



**IFAD**  
**INTERNATIONAL FUND FOR AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT**  
**Executive Board - Sixty-Fourth Session**

Rome, 9-10 September 1998

**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE CONFERENCE OF  
THE PARTIES OF THE UNITED NATIONS CONVENTION TO COMBAT  
DESERTIFICATION IN THOSE COUNTRIES EXPERIENCING SERIOUS  
DROUGHT AND/OR DESERTIFICATION, PARTICULARLY IN AFRICA, AND  
THE INTERNATIONAL FUND FOR AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT  
REGARDING THE MODALITIES AND ADMINISTRATIVE OPERATIONS  
OF THE GLOBAL MECHANISM**

**I. BACKGROUND**

1. The United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa (CCD) entered into force on 26 December 1996 and to date has been ratified by 127 countries. The objective of the Convention is "to combat desertification and mitigate the effects of drought in countries experiencing serious drought and/or desertification, particularly in Africa, through effective action at all levels, supported by international cooperation and partnership arrangements, in the framework of an integrated approach which is consistent with Agenda 21, with a view to contribution to the achievement of sustainable development in affected areas".
2. The Convention specifies the rights and obligations of developed and developing-country parties to the Convention, including the elaboration of action programmes at the national, subregional and regional levels, through a consultative and participatory process leading to concrete partnership agreements between local governments of developed and developing countries, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), the private sector and international organizations. The CCD includes provisions on scientific and technical cooperation and supporting measures, such as capacity-building, education and awareness-raising, and a secretariat to service the parties, as well as provisions on financial resources and financial mechanisms. In regard to the latter provisions, the CCD establishes a Global Mechanism that will increase the efficiency and effectiveness of existing financial mechanisms and promote actions leading to resource mobilization.



3. The First Conference of the Parties (COP) of the CCD, held in Rome 29 September-10 October 1997, selected IFAD to house the Global Mechanism of the Convention and welcomed a collaborative institutional arrangement among IFAD, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the World Bank to support the Global Mechanism. It also requested that the Secretariat, in consultation with IFAD, develop a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the COP and IFAD for consideration and adoption at the second session in 1998. The main operative paragraphs of the COP decision are reproduced in full below:

- “1. **Decides** to select IFAD to house the Global Mechanism on the basis of the criteria agreed on in Section B of the Annex to INCD decision 10/3;
2. **Decides also** that the Global Mechanism, in carrying out its mandate, under the authority and guidance of the COP, should perform the functions described in the annex to this decision;
3. **Requests** the secretariat, in consultation with the organisation, to house the Global Mechanism, as well as the other two collaborating institutions referred to in Decision 25/COP.1, to develop a memorandum of understanding between the COP and appropriate body or organisation for consideration and adoption at the second session of the COP”.

4. Document EB 97/62/R.33 notified the Executive Board of the decision of COP.1 of the CCD, related resolutions of COP.1, and the main considerations that would underpin IFAD housing of the Global Mechanism, which formed the basis for negotiation of a MOU between IFAD and the COP. Since IFAD’s acceptance of the decision of the COP was within the prerogative of the Governing Council, at its Twenty-First Session in February 1998, upon the recommendation of the Executive Board, the Council adopted Resolution 108/XXI, with the following operative paragraphs:

- “1. IFAD shall accept the decision of the Conference of the Parties (COP) of the CCD at its First Session to select IFAD to house the Global Mechanism hereof.
2. The Executive Board is authorized to approve the modalities, procedures and administrative arrangements to be contained in a Memorandum of Understanding between the COP and IFAD for the housing of the Global Mechanism by IFAD.
3. The President of IFAD is authorized to sign a Memorandum of Understanding between the COP and IFAD, containing such arrangements as the Executive Board may approve for the housing of the Global Mechanism.
4. The President of IFAD is requested to report periodically to the Executive Board on the administrative arrangements for the housing of the said Global Mechanism in IFAD and on such activities as IFAD may undertake in support of the Global Mechanism, while also keeping the Executive Board informed of the activities of the Global Mechanism.”

