility and profile.
13. Members were asked to consider: (i) how Board members could support and strengthen IFAD's engagement at COP26 and other global events; (ii) in the lead-up to COP26, how IFAD could further build international momentum, in particular to engage the private sector and focus attention on the role of finance; and (iii) post-COP26, how IFAD could maintain momentum.

Discussion

14. The discussions were initiated by the representative of the United Kingdom. Speaking from the perspective of representative of the co-host of COP26 in Glasgow, she gave an overview of the intended outcomes and issues on which the incoming COP Presidency wanted to focus, and where it was felt that IFAD could make the most impact within its mandate to support the poorest and most vulnerable rural people.
15. Members were supportive of IFAD's ambition in the area of adaptation. Several stated that they saw this as IFAD's comparative advantage and that a core part of IFAD's mandate should be to help poor rural communities combat the impact of climate change. It was noted that strengthening IFAD's technical and financial capacity to realize this ambition was critical, as was engaging with key partners such as the RBAs, the Green Climate Fund and the Global Environment Facility.
16. In terms of engagement at COP26, Members were unanimous in their opinion that IFAD should be visible in summits of this type, and that effective communications around IFAD's work, in particular focusing on its PoLG and ASAP+, were needed at venues such as COP26. There was a discussion around what members could do at and around COP26 to support IFAD. It was agreed that the IFAD COP26 team would keep Member State delegations fully informed of IFAD's planned activities at COP26.

D. Next steps/wrap-up and closing remarks

17. Management's next steps, as per the discussions, would be as follows:
 - (i) Keep Member States informed of progress made in implementing the FSS outcomes on the ground and in developing the FSS follow-up structure to be housed at the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations;
 - (ii) Provide Member States with further information on IFAD's planned activities at COP26 to galvanize support; and
 - (iii) Produce tailored communications on IFAD's comparative advantage with a focus on IFAD's work on climate and engage bilaterally with Member States on ASAP+ to enhance resource mobilization.



Follow up to the Sixth Executive Board Retreat:

Informal meeting with Executive Board representatives

Outcomes of and follow up to the United Nations Food Systems Summit

8 October 2021

Purpose: To discuss the outcomes of the United Nations Food Systems Summit and IFAD's role in transforming outcomes into action, bearing in mind the upcoming UN Climate Change Conference (COP26) and the Finance in Common Summit (FiCS). Representatives on the IFAD Executive Board and Senior Management will come together to:

- Reflect on the outcomes of the Food Systems Summit and discuss IFAD's support for post summit follow up;
- Reflect on IFAD's upcoming global engagement opportunities and opportunities for partnership with Member States at these global events;
- Create a space for informal dialogue and exchanges; and
- Continue to build trust across the Lists and cultivate a productive working relationship among Board representatives and Senior Management.

Provisional programme

Friday, 8 October 2021

11.30-13.00 Light lunch

13.00-13.15 **From words to action – walking the walk**

Introduction by the President

13.15-14.45 **Outcomes of the UN Food Systems Summit – impact on IFAD and IFAD's impact**

Presentation by the Associate Vice-President, PMD

- General debate
- What are the most important opportunities for IFAD to influence post-Summit outcomes?
- What can Board members do to maximize the effectiveness of the United Nations system in translating global outcomes into in-country support and interventions?
- In what way should the Summit's outcomes influence IFAD's programme of loans and grants, programme of work and country strategic opportunities programmes?



14.45-15.00	Coffee break
15.00 – 17.15	<p>IFAD's engagement in COP26 and upcoming global policy processes</p> <p>Presentation by Associate Vice-President, SKD</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General debate • How can Board members support and strengthen IFAD's engagement at the 26th United Nations Climate Change Conference of the Parties (COP26) and other global events? • In the lead-up to COP26, how can IFAD further build international momentum, in particular to engage the private sector and focus attention on the role of finance?
17.15-17.30	Wrap-up and closing remarks
17.30	Light aperitif



**Delegations at the Follow-up to
the Sixth Executive Board Retreat:
Informal meeting with Executive
Board representatives on the
outcomes of and follow up to the
United Nations Food Systems
Summit**



BOARD COUNTRIES

ALGERIA

Amine MEDJKANE
Chargé au Multilateral au dossier FIDA
Représentant permanent suppléant
de la République algérienne
démocratique et populaire auprès
des organisations spécialisées
des Nations Unies
Rome

ANGOLA

Carlos Alberto AMARAL
Ministre Conseiller
Représentant permanent adjoint
de la République d'Angola
auprès du FIDA
Rome

ARGENTINA

Carlos Bernardo CHERNIAK
Embajador
Representante Permanente
de la República Argentina ante
la FAO, el FIDA y el PMA
Roma

AUSTRIA

Veronika BAUMGARTNER-PUTZ
Senior Advisor
International Financial Institutions
Federal Ministry of Finance
of the Republic of Austria
Vienna

**BANGLADESH**

Manash MITRA
Economic Counsellor
Alternate Permanent Representative
of the People's Republic of
Bangladesh to IFAD
Rome

