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**Proposal to delegate authority to the IFAD President to negotiate, approve and sign agreements or working arrangements with intergovernmental organizations, international financial institutions, non-governmental organizations and governmental agencies concerned with agricultural development**

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**FOR: APPROVAL**

**Action:** The Executive Board is invited to approve the proposal to delegate authority to the IFAD President to negotiate, approve and sign agreements or working arrangements with intergovernmental organizations, international financial institutions, non-governmental organizations and governmental agencies concerned with agricultural development.

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**Technical questions:**

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# **Proposal to delegate authority to the IFAD President to negotiate, approve and sign agreements or working arrangements with intergovernmental organizations, international financial institutions, non-governmental organizations and governmental agencies concerned with agricultural development**

## **I. Background**

1. Article 8, section 2 of the Agreement Establishing IFAD provides that the Fund shall cooperate closely with the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations and other organizations of the United Nations system. It shall also cooperate closely with other intergovernmental organizations, international financial institutions, non-governmental organizations and governmental agencies concerned with agricultural development. To this end, the Fund will seek the collaboration in its activities of FAO and the other bodies referred to above, and may enter into agreements or establish working arrangements with such bodies, as may be decided by the Executive Board.
2. In addition, delivering on IFAD's mission requires a wide diversity of partnerships at the country, regional and global levels. Partnerships are increasingly central to IFAD's ability to contribute to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and they also enable IFAD to enhance its impact and value for money.
3. In line with this mission and to enhance operational efficiency, it is proposed that the Executive Board delegate authority to the President of IFAD to negotiate, approve and sign **agreements or working arrangements** with the aforementioned institutions, under certain conditions, as described below.

## **II. Rationale for delegation**

4. Over the past years, IFAD has increasingly engaged in partnerships with a diverse set of institutions to leverage technical expertise, foster policy dialogue and mobilize complementary resources and knowledge. Many of these relationships are formalized through memorandums of understanding or similar instruments.
5. Currently, the negotiation and signature of such agreements require Executive Board approval, even if they involve no legal or financial commitments. This requirement can delay the partnership processes and limit IFAD's responsiveness to dynamic collaboration opportunities.
6. The proposed delegation of authority would:
  - Streamline approval processes;
  - Promote timely engagement with partners;
  - Allow the Executive Board to focus its oversight on agreements with financial obligations; and
  - Be consistent with the practice in other United Nations organizations and international financial institutions.
7. The internal due diligence and screening processes conducted by the Global Engagement, Partnership and Resource Mobilization Division would remain unchanged, to ensure that all prospective partners are evaluated and assessed.

### III. Proposed modalities and oversight mechanism

8. Under the proposed delegation:

- The President of IFAD would be authorized to negotiate, approve and sign **agreements or working arrangements** with intergovernmental organizations, international financial institutions, non-governmental organizations and governmental agencies concerned with agricultural development.
- Such agreements or working arrangements would:
  - Not entail any financial obligations on the part of IFAD and be aligned to IFAD's policies and procedures; and
  - Align with IFAD's mandate, strategic objectives and partnership priorities.
- IFAD would share **the signed agreements** in their original language with the Executive Board for information.