5. Taking into account the resolution of the Governing Council and the recommendation and deliberations of the Executive Board, the MOU was discussed between IFAD and the Executive Secretary of the CCD. The Executive Secretary has assured IFAD that he has also consulted UNDP and the World Bank, as required by the decision of the COP. In finalizing the MOU, the following principles have been considered by IFAD and the Executive Secretary.

1. Responsiveness to the decisions of the COP, while being in harmony with IFAD's policies, rules and regulations.
2. Securing an active role for the other organizations, particularly UNDP and the World Bank, in assisting the convention implementation.
3. Assuring harmony and coordination between the activities of the Global Mechanism and the Secretariat.

## **II. RECOMMENDATION**

6. The Memorandum of Understanding, negotiated and finalized as described above, is attached for the Executive Board's consideration and approval. Upon the approval of the Executive Board, the Secretariat will submit the Memorandum of Understanding to the COP of the CCD for its consideration during its second session, to be convened on 29 November 1998. The outcome will be submitted to the Executive Board of IFAD, for its information or decision as appropriate.



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MEMORANDUM, dated \_\_\_\_\_, between the Conference of the Parties (hereinafter called “the Conference” or “the COP”) of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa (hereinafter called “the Convention” or “CCD”) and the International Fund for Agricultural Development (hereinafter called “the Fund” or “IFAD”) regarding the modalities and administrative operations of the Global Mechanism.

WHEREAS the Conference was required, in accordance with Article 21, paragraphs 5 and 6, of the Convention, to identify at its first ordinary session, an organization to house the Global Mechanism established under Article 21, paragraph 4, and whereas the Fund submitted a revised offer to house the Global Mechanism, contained in Appendix II of the document ICCD/COP(1)/5 and supplemented by document ICCD/COP(1)/CRP.3;

WHEREAS the Conference, in paragraph 1 of its Decision 24/COP.1, taken at its first session, selected the Fund to house the Global Mechanism established under Article 21, paragraph 4, of the Convention;

WHEREAS the Conference, in paragraphs 1 and 2 of its Decision 25/COP.1, also taken at its first session, decided that, in support of the functions of the Global Mechanism, the organization to house the Global Mechanism shall, as the lead organization, fully cooperate with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the World Bank and other relevant international organizations; and

WHEREAS the Conference, in paragraphs 3 and 4 of its Decision 24/COP.1, requested the secretariat of the Convention, in consultation with the Fund, UNDP and the World Bank, to develop a memorandum of understanding between the Conference and an appropriate body of the Fund;

NOW THEREFORE it is hereby agreed that the modalities and administrative operations of the Global Mechanism shall be as follows:

**I. FUNCTIONS OF GLOBAL MECHANISM**

In carrying out its mandate, under the authority and guidance of the Conference, the Global Mechanism shall, in accordance with paragraph 2 of Decision 24/COP.1 of the Conference, perform the functions described in the Annex to that Decision. As the housing institution, the Fund shall support the Global Mechanism in performing these functions in the framework of the mandate and policies of the Fund.

## II. STATUS OF GLOBAL MECHANISM WITHIN THE FUND

### A. Separate Identity of Global Mechanism

While the Global Mechanism shall have a separate identity within the Fund, it shall be an organic part of the structure of the Fund directly under the President of the Fund.

