IFAD
INTERNATIONAL FUND FOR AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT
Executive Board – Sixty-Seventh Session
Rome, 8-9 September 1999

EXECUTIVE BOARD
MINUTES OF THE SIXTY-SEVENTH SESSION
# TABLE OF CONTENTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CHAPTER</th>
<th>PARAGRAPH</th>
<th>PAGE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I.</td>
<td>INTRODUCTION</td>
<td>1-3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>II.</td>
<td>DECISIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD</td>
<td>4-43</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>A. Opening of the Session</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>B. Adoption of the Agenda</td>
<td>5-6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>C. Financial Matters</td>
<td>7-18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>D. Consultation to Review the Adequacy of the Resources Available to IFAD</td>
<td>19-20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>E. Country Strategy Work, Managing Strategic Partnerships and Cofinancing</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>F. Report of the President on the Human Resources Management Strategy</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>G. Report of the Evaluation Committee</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>H. Resources Available for Commitment</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>I. Projects for the Consideration of the Board</td>
<td>25-32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>J. Proposed Grants for Technical Assistance</td>
<td>33-37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>K. Planned Project Activities</td>
<td>38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>L. Draft Provisional Agenda for the Twenty-Third Session of the Governing Council</td>
<td>39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>M. Progress Report on Management Information Systems</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>N. Other Business</td>
<td>41-43</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**ANNEXES**

| I.      | List of Participants to the Sixty-Seventh Session of the Executive Board | 9-13 |
| II.     | List of Documents Placed before the Sixty-Seventh Session of the Executive Board | 14-15 |
| III.    | Agenda | 16-17 |
MINUTES OF THE SIXTY-SEVENTH SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The Sixty-Seventh Session of the Executive Board was held in Rome on 8-9 September 1999. A list of participants is attached as Annex I.

2. The Executive Board had before it the documents listed in Annex II.

3. These Minutes record the decisions of the Executive Board on the matters it considered.

II. DECISIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD

A. Opening of the Session (Agenda Item 1)

4. In his capacity as Chairman, the President of IFAD, Mr Fawzi H. Al-Sultan, opened the Sixty-Seventh Session of the Executive Board.

B. Adoption of the Agenda (Agenda Item 2)

5. The Executive Board considered the Provisional Agenda presented in document EB 99/67/R.1/Rev.1 and, upon concluding its discussion of this item, adopted the Agenda contained in document EB 99/67/R.1/Rev.2. The Agenda is attached as Annex III.

6. The Executive Board Director for The Netherlands expressed his appreciation of the information paper entitled “Good Governance: An Overview” (document EB 99/67/INF.4) and requested that the document also be made available for discussion at the forthcoming Fourth Session of the Consultation to Review the Adequacy of the Resources Available to IFAD.

C. Financial Matters (Agenda Item 3)

(a) Status of Contributions to the Fourth Replenishment of IFAD’s Resources

7. The Executive Board reviewed the Status of Contributions to the Fourth Replenishment of IFAD’s Resources (document EB 99/67/R.2 and addendum), noting that the instruments of contribution deposited and payments in cash or promissory notes received against pledges not supported by instruments of contribution amounted to the equivalent of USD 403.6 million.

(b) Report on IFAD’s Investment Portfolio for the Second Quarter of 1999

8. In accordance with the new practice of presenting quarterly reports, the Executive Board reviewed the Report on IFAD’s Investment Portfolio for the Second Quarter of 1999 (document EB 99/67/R.3) which, together with the first quarter figures, also presented the rate of return for the first half of the year. Directors expressed their satisfaction with the overall rate of return achieved during the second quarter, which represented an improvement over that of the first quarter. It was noted that this level of return was the result of a more balanced portfolio, with the strong performance of equity markets compensating the negative return on fixed-income assets.
9. In the review of the Status Report on Principal and Interest Payments (document EB 99/67/R.4 and addendum), the Executive Board expressed its appreciation of the continued efforts made to reduce outstanding arrears. It was emphasized that a number of cases of arrears were related to countries affected by civil strife. Directors strongly urged the Fund to continue its involvement in the Heavily-Indebted Poor Countries Debt Initiative (HIPC DI), particularly in the light of the current extension of the initiative. Several Directors further urged that efforts be made to bring arrears within this framework.

