
Draft programme of events for the forty-seventh session of the Governing Council

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Useful references: Draft provisional agenda for the forty-seventh session of the Governing Council ([EB 2023/139/R.8/Rev.1](#))

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

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Draft programme of events for the forty-seventh session of the Governing Council

1. The forty-seventh session of the Governing Council of IFAD (GC47) will be held at IFAD headquarters in Via Paolo di Dono, 44, Rome on Wednesday, 14 and Thursday, 15 February 2024.
2. According to the 2023 report on the State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World, 122 million more people than in 2019 now experience hunger, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, repeated weather events and conflict around the world. At the report's launch in New York, United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres called for "an intense and immediate global effort to rescue the Sustainable Development Goals." The need for urgent global action will be a central theme of the Summit of the Future in 2024. The Summit's aim is to foster a reinvigorated multilateral system that is better positioned to positively impact people's lives. With just six years remaining, achieving the SDGs, particularly zero hunger, is a daunting challenge that can only be met with redoubled efforts and innovative approaches.
3. Now more than ever before, IFAD has a central role to play, hand in hand with rural people, in championing the new approaches so urgently needed. Therefore, GC47 will have as its overarching theme: "Innovation for a food-secure future". With an eye to the future IFAD has long been a promoter of innovations by and for rural people, with the ultimate aim of achieving inclusive, resilient and sustainable food systems transformation. The session will provide an opportunity to reflect on how innovation can be further leveraged to accelerate food systems transformation, and shape IFAD's trajectory going forward.
4. The programme of events will include an inaugural session with keynote speakers, followed by a centre-stage event. A high-level dialogue with Governors, interactive sessions with partners ranging from development practitioners to leaders of civil society organizations, and the consideration of business items, not least of which the Report of the Consultation on the Thirteenth Replenishment of IFAD's Resources (IFAD13), will complete the rich programme of events.
5. The high-level dialogue with Governors seeks to encourage discussion on the main objectives for IFAD13, which sets out to build rural resilience for a food-secure future. Governors' support for IFAD's ambition to scale up investments and strengthen its role as an assembler of finance for rural development is key to translating US\$2 billion in Member States' contributions into a US\$10 billion programme of work. Insights from Governors are key to charting IFAD's strategic direction, which will also be informed by a high-level panel on the importance of leveraging partnerships to change the lives of more than 100 million rural people – the people we serve.
6. Three interactive sessions will be held during the two-day programme.
 - (a) The first – Champions of Change: Celebrating transformative pathways to a nourished future – will focus attention on IFAD-supported initiatives that have been transformative and innovative in furthering gender equality and women's empowerment.
 - (b) The second – Innovation for a food-secure future – will turn the lens towards the future direction of IFAD. By drawing on data and strategic foresight analysis, Management will seek guidance on the Fund's future trajectory, to provoke discussion that will inform the development of IFAD's new Strategic Framework.

- (c) The third event – Rural people innovating for a resilient future – will highlight the role of rural communities in generating and promoting innovations. The event will allow Governors to immerse themselves in the realities of IFAD’s work in its countries of operation, exploring innovations that are already being implemented and their potential for scaling up.
7. As in recent years, an IFAD Talk will be held with the participation of a noted personality who will share insights on development issues with a special focus on this year’s theme.
 8. The programme will also provide opportunities for networking and for Governors to discuss key business items, including the report of the Governing Council Bureau on the process leading to the appointment of the President of IFAD. We are also very pleased to present two applications for non-original membership and look forward to welcoming new members to the Fund.
 9. Buffet luncheons open to all delegates will be held on both days. In addition, a reception for all participants will be held at the close of the first day.
 10. Member States will 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 in both video and text format.
 11. GC47 will be preceded by the eighth global meeting of the Farmers’ Forum, which will be held at IFAD headquarters on 12 and 13 February. The closing session of the forum, scheduled for Tuesday, 13 February, will be open to Governors and Executive Board representatives.
 12. A preliminary timetable for the Governing Council session is included in the annex. The timetable is to be considered a work in progress and therefore subject to change as confirmation of attendance is received.