### B. The Resources of the Global Mechanism

The resources of the Global Mechanism shall comprise the following:

- (a) amounts received from allocations of the core budget of the Convention by the COP to meet the administrative and operational expenditures of the Global Mechanism. These amounts shall be held by the Fund upon receipt in an account termed “Core Budget Administrative Account”;
- (b) amounts contributed voluntarily by multilateral and bilateral donors as well as other sources including non-governmental organizations and the private sector to meet the administrative and operational expenditures of the Global Mechanism and remuneration to the Global Mechanism for services rendered to a specific donor or group of donors. Such amounts shall be held by the Fund upon receipt in an account termed “Voluntary Contributions Administrative Expenses Account”; and
- (c) in accordance with paragraph 4(f) of the Annex to Decision 24/COP.1 of the Conference, amounts made available for the use, as requested and appropriate, of the Global Mechanism (“Global Mechanism’s own resources”) for its functioning and activities from bilateral and multilateral resources through trust fund(s) and/or equivalent arrangements established by the Fund, including the proceeds of cost-sharing arrangements with the Global Mechanism. All these amounts shall be held by the Fund upon receipt in an account termed “Special Resources for CCD Finance (SRCF) Account”. The Fund shall provide a grant contribution as part of the initial capitalisation of the SRCF Account and seek matching financing from interested donors, taking into account the offer made by IFAD at the first ordinary session of the COP in paragraph 48 of document ICCD/COP(1)/5.

### C. Management of the Global Mechanism Resources

With respect to the funds allocated from the core budget of the Convention and received by the Fund under (a) above, the rules of procedure and financial rules adopted by the Conference shall apply to the transfer to IFAD of the said funds. With respect to the funds received by IFAD under (a), (b) and (c) above, all these amounts shall be received, held and disbursed and the said accounts shall be administered by the Fund in accordance with the rules and procedures of the Fund, including those applicable to the management of the Fund’s own supplementary funds (trust funds).

## **D. Management of Global Mechanism**

The Managing Director of the Global Mechanism (hereinafter called “the Managing Director”) shall be nominated by the Administrator of UNDP and appointed by the President of the Fund. The Managing Director in discharging his or her responsibilities shall report directly to the President of IFAD. The Managing Director shall cooperate with the Executive Secretary of the CCD pursuant to Decision 9/COP.1.

## **III. RELATIONSHIP OF THE GLOBAL MECHANISM TO THE CONFERENCE**

### **A. Accountability to the Conference**

1. The Global Mechanism shall function under the authority of the Conference and be fully accountable to the Conference.
2. The chain of accountability shall run directly from the Managing Director to the President of the Fund to the Conference. The Managing Director shall submit reports to the Conference on behalf of the President of the Fund.
3. The Conference shall provide policy and operational guidance as necessary, including guidance resulting from the review of the policies, operational modalities and activities of the Global Mechanism to take place at its third ordinary session in accordance with Article 21, paragraph 7 of the Convention.
4. The Managing Director shall be responsible for preparing the programme of work and budget of the Global Mechanism, including proposed staffing, which shall be reviewed and approved by the President of the Fund before being forwarded to the Executive Secretary of the Convention for consideration in the preparation of the budget estimates of the Convention, in accordance with the financial rules of the Conference.
5. The budget estimates for the Global Mechanism, which shall be shown in a separate section of the Convention budget may include administrative and operational expenditures to be financed both from the core budget of the Convention, and, if appropriate, from the Voluntary Contributions Administrative Expenses Account.
6. The Conference shall approve the programme of work and budget of the Global Mechanism, authorize the Executive Secretary to transfer resources from the General Fund of the Convention to the Fund for all or a portion of the Global Mechanism’s approved operating expenses and reimburse the United Nations for any administrative support costs incurred in this process.
7. The Fund shall, as soon as practicable following the end of the financial year of the Convention, provide the Conference with an audited financial statement of the Core Budget Administrative Account in accordance with the Fund’s normal audit procedures.



## B. Reporting to the Conference

The Managing Director, on behalf of the President of the Fund, shall submit a report to each ordinary session of the Conference on the activities of the Global Mechanism. Such reports which shall be submitted to the Executive Secretary for circulation to the COP, shall encompass the following:

- (a) the operations and activities of the Global Mechanism, including the effectiveness of its activities in promoting the mobilization and channelling of the substantial financial resources referred to in paragraph 4(a) of the annex to Decision 24/COP.1 of the Conference;
- (b) an assessment of the future availability of funds for implementation of the Convention, as well as proposals for effective ways and means of providing such funds; and
- (c) the activities of the Fund, UNDP and the World Bank as well as other relevant organizations in supporting the Global Mechanism.