(d) Settlement of Arrears by the Gabonese Republic

10. The Executive Board considered the information contained in document EB 99/67/R.5 on the Settlement of Arrears by the Gabonese Republic and approved a settlement plan for a total arrears of FRF 5 968 805.07 (approximately USD 977 454.09) and, given the principle of zero net present value (NPV) loss, for the NPV loss to IFAD.

11. Accordingly, the settlement plan approved included the following:

(a) total arrears as at 15 May 1999 amounted to FRF 5 968 805.07;
(b) the NPV of the arrears under the plan is FRF 6 570 236.26;
(c) the NPV value of the total arrears, FRF 6 570 236.26 (approximately USD 1 095 039.00), will be paid as follows:

(i) one down payment of FRF 2 093 632.88 to be paid to IFAD by 31 July 1999;
(ii) the remaining amount will be paid in three installments, as follows:

- first due on 15 January 2000: FRF 1 492 201.13
- second due on 15 July 2000: FRF 1 492 201.13
- third due on 15 January 2001: FRF 1 492 201 13

(d) the Gabonese Government’s assurance that billing for all loans would be honoured when due in accordance with the conditions of the relevant loan agreements, beginning 31 July 1999;
(e) regarding Executive Board approval of the plan and payment mentioned in point (c)(i), IFAD will lift suspension of the Smallholder Support Project (Loan 246-GN) and proceed with payment of all pending applications. In addition, an IFAD mission will be fielded immediately to re-examine project implementation issues and to identify areas for new operations;
(f) in the event of the country’s economic improvement, the Government might accelerate the repayment of the arrears; and
(g) suspension will be applied in the event the borrower does not honour its obligations within 45 days of due dates of the agreed rescheduled payments and/or the regular billings for all loans.

(e) Settlement of Arrears by the Republic of Sierra Leone

12. The Executive Board considered the information contained in document EB 99/67/R.6 on the Settlement of Arrears by the Republic of Sierra Leone and, taking into account IFAD’s policy on safeguarding the NPV of outstanding debts and the Government of Sierra Leone’s current budgetary situation, approved the following settlement plan:
INTERNATIONAL FUND FOR AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT

(a) total arrears as of 15 September 1999 equal USD 1 571 268.58 in nominal terms;

(b) the NPV of the arrears as of 15 September 1999 is equivalent to USD 1 684 767.96;

(c) the NPV will be paid to IFAD as follows:
   
   (i) down payment of USD 300 000 by the end of November 1999, at the latest;

   (ii) four equal instalments of USD 346 191.99, to be paid on the following dates:
        1 February 2000, 1 August 2000, 1 February 2001 and 1 August 2001;

(d) all current billings will be paid on the respective due dates, beginning with the
    15 January 2000 due date.

13. It was further decided not to consider the possibility of adjusting the approved schedule with
    regard to the application of the NPV principle until such time as a formal change in policy was made.
    Accordingly, document EB 99/67/R.6 was revised to delete the related reference.

(f) Review of the Implementation of IFAD’s Policy Framework for Managing
    Partnerships with Countries in Arrears

14. The Executive Board considered the Review of IFAD’s Policy Framework for Managing
    Partnerships with Countries in Arrears (document EB 99/67/R.7) which focused on the two basic
    problems encountered in implementing the current arrears policy. After a preliminary analysis of the
    effects of applying the NPV requirement in arrears settlement packages and of the need for the
    Executive Board to approve all such packages, Directors requested further information, especially
    regarding the practice followed by other international financial institutions, and agreed to reconsider
    the issues at the Sixty-Eighth Session of the Executive Board.