Draft schedule for the forty-seventh session of the Governing Council

Wednesday, 14 February	
09.30	<p>Opening and inaugural session Welcoming statement by the Chairperson of the Governing Council</p> <p>Business items for consideration Agenda item 2: Adoption of the agenda (GC 47/L.1) Agenda item 3: Election of the Governing Council Bureau Remarks by the incoming Chairperson Agenda item 4: Applications for non-original membership (GC 47/L.2)</p>
10.15	<p>Inaugural ceremony Welcoming statement by the Chairperson of the Governing Council Welcoming statement by Mr Alvaro Lario, President of IFAD Keynote speakers Agenda item 5: Statement by Mr Alvaro Lario, President of IFAD</p>
11.15	Centre Stage Event
11.45	<p>Business items for consideration (continued) Agenda item 6: Report of the Bureau of the Governing Council on the review of the process leading to the appointment of the President of IFAD (GC 47/L.3)</p>
12.00	<p>IFAD's 2024 Gender Awards Ceremony and Interactive Session: Champions of Change: Celebrating transformative pathways to a nourished future The Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment Policy, along with the 2019–2025 Action Plan, guides IFAD-supported initiatives to increase their impact on gender equality and strengthen women's empowerment in rural areas, with a focus on transformative and long-lasting results. The 2024 Gender Awards recognize outstanding projects (one per region) that have adopted transformative and innovative approaches in promoting economic empowerment, equal participation and a more equitable balance in rural communities.</p>
13.30	<p>Lunch in honour of special guests (by invitation)</p> <p>In parallel: Buffet lunch for all delegates: Recipes for Change</p>

Wednesday, 14 February (cont.d)	
15.00	<p>IFAD13 session – From Pledges to Action</p> <p>The session is designed to actively engage Governors, fostering dynamic discussions and celebrating achievements, marking the pivotal transition of IFAD13 from the consultation phase to implementation.</p> <p>Business items for consideration (continued)</p> <p>Agenda item 7: Report on the Twelfth Replenishment of IFAD’s Resources (GC 47/L.4)</p> <p>Agenda item 8: Thirteenth Replenishment of IFAD’s Resources (GC 47/L.5)</p> <p>High-level dialogue with Governors – Investing in IFAD13: Building Rural Resilience for a Food-Secure Future</p> <p>This session will provide an opportunity to reflect on the main objectives of IFAD13, which sets out to build rural resilience for a food-secure future.</p> <p>This will be a moment to recognize the progress made on IFAD13, additional pledges received, and the adoption of the report and resolution. This segment will also include a call to action to Member States who have not yet pledged.</p> <p>High-level panel: Working in partnership to change the lives of more than 100 million rural people</p> <p>This segment will highlight IFAD’s ambition to scale up investments, and its role as an assembler of finance for rural development, moving from a US\$2 billion in Member States’ contributions to a US\$10 billion programme of work. Key partners and cofinanciers, working jointly with IFAD from the country to the global level, will join the session for a panel discussion, focusing on the Fund’s expanded work with the private sector, as well as the increasing role of rural civil society stakeholders to expand and deepen impact.</p>
18.00	Synthesis of deliberations of the Farmers’ Forum
18.30	Reception for all delegates
Thursday, 15 February	
8.30	Networking breakfast
09.30	<p>Business items for consideration (continued)</p> <p>Agenda item 9: Consolidated financial statements of IFAD for 2022 (GC 47/L.6)</p> <p>Agenda item 12: Amendments to the Financial Regulations of IFAD (GC 47/L.9)</p> <p>Agenda item 10: IFAD's 2024 results-based programme of work, and regular and capital budgets, and the Independent Office of Evaluation of IFAD's results-based work programme and budget for 2024 and indicative plan for 2025–2026, and the HIPC and PBAS and BRAM progress reports (GC 47/L.7)</p>
10.15	IFAD Talk
11.15	<p>Interactive session: Innovation for a food-secure future</p> <p>Looking towards the development of its 2025–2032 Strategic Framework, IFAD is employing strategic foresight analysis, an increasingly recognized and innovative planning and decision-facilitation tool, to envision how it will need to evolve over the coming years to deal with various global food systems scenarios. During this interactive, forward-looking discussion on the Fund’s future trajectory, insights will be sought from Governors to feed into the development of IFAD’s new Strategic Framework.</p>
12.45	Buffet lunch for all delegates

Thursday, 15 February (cont.d)	
15.00	<p>Interactive session: Rural people innovating for a resilient future</p> <p>Rural communities are rich sources of knowledge on how to deal with challenges such as managing ecosystems, climate change and producing nutritious food in difficult conditions. During this session, Governors will have the opportunity to immerse themselves in the realities of rural communities and IFAD’s work on the ground with them. They will learn about innovations that work for rural people through first-hand accounts from rural people across the world. The session is expected to garner feedback on how IFAD can build on such innovations going forward, working towards a resilient and food-secure world.</p>
16.30	<p>Business items for consideration (continued)</p> <p>Agenda item 11: Election of members and alternate members of the Executive Board (GC 47/L.8)</p> <p>Agenda item 13: Other business</p>
17.00	<p>Closure of the session</p> <p>Concluding remarks by the President of IFAD</p> <p>Closing statement by the Chairperson</p> <p>Additional side-events, including with a focus on the development agendas of the G7/G20, will be organized.</p>