## IV. COLLABORATIVE INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS

### A. General Collaborative Arrangements

The Fund shall, in accordance with paragraphs 2 and 3 of Decision 25/COP.1 of the Conference, fully cooperate with UNDP and the World Bank to proceed with, actively pursue and develop further the collaborative institutional arrangements described in document ICCD/COP(1)/CRP.1, including the establishment of a Facilitation Committee. Pursuant to paragraph 5 of Decision 24/COP.1, the Facilitation Committee shall include the Executive Secretary as its Member.

### B. Cooperation with the Permanent Secretariat

1. The Fund and the Secretariat of the Convention shall cooperate and exchange on regular basis views and experiences necessaries to facilitate the effectiveness of the Global Mechanism in assisting the Parties to implement the Convention.

2. In accordance with paragraph 5 of Decision 24/COP.1 of the Conference, the Fund shall work out with the Secretariat of the Convention appropriate arrangements for liaison and cooperation between the secretariat and the Global Mechanism in order to avoid duplication and to enhance the effectiveness of Convention implementation in accordance with their respective roles in implementation. Such collaboration between the Managing Director and the Executive Secretary shall ensure the continuity and coherence of existing and future programmes of the Fund and the CCD.

### C. Cooperation with Other Relevant Organisations

The Fund shall, in accordance with paragraph 6 of Decision 24/COP.1 of the Conference and paragraph 4 of Decision 25/COP.1, encourage active support for the Global Mechanism, as well as the establishment or strengthening of programmes to combat desertification in affected developing countries, by relevant institutions, programmes and bodies of the United Nations system, including

the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the Global Environment Facility (GEF), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the World Food Programme (WFP), and by regional and sub-regional organizations and regional development banks such as African Development Bank (AfDB), Asian Development Bank (AsDB), Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), Islamic Development Bank (IsDB), Central American Bank of Economic Integration (BCIE) and the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB), as well as interested non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and the private sector.

## **V. FIELD OFFICE SUPPORT FOR GLOBAL MECHANISM**

The Fund shall make appropriate arrangements to obtain supporting services from the United Nations country team, operating under the leadership of the United Nations Resident Coordinators within the framework of the Resident Coordinator System.

## **VI. ADMINISTRATIVE INFRASTRUCTURE**

The Global Mechanism shall be located at the headquarters of the Fund in Rome, where it shall enjoy full access to all of the administrative infrastructure available to the Fund offices, including appropriate office space, as well as personnel, financial, communications and information management services. Any direct costs and associated service charges reimbursable to IFAD will be reflected in the budget of the Global Mechanism.

## **VII. FINAL PROVISIONS**

### **A. Entry into Force**

The present Memorandum of Understanding shall enter into force immediately upon its approval by the Conference.

### **B. Implementation of the Memorandum of Understanding**

The Conference and the Fund may enter in such supplementary arrangements for the implementation of the present Memorandum of Understanding as may be found desirable.

### **C. Termination**

The present Memorandum of Understanding may be terminated at the initiative of the Conference or the Fund with prior written notice of at least one year. In the event of termination, the Conference and IFAD shall jointly agree on the most practical and effective means of carrying out any responsibilities assumed under the present Memorandum of Understanding.

### **D. Amendments**

The present Memorandum of Understanding may be revised by agreement in writing between the Conference and the Fund.

### E. Interpretation

If differences arise in the interpretation of the present Memorandum of Understanding, the Conference and IFAD shall reach a mutually acceptable solution on the basis of the English text hereof.

FOR THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES  
OF THE CONVENTION TO COMBAT  
DESERTIFICATION

Signed by:

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Executive Secretary

FOR THE INTERNATIONAL FUND  
FOR AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT

Signed by:

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President