(g) Preview of the Programme of Work and Budget of IFAD for 2000

15. Directors expressed appreciation of the clarity and concision of the Preview of the Programme
    of Work and Budget of IFAD for 2000 (document EB 99/67/R.8) and provided many useful
    comments for the preparation of the final document to be presented to the Sixty-Eighth Session of the
    Executive Board. While the level of the Programme of Work was welcomed, it was also recognized
    that the level of USD 472.8 million was based on the assumption of a successful and timely outcome
    of the Consultation review. In the event this assumption is not realized, the level of the Programme of
    Work will need to be reviewed.

16. The Executive Board Director for the United States indicated that the United States was still not
    satisfied that the proposed level of loans and grants was justified as necessary to establish IFAD as a
    credible development institution.

17. With regard to the administrative budget, discussions centred on the issue of zero real growth
    versus zero nominal growth. Many Directors felt comfortable with management’s proposed zero real
    growth in light of the considerable budget reductions the Fund had already achieved in recent years.
    However, as other Directors, including the Executive Board Director for Germany, would have
    preferred zero nominal growth, it was suggested that the final budget proposal contain fuller
    justification for maintaining zero growth in real, rather than nominal, terms.

(h) Report of the Audit Committee

18. The Executive Board endorsed the Report of the Audit Committee (document EB 99/67/R.9),
    presented by its Chairman, and took note of the committee’s recommendation that the current ceiling
of the General Reserve be maintained pending the outcome of discussions by the Consultation and any decisions relating to the Advance Commitment Authority. The Executive Board also approved the External Auditor’s fee for 1999 of ITL 164 million.

D. Consultation to Review the Adequacy of the Resources Available to IFAD  
(Agenda Item 4)  

(a) Progress Report

19. The Executive Board noted the oral report on the Third Session of the Consultation to Review the Adequacy of the Resources Available to IFAD.

(b) Report of the Chairman of the Ad Hoc Committee on Regional Allocations of the Executive Board

20. The Executive Board reviewed the Report of the Chairman of the Ad Hoc Committee on Regional Allocations (document EB 99/67/R.10), which was established at the Sixty-Sixth Session of the Board. While broadly endorsing the report and the recommended regional allocations, the Executive Board recognized that this issue would be considered by the Consultation and, consequently, be reflected in the Consultation’s final report. The Executive Board therefore decided to reconsider the issue subsequent to completion of the Consultation process.

E. Country Strategy Work, Managing Strategic Partnerships and Cofinancing  
(Agenda Item 5)

21. The Executive Board noted the oral report which provided an update on the work being done to formulate the document on Country Strategy Work, Managing Strategic Partnerships and Cofinancing. The document will incorporate suggestions made by Directors who attended the informal seminar on the subject in April 1999 and take account of related discussions that were taking place in the Consultation review. Executive Board Directors were invited to share their views with management on ways to mobilize greater cofinancing, especially from bilateral donors.

F. Report of the President on the Human Resources Management Strategy (Agenda Item 6)

22. The Executive Board reviewed the Report of the President on the Human Resources Management Strategy (document EB 99/67/R.12 and corrigendum). Executive Board Directors commended the proposals that had already been put into practice and expressed interest in the remaining recommendations that the Fund intends to apply over the next two years.

G. Report of the Evaluation Committee (Agenda Item 7)

23. The Executive Board noted the oral preliminary report of the Chairman of the Evaluation Committee on the review undertaken by the committee with respect to its role and reporting practice. It looked forward to receiving the committee’s final recommendations at the Sixty-Eighth Session of the Executive Board.

H. Resources Available for Commitment (Agenda Item 8)

24. The Executive Board reviewed the information contained in document EB 99/67/R.13 and noted that sufficient resources were available under IFAD’s Regular Programme for commitment to all project and technical assistance grant proposals submitted for Executive Board consideration at the current Session.
1. **Projects for the Consideration of the Board (Agenda Item 9)**

25. The Executive Board considered the following project/programme proposals:

   (a) **Africa I**

   Cape Verde: Rural Poverty Alleviation Programme

26. The Executive Board considered the programme proposal contained in document EB 99/67/R.14 and, upon concluding its review of the proposed loan to Cape Verde, adopted the following resolution:

   “RESOLVED: that the Fund shall make a loan to the Republic of Cape Verde in various currencies in an amount equivalent to six million nine hundred and fifty thousand Special Drawing Rights (SDR 6 950 000) to mature on and prior to 1 September 2039 and to bear a service charge of three fourths of one per cent (0.75%) per annum, and to be upon such other terms and conditions as shall be substantially in accordance with the terms and conditions presented to the Executive Board in this Report and Recommendation of the President.”

