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## **Summary of the Chairperson: Fourth session of the Consultation on the Thirteenth Replenishment of IFAD's Resources**

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### **Technical questions:**

**Kyle Peters**

External Chairperson  
e-mail: [r.peters@ifad.org](mailto:r.peters@ifad.org)

**Ronald Hartman**

Director  
Global Engagement, Partnership and  
Resource Mobilization  
e-mail: [r.hartman@ifad.org](mailto:r.hartman@ifad.org)

**Charlotte Thumser**

Partnership Analyst, Replenishment  
Global Engagement, Partnership and  
Resource Mobilization  
e-mail: [c.thumser@ifad.org](mailto:c.thumser@ifad.org)

## **Summary of the Chairperson: Fourth session of the Consultation on the Thirteenth Replenishment of IFAD's Resources**

1. Members of the Consultation on the Thirteenth Replenishment of IFAD's Resources (IFAD13), IFAD Management and staff, observers and guests met in Paris and virtually on 14 and 15 December to finalize the IFAD13 Report and Resolution and to initiate the formal start of IFAD13 pledging. The meeting was generously co-hosted by the Governments of Angola and France.
  2. A number of public discussions framed the official part of the agenda of this fourth and final session of the IFAD13 Consultation. During the opening of the session on 14 December, IFAD's President spoke of IFAD13 as a unique opportunity to build a world free of poverty and hunger, where no one is left behind, and to realize our joint ambitions; and as an opportunity to reignite the partnership between the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), developing countries and members of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) that enabled IFAD's establishment.
  3. The President's opening remarks were followed by those of the two co-hosts. His Excellency Bruno Le Maire, Minister for the Economy, Finance and Industrial and Digital Sovereignty of France, reminded us that persistent hunger in the world represents a collective failure, and that IFAD has an important role to play in addressing this challenge. He also highlighted IFAD's important role in the international financial architecture and reiterated France's strong support for IFAD and IFAD13.
  4. Her Excellency Carmen Sacramento Neto, Minister for Fisheries and Marine Resources of Angola, shared important examples of IFAD's work in Angola and highlighted the need for continued investment in the agriculture and fisheries sector within the country. Her remarks demonstrated the important impact that IFAD has in many countries that receive IFAD investment, and particularly in regions and sectors that other organizations often do not reach.
  5. The co-hosts' opening remarks were followed by a dialogue moderated by the IFAD Special Envoy for IFAD13, Mohamed Béavogui, during which representatives of the Angolan Government and IFAD shared powerful examples of IFAD's role in working with the Angolan Government to turn its national priorities for transforming food systems into reality.
  6. A second dialogue, on 15 December, was moderated by Louise Baker, Managing Director of the Global Mechanism at the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), and featured speakers from Angola, France, Nigeria and IFAD. Discussions covered the progress of the Great Green Wall (GGW) Initiative, France's leadership in the establishment of the GGW Accelerator, examples from implementation of the GGW in Nigeria, IFAD's role in coordinating and implementing support programmes, as well as lessons learned for the Southern African GGW Initiative.
  7. Representatives of the World Bank's International Development Association, the African Development Fund, the Asian Development Fund and the European Commission attended the session remotely as silent observers.
  8. The agenda was adopted with no amendments.
- A. Report and Resolution of the Consultation on the Thirteenth Replenishment of IFAD's Resources**
9. Management presented the revised IFAD13 Report and Resolution, including the latest changes made since the third session of the Consultation and the

intersessional meeting held in November, and updates proposed as part of the conference room paper<sup>1</sup> that was posted and tabled at the session on 14 December 2023.