BELGIUM

Virginie KNECHT
Attaché
Représentation permanente de la Belgique
auprès des organisations
spécialisées des Nations Unies à Rome
Rome

BRAZIL

Rodrigo ESTRELA DE CARVALHO
Counsellor
Alternate Permanent Representative
of the Federative Republic of Brazil
to IFAD
Rome

CANADA

Gloria WISEMAN
Counsellor
Deputy Permanent Representative
of Canada to the United Nations
Food and Agriculture Agencies
in Rome
Rome

Alexandra RICARD-GUAY
Senior Program Officer
Permanent Mission of Canada
to the United Nations Food and
Agriculture Agencies
Rome

**CHINA**

MEI Hongyong
Counsellor
Deputy Permanent Representative
of the People's Republic
of China to IFAD
Rome

DENMARK

Jette MICHELSEN
Minister Counsellor
Deputy Permanent Representative
of the Kingdom of Denmark to IFAD
Rome

FRANCE

Sylvain FOURNEL
Conseiller
Représentant permanent adjoint
de la République française
auprès de l'OAA, PAM et FIDA
Rome

GERMANY

Ronald MEYER
Minister
Alternate Permanent Representative of
the Federal Republic of Germany to the
International Organizations in Rome
Rome

Ulrich SEIDENBERGER
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of the
Federal Republic of Germany to the
International Organizations
Rome

**INDIA**

Manisha SINHA
Joint Secretary (OMI)
Department of Economic Affairs
Ministry of Finance of
the Republic of India
New Delhi

INDONESIA

Caka Alverdi AWAL
Counsellor
Alternate Permanent Representative
of the Republic of Indonesia
to IFAD
Rome

IRELAND

Michelle WINTHROP
Director, Policy Unit
Development Cooperation and
Africa Division
Dublin

Niall CREMEN
Development Specialist
Development Cooperation Division (Irish Aid)
Department of Foreign Affairs
Dublin

ITALY

Gian Paolo RUGGIERO
Director
International Financial Relations
Ministry of Economy and Finance
of the Italian Republic
Rome



Giacomo COSMI
Attaché
Alternate Permanent Representative
of the Italian Republic to IFAD
Rome

JAPAN

KURAYA Yoshihiro
Minister Counsellor
Deputy Permanent Representative
of Japan to the United Nations Food
and Agriculture Agencies
Rome

LUXEMBOURG

Marie-Lise STOLL
Conseillère
Représentante Permanente adjointe
du Grand-Duché du Luxembourg auprès de la
FAO, du PAM et du FIDA
Rome

Rebecca ENTRINGER
Conseillère
Représentante Permanente suppléant
du Grand-Duché du Luxembourg auprès de la
FAO, du PAM et du FIDA
Ambassade du Grand-Duché
de Luxembourg
Rome

MEXICO

Miguel Jorge GARCÍA WINDER
Embajador
Representante Permanente
de los Estados Unidos Mexicanos
ante el FIDA
Roma



Sandra Paola RAMÍREZ VALENZUELA
Primera Secretaria
Representante Permanente Alternativa
de los Estados Unidos Mexicanos
ante el FIDA
Roma

NETHERLANDS

Marcellinus Joannes Maria BEUKEBOOM
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of
the Kingdom of the Netherlands to
the United Nations Organizations
for Food and Agriculture
Rome

Eric HILBERINK
Counsellor
Deputy Permanent Representative
of the Kingdom of the Netherlands
to the United Nations Organizations
for Food and Agriculture in Rome
Rome

NIGERIA

Yaya O. OLANIRAN
Minister
Permanent Representative of the
Federal Republic of Nigeria
to the United Nations Food and
Agriculture Agencies
Rome

NORWAY

Björg SKOTNES
Counsellor
Deputy Permanent Representative of
the Kingdom of Norway to IFAD
Rome



Even STORMOEN
Senior Advisor
Section for United Nations Policy
Royal Norwegian Ministry
of Foreign Affairs
Oslo

SWEDEN

Petter NILSSON
Counsellor
Deputy Permanent Representative
of Sweden to IFAD
Rome

Lucas LINDFORS
Programme and Policy Officer
Embassy of Sweden
Rome

UNITED KINGDOM

Elizabeth NASSKAU
First Secretary
Deputy Permanent Representative of
the United Kingdom of Great Britain and
Northern Ireland to the United Nations
Food and Agriculture Agencies
Rome

UNITED STATES

Nirupama PRADHAN
International Economist
Office of International Development Policy
Department of the Treasury of
the United States of America
Washington, D.C.

Daniel P. WALD
Food Policy Advisor
Bureau of Economic and Business Affairs
Department of State of the
United States of America
Washington, D.C.



VENEZUELA (BOLIVARIAN REPUBLIC OF)

Porfirio PESTANA DE BARROS
Ministro Consejero
Representante Permanente Alterno de la
República Bolivariana de Venezuela
ante la FAO y demás Organismos
de las Naciones Unidas
Roma