27. The loan for the Rural Poverty Alleviation Programme was formulated and approved under the flexible lending mechanism.

   (b) **Africa II**

   Tanzania, United Republic of: Participatory Irrigation Development Programme

28. The Executive Board considered the programme proposal contained in document EB 99/67/R.16 with its addendum and supplement and, upon concluding its review of the proposed loan to the United Republic of Tanzania, adopted the following resolution:

   “RESOLVED: that the Fund shall make a loan to the United Republic of Tanzania in various currencies in an amount equivalent to twelve million five hundred and fifty thousand Special Drawing Rights (SDR 12 550 000) to mature on and prior to 1 September 2039 and to bear a service charge of three fourths of one per cent (0.75%) per annum, and to be upon such other terms and conditions as shall be substantially in accordance with the terms and conditions presented to the Executive Board in this Report and Recommendation of the President.”

29. The Executive Board considered the programme proposal contained in document EB 99/67/R.17 with its addendum and supplement and, upon concluding its review of the proposed loan to the Kingdom of Bhutan, adopted the following resolution:

   “RESOLVED: that the Fund shall make a loan to the Kingdom of Bhutan in various currencies in an amount equivalent to six million nine hundred and fifty thousand Special Drawing Rights (SDR 6 950 000) to mature on and prior to 1 September 2039 and to bear a service charge of three fourths of one per cent (0.75%) per annum, and to be upon such other terms and conditions as shall be substantially in accordance with the terms and conditions presented to the Executive Board in this Report and Recommendation of the President.”

(c) **Asia and the Pacific**

   (i) Bhutan: Second Eastern Zone Agricultural Programme
30. The loan for the Second Eastern Zone Agricultural Programme was formulated and approved under the flexible lending mechanism.

(ii) Cambodia: Agricultural Development Support Project to Seila

31. The Executive Board considered the project proposal contained in document EB 99/67/R.18 with its addendum and supplement and, upon concluding its review of the proposed loan to the Kingdom of Cambodia, adopted the following resolution:

“RESOLVED: that the Fund shall make a loan to the Kingdom of Cambodia in various currencies in an amount equivalent to six million three hundred and fifty thousand Special Drawing Rights (SDR 6 350 000) to mature on and prior to 1 September 2039 and to bear a service charge of three fourths of one per cent (0.75%) per annum, and to be upon such terms and conditions as shall be substantially in accordance with the terms and conditions presented to the Executive Board in this Report and Recommendation of the President.”

(d) Latin America and the Caribbean

Argentina: North Western Rural Development Project (PRODERNOA)

32. The Executive Board considered the project proposal contained in document EB 99/67/R.19 with its addendum and supplement and, upon concluding its review of the proposed loan to the Argentine Republic, adopted the following resolution:

“RESOLVED: that the Fund shall make a loan to the Argentine Republic in various currencies in an amount equivalent to twelve million eight hundred thousand Special Drawing Rights (SDR 12 800 000) to mature on and prior to 15 June 2014 and to bear an interest rate equal to the reference interest rate per annum, as determined by the Fund annually and to be upon such other terms and conditions as shall be substantially in accordance with the terms and conditions presented to the Executive Board in this Report and Recommendation of the President.”