10. Delegates appreciated and acknowledged the inclusive way in which Management had managed the IFAD13 process, including through informal sessions and exchanges, as well as the e-consultation with detailed written feedback and responses from Management. Delegates noted that this process had helped to resolve issues where Members had divergent views and to reach compromises that culminated in a consensus around an ambitious package of commitments and targets. As a result, the IFAD13 package makes important steps forward for IFAD's engagement with the private sector, IFAD's climate financing, and IFAD's focus on the poorest countries and those affected by fragility, all in service of IFAD's core mandate and universality.
11. Many Members recognized the importance of IFAD's work in addressing food security and investing in resilient, inclusive and sustainable food systems, at a time when progress on Sustainable Development Goals 1 and 2 is at risk. Delegates further highlighted IFAD's critical role in addressing climate and biodiversity, and fragility, as well as promoting social inclusion and mainstreaming priorities, and strengthening the coordination of the global response to food insecurity, in line with IFAD's unique role in the international development finance architecture. Delegates expressed their support for the ambitious proposals included in the latest version of the report, especially with regards to the increased shares of core resources to be allocated to low-income countries, Africa and sub-Saharan Africa and countries with fragile situations, and for the increased climate finance target and the more ambitious cofinancing target.
12. Many Members also welcomed and underlined the importance of supporting South-South and Triangular Cooperation (SSTC) and innovation and noted IFAD's role in supporting gender equality, nutrition, Indigenous Peoples and persons with disabilities in rural areas. Delegates further highlighted the importance for IFAD to continue strengthening its partnerships with other actors, including international financial institutions, multilateral development banks and other United Nations entities, especially the Rome-based agencies.
13. There were several areas where some delegates expressed the view that they would have like to have seen stronger commitments. Some delegates encouraged IFAD to ensure commitment to align with the Paris Agreement, to develop an ecological impact indicator for future results management frameworks, and to increase ambition on nutrition as well as reporting annually on progress. In its response, Management confirmed that they will develop proposals on Paris Agreement alignment and an indicator on ecology to be introduced in future replenishments, both to be included as part of the Strategy on Climate, Environment and Biodiversity that will be submitted to the Executive Board. Management further confirmed that the Report on IFAD's Mainstreaming Effectiveness (RIME) provides annual checkpoints on IFAD's work on nutrition.
14. A number of delegates spoke about the core additional climate contributions (ACCs) and noted that the discussion around ACCs should be viewed as evidence that all Member States are truly engaged with IFAD and are pursuing the same objective: to advance IFAD13. Many delegates also noted that ACCs would increase IFAD's ability to deliver on its core mandate by addressing the impacts of climate change and biodiversity loss on agriculture and rural communities, as this is a key issue that is affecting food production and the livelihoods of IFAD's core target groups. Some delegates expressed the view that there is no legal basis for the creation of core ACCs or their allocation in IFAD's ordinary budget unless specifically approved

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<sup>1</sup> [IFAD13/4/C.R.P.1](#).

by the Governing Council, so the proposed approach represents a political solution – subject to Governing Council approval – designed to address certain unique circumstances to allow IFAD to achieve common goals and that this solution does not represent a precedent for the proliferation of other thematic financing windows in future replenishment cycles. In addition, some delegates still harbour concerns regarding governance and the granting of voting rights, which they see as a matter of principle for contributions that are designated for a specific purpose; therefore the proposed safeguards and their strict application and review are essential to achieving the consensus reached as part of the Consultation.

15. Management took note of the concerns raised and acknowledged that even Members that support the instrument had some concerns on how it may affect IFAD's mandate and governance. It appreciated the compromise that Member States have supported during the discussion and reiterated that ACCs will not set a precedent for other themes in the future, and will be created with the safeguards and oversight that have been incorporated in the IFAD13 Report and Resolution. Management confirmed that those safeguards would need to be continuously monitored to ensure that ACCs are fit for purpose and are having their intended impact. Management further confirmed that the Executive Board will receive updates on ACCs on at least an annual basis and that a thorough review will be presented at the midterm of IFAD13.
16. Delegates also discussed the financial scenarios for IFAD13, with many delegates expressing support for scenario B. A few delegates noted that scenario A+ could be a more prudent target, but indicated their willingness to support the overall consensus on scenario B.
17. Management confirmed that the changes indicated in the conference room paper, as well as minor corrections of any typos or inconsistencies, would be integrated in a final version of the replenishment report. Management further confirmed that a clarification will be made to the French version of the resolution. With the inclusion of these changes, the Report – including financial targets, commitment matrix and results management framework – and the Resolution were adopted by consensus for submission to the Governing Council for approval at its forty-seventh session to be held in February 2024.