J. Proposed Grants for Technical Assistance (Agenda Item 10)

33. The Executive Board considered the following technical assistance grant proposals:

(a) Technical Assistance Grants for Agricultural Research and Training by CGIAR-Supported International Centres

34. The Executive Board considered the information contained in document EB 99/67/R.20 concerning the financing, in part, of the Diversification of Smallholder Farming Systems in West and Central Africa through Cultivation of Indigenous Trees by the International Centre for Research in Agroforestry (ICRAF), and the Poverty Alleviation and Enhanced Food Availability in West Africa through Improved Yam Technologies by the International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA), and approved the grants by adopting the following resolutions:

“RESOLVED: that the Fund, in order to finance, in part, the Diversification of Smallholder Farming Systems in West and Central Africa through Cultivation of Indigenous Trees, shall make a grant not exceeding one million United States dollars (USD 1 000 000) to the International Centre for Research in Agroforestry (ICRAF), upon such terms and conditions as shall be substantially in accordance with the terms and conditions presented to the Executive Board in this Report and Recommendation of the President.
FURTHER RESOLVED: that the Fund, in order to finance, in part, the Poverty Alleviation and Enhanced Food Availability in West Africa through Improved Yam Technologies, shall make a grant not exceeding one million two hundred and fifty thousand United States dollars (USD 1 250 000) to the International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA), upon such terms and conditions as shall be substantially in accordance with the terms and conditions presented to the Executive Board in this Report and Recommendation of the President.”

(b) Technical Assistance Grant for Agricultural Research and Training by a Non-CGIAR-Supported International Centre

35. The Executive Board considered the information contained in document EB 99/67/R.21 concerning the financing, in part, of the Regional Programme for the Development and Dissemination of Improved Apiculture Technologies in North Africa by the International Centre of Insect Physiology and Ecology (ICIPE), and approved the grant by adopting the following resolution:

“RESOLVED: that the Fund, in order to finance, in part, the Regional Programme for the Development and Dissemination of Improved Apiculture Technologies in North Africa, shall make a grant not exceeding seven hundred thousand United States dollars (USD 700 000) to the International Centre of Insect Physiology and Ecology (ICIPE) upon such terms and conditions as shall be substantially in accordance with the terms and conditions presented to the Executive Board in this Report and Recommendation of the President.”

36. The Executive Board Director for Germany stated that he could not join the consensus approval of the proposed grant and, accordingly, abstained from the approval.

(c) Technical Assistance Grant to the Southern Cone Common Market (MERCOSUR) for the Institutional and Policy Support Programme to Alleviate Rural Poverty in the MERCOSUR Area

37. The Executive Board considered the information contained in document EB 99/67/R.22 concerning the financing, in part, of the Institutional and Policy Support Programme to Alleviate Rural Poverty in the MERCOSUR Area by the Southern Cone Common Market (MERCOSUR), and approved the grant by approving the following resolution:

“RESOLVED: that the Fund, in order to finance, in part, the Institutional and Policy Support Programme to Alleviate Rural Poverty in the MERCOSUR Area, for three years, commencing in April 2000, shall make a grant not exceeding eight hundred thousand United States dollars (USD 800 000) to the Southern Cone Common Market (MERCOSUR) upon such terms and conditions as shall be substantially in accordance with the terms and conditions presented to the Executive Board in this Report and Recommendation of the President.”

K. Planned Project Activities (Agenda Item 11)

38. The Executive Board reviewed the documents on Planned Project Activities 1999-2000 (EB 99/67/R.23 and addenda) and took note of the information available on projects in the pipeline.

L. Draft Provisional Agenda for the Twenty-Third Session of the Governing Council (Agenda Item 12)

39. The Executive Board approved the Draft Provisional Agenda for the Twenty-Third Session of the Governing Council, as contained in document EB 99/67/R.24/Rev.1, and noted that the dates of the Council were set at 16 and 17 February 2000.
M. Progress Report on Management Information Systems (Agenda Item 13)

40. The Executive Board noted the Progress Report on Management Information Systems (document EB 99/67/R.25) which provided information on the follow-up work done on the plan presented to the Executive Board at its Sixtieth Session in 1997 and on the work envisaged over the medium-term.

N. Other Business (Agenda Item 14)

(a) Dates for the 2000 and 2001 Sessions of the Executive Board

41. The Executive Board approved the dates for its 2000 and 2001 sessions contained in document EB 99/67/R.26/Rev.1, as follows:

- Sixty-Ninth Session: Wednesday 3 and Thursday 4 May 2000
- Seventieth Session: Wednesday 13 and Thursday 14 September 2000
- Seventy-First Session: Wednesday 6 and Thursday 7 December 2000
- Seventy-Second Session: Wednesday 25 and Thursday 26 April 2001
- Seventy-Third Session: Wednesday 12 and Thursday 13 September 2001
- Seventy-Fourth Session: Wednesday 5 and Thursday 6 December 2001

(b) Progress Report on IFAD’s Headquarters Building

42. The Executive Board took note of the oral report on IFAD’s headquarters building which indicated a target date of January 2001 for the occupancy of the building adjacent to IFAD.

(c) Approval of Disclosure of Documents

43. The Executive Board approved the disclosure of the documents that had been approved at the present Session, and noted that the documents would be subsequently posted on IFAD’s public website.
LIST OF PARTICIPANTS TO THE SIXTY-SEVENTH SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD

LISTE DES PARTICIPANTS À LA SOIXANTE-SEPTIÈME SESSION DU CONSEIL D’ADMINISTRATION

LISTA DE LOS PARTICIPANTES EN EL 67° PERÍODO DE SESIONES DE LA JUNTA EJECUTIVA
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<th>Country</th>
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<td><strong>Canada</strong></td>
<td>Jean DEVLIN</td>
<td>Counsellor (Development)</td>
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<td>Seija TORO</td>
<td>Counsellor</td>
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<td><strong>France</strong></td>
<td>Jean-Pierre LABOUREIX</td>
<td>Ministre Conseiller financier auprès</td>
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<td><strong>Belgium</strong></td>
<td>Christian PANNEELS</td>
<td>Conseiller</td>
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<td>Chef de la Section de coopération au développement</td>
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<td>Représentation permanente du Royaume de Belgique</td>
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<td><strong>Germany</strong></td>
<td>Karl-Gerhard DILG</td>
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<td><strong>Switzerland</strong></td>
<td>Lothar CAVIEZEL</td>
<td>Conseiller scientifique principal</td>
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<td>Direction du développement et de la coopération</td>
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<td>Augusto ZODDA</td>
<td>Directeur général</td>
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<td>Klaus OEHLER</td>
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INTERNATIONAL FUND FOR AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT

Member
Membre
Miembro

Alternate Member
Membre suppléant
Miembro suplente

Japan
Keiji YAMAMOTO
Minister
Embassy of Japan
Rome

Denmark
Jorgen MAERSK-PEDERSEN
Counsellor
The Royal Danish Embassy
Rome

Netherlands
Jan BERTELING
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of the Kingdom of The Netherlands to FAO, WFP and IFAD
Rome

United Kingdom
Anthony BEATTIE
Minister
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Rome

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Saleh Ahmed Saif ALTHEEEB
Economist
Ministry of Finance and Industry
Dubai

LIST B
Member
Membre
Miembro

Alternate Member
Membre suppléant
Miembro suplente

Nigeria

Onyeabo Emmanuel ONWUKEME
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and Agriculture Agencies
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Libyan Arab Jamahiriya

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Arab Jamahiriya to the
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Saudi Arabia

Ahmad Ben Souleiman AL-AQUIL
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Permanent Representative of
the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia
to FAO
Rome

Indonesia

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Director
Bureau for International Cooperation
Ministry of Agriculture
Jakarta

Venezuela

Iván ANGULO CHACÓN
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con Financiamiento Internacional
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Caracas

Algeria

Ahmed SADOUDI
Directeur général du budget
Ministère des finances
Alger

LIST C
SUB-LIST C1 – Africa

Egypt

Mohamad KHALIFA
Agricultural Counsellor
Deputy Permanent Representative
of the Arab Republic of Egypt
to the United Nations Food
and Agriculture Agencies
Rome