## **B. IFAD13 pledging session**

18. The IFAD13 pledging session on Friday, 15 December was opened with remarks from IFAD's President and a speech by Sabrina Dhowre Elba, United Nations Goodwill Ambassador for IFAD. IFAD's President appreciated the leadership of IFAD's Member States and delegates' efforts to do everything possible to show the strongest support for the rural women and men that IFAD serves. In her opening, Sabrina Dhowre Elba recounted her involvement in IFAD over the past four years and the impact of IFAD's work and enormous potential of rural communities that she has witnessed during visits to projects supported by IFAD. A video featuring participants in IFAD-financed projects and the voices of partners and supporters was shown to set the scene for the pledging session.
19. The formal pledging was initiated by co-hosts Angola and France. Many other Member States then took the floor to announce pledges and statements of support for IFAD's work, including representatives of many borrowing countries, who spoke about the impact that IFAD's financing has had in their countries, supporting crucial investments in their agriculture sectors and helping deliver on their national priorities.
20. By the end of the pledging session, 48 countries had pledged, including a number of countries having submitted pledges in advance of the session. Details of all IFAD13 pledges received to date have been subsequently circulated in a conference

room paper that was made available on the Member States Interactive Platform and opened for comments until 22 December.<sup>2</sup>

21. The pledges announced comprised:
- (a) US\$1.041 billion in core contributions;
  - (b) US\$15.3 million in core ACCs from Ireland and Switzerland; and
  - (c) A EUR 30 million concessional partner loan provided by Finland (with the details of the grant element presented in the conference room paper).

The total pledges of US\$1.076 billion represent very strong progress towards the overall target for this stage in the process.

Notably, this total includes 31 pledges that increased in United States dollar terms over IFAD12 pledges, including 10 that have increased by more than 50 per cent. It also includes three pledges from Members that did not contribute to IFAD12 – Central African Republic, Guinea Bissau and Poland, which made its first ever contribution since recently joining the Fund.

22. A number of Member States that were not yet able to pledge confirmed their strong support for IFAD's work and the IFAD13 package and indicated that they would continue to work on confirming their pledges and would be in contact with IFAD Management as pledges were finalized. Some Members that did pledge indicated that they were also exploring other possibilities to provide additional kinds of contributions.
23. Many Member States also highlighted significant supplementary contributions that they had recently provided to support IFAD's work in areas such as the Crisis Response Initiative, nutrition, remittances and the Indigenous Peoples' Assistance Facility, and the Vision for Adapted Crops and Soils (VACS) as well as project-specific cofinancing in a number of countries. This highlighted the breadth and depth of their partnerships with IFAD, and IFAD's important role as an assembler of finance for thematic initiatives linked to IFAD's mandate, and for cofinancing of IFAD's own investments, all of which are delivered through IFAD's integrated country programmes as part of IFAD's broader programme of work.

### **C. Concluding statements**

24. During the closing ceremony, Sabrina Dhowre Elba invited delegates to a virtual tour of selected IFAD-financed projects and IFAD offices around the world, from Bangladesh, through Colombia, Jordan, Kenya and Morocco to IFAD headquarters in Rome, during which project participants and IFAD staff connected to the pledging session to share the results of their partnership with IFAD and speak about the impact that the IFAD13 pledges would have.
25. In his closing remarks, IFAD's President thanked all Members for their announcements at the pledging session and over recent months and encouraged further announcements over the coming months to ensure reaching the overall IFAD13 ambition of mobilizing US\$2 billion in new replenishment financing and delivering a programme of work of US\$10 billion to benefit at least 100 million rural people.
26. The Chairperson summarized the highlights of the discussion and thanked Member States, including co-hosts Angola and France, IFAD's President, Management and staff, and interpreters and support staff for their contributions, not only to the success of this meeting but to the overall IFAD13 Consultation.

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<sup>2</sup> [IFAD13/4/C.R.P.2.](#)