Cape Verde

Kenya

Eliazar Babu MUGA
Economist
Ministry of Agriculture
Nairobi

Chad
LIST C
SUB-LIST C2 – Europe, Asia and the Pacific

China
LIANG Qu
Minister Plenipotentiary
Permanent Representative of the People’s Republic of China to IFAD
Rome

Sri Lanka
Deeptha KULATILLEKE
Counsellor
Alternate Permanent Representative of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka to IFAD
Rome

India
Neela GANGADHARAN
Minister (Agriculture)
Embassy of the Republic of India
Rome

Georgia

LIST C
SUB-LIST C3 – Latin America and the Caribbean

Argentina
Hilda G. GABARDINI
Encargada de Negocios, a.i.
Representante Permanente Alterno de la República Argentina ante el FIDA
Roma

Brazil
Roberto BASTOS CARREIRO
General Coordinator of Policies and Evaluation
Secretariat of International Affairs
Ministry of Planning, Budget and Management
Brasília, D.F.

Mexico
José ROBLES-AGUILAR
Consejero
Representante Permanente Adjunto de los Estados Unidos Mexicanos ante el FIDA
Roma

Panama
Horacio MALTEZ
Ministro Consejero
Representante Permanente Adjunto de la República de Panamá ante el FIDA
Roma
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Document No.</th>
<th>Agenda Item</th>
<th>Title</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>EB 99/67/R.1/Rev.1/Add.1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Schedule of Work for the Session</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EB 99/67/R.1/Rev.2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Agenda</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EB 99/67/R.2 + Add.1</td>
<td>3(a)</td>
<td>Status of Contributions to the Fourth Replenishment of IFAD’s Resources</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EB 99/67/R.3</td>
<td>3(b)</td>
<td>Report on IFAD’s Investment Portfolio for the Second Quarter of 1999</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EB 99/67/R.4 + Add.1</td>
<td>3(c)</td>
<td>Status Report on Principal and Interest Payments</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EB 99/67/R.5</td>
<td>3(d)</td>
<td>Settlement of Arrears by the Gabonese Republic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EB 99/67/R.6</td>
<td>3(e)</td>
<td>Settlement of Arrears by the Republic of Sierra Leone</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EB 99/67/R.8</td>
<td>3(g)</td>
<td>Preview of the Programme of Work and Budget of IFAD for 2000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EB 99/67/R.9</td>
<td>3(h)</td>
<td>Report of the Audit Committee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EB 99/67/R.10</td>
<td>4(b)</td>
<td>Report of the Chairman of the Ad Hoc Committee on Regional Allocations — Note by the Secretariat</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EB 99/67/R.13</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>Resources Available for Commitment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EB 99/67/R.14</td>
<td>9(a)</td>
<td><strong>Cape Verde:</strong> Rural Poverty Alleviation Programme</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EB 99/67/R.16 + Add.1 + Sup.1</td>
<td>9(b)</td>
<td><strong>Tanzania, United Republic of:</strong> Participatory Irrigation Development Programme</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EB 99/67/R.17 + Add.1 + Sup.1</td>
<td>9(c)(i)</td>
<td><strong>Bhutan:</strong> Second Eastern Zone Agricultural Programme</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EB 99/67/R.18 + Add.1 + Sup.1</td>
<td>9(c)(ii)</td>
<td><strong>Cambodia:</strong> Agricultural Development Support Project to Seila</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EB 99/67/R.19 + Add.1 + Sup.1</td>
<td>9(d)</td>
<td><strong>Argentina:</strong> North Western Rural Development Project (PRODERNOA)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Document No.</td>
<td>Agenda Item</td>
<td>Title</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>----------------------</td>
<td>-------------</td>
<td>-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EB 99/67/R.20</td>
<td>10(a)</td>
<td>Technical Assistance Grants for Agricultural Research and Training by CGIAR-Supported International Centres</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EB 99/67/R.21</td>
<td>10(b)</td>
<td>Technical Assistance Grant for Agricultural Research by a Non-CGIAR-Supported International Centre</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EB 99/67/R.22</td>
<td>10(c)</td>
<td>Technical Assistance Grant to the Southern Cone Common Market (MERCOSUR) for the Institutional and Policy Support Programme to Alleviate Rural Poverty in the MERCOSUR Area</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EB 99/67/R.24</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>Draft Provisional Agenda for the Twenty-Third Session of the Governing Council</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EB 99/67/R.26</td>
<td>14(a)</td>
<td>Dates for the 2000 and 2001 Sessions of the Executive Board</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EB 99/67/INF.1</td>
<td></td>
<td>Arrangements for the Sixty-Seventh Session of the Executive Board</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EB 99/67/INF.2</td>
<td></td>
<td>Reallocation of Loan Proceeds, Expansion of Project Area and Extension of the Completion and Closing Dates of the Cost Arid and Semi-Arid Lands Development Project in Kenya (Loan No. SRS-027-KE) to Support a Programme for the Eradication of the Army Worm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EB 99/67/INF.3</td>
<td></td>
<td>IFAD’s Lending Terms and Conditions — Interest Rates for the Year 2000 for Loans on Ordinary and Intermediate Terms</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EB 99/67/INF.4</td>
<td></td>
<td>Good Governance: An Overview</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EB 99/67/INF.5</td>
<td></td>
<td>Information Note on IFAD Rural Poverty Report, 2000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EB 99/67/INF.6/Rev.1</td>
<td></td>
<td>List of Participants to the Sixty-Seventh Session of the Executive Board</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
IFAD
INTERNATIONAL FUND FOR AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT
Executive Board – Sixty-Seventh Session
Rome, 8-9 September 1999

AGENDA

1. Opening of the Session

2. Adoption of the Agenda

3. Financial Matters

   (a) Status of Contributions to the Fourth Replenishment of IFAD’s Resources
   (b) Report on IFAD’s Investment Portfolio for the Second Quarter of 1999
   (c) Status Report on Principal and Interest Payments
   (d) Settlement of Arrears by the Gabonese Republic
   (e) Settlement of Arrears by the Republic of Sierra Leone
   (f) Review of the Implementation of IFAD’s Policy Framework for Managing Partnerships with Countries in Arrears
   (g) Preview of the Programme of Work and Budget of IFAD for 2000
   (h) Report of the Audit Committee

4. Consultation to Review the Adequacy of the Resources Available to IFAD

   (a) Progress Report
   (b) Report of the Chairman of the Ad Hoc Committee on Regional Allocations of the Executive Board

5. Country Strategy Work, Managing Strategic Partnerships and Cofinancing

6. Report of the President on the Human Resources Management Strategy

7. Report of the Evaluation Committee

8. Resources Available for Commitment
9. Projects for the Consideration of the Board
   (a) Africa I
       Cape Verde: Rural Poverty Alleviation Programme
   (b) Africa II
       Tanzania, United Republic of: Participatory Irrigation Development Programme
   (c) Asia and the Pacific
       (i) Bhutan: Second Eastern Zone Agricultural Programme
       (ii) Cambodia: Agricultural Development Support Project to Seila
   (d) Latin America and the Caribbean
       Argentina: North Western Rural Development Project (PRODERNOA)

    (a) Technical Assistance Grants for Agricultural Research and Training by CGIAR-Supported International Centres
    (b) Technical Assistance Grant for Agricultural Research and Training by a Non-CGIAR-Supported International Centre
    (c) Technical Assistance Grant to the Southern Cone Common Market (MERCOSUR) for the Institutional and Policy Support Programme to Alleviate Rural Poverty in the MERCOSUR Area

11. Planned Project Activities

12. Draft Provisional Agenda for the Twenty-Third Session of the Governing Council

13. Progress Report on Management Information Systems

14. Other Business
    (a) Dates for the 2000 and 2001 Sessions of the Executive Board
    (b) Progress Report on IFAD’s Headquarters Building
    (c) Approval of Disclosure of Documents