



IFAD
INTERNATIONAL FUND FOR AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT
Executive Board – Seventy-First Session
Rome, 6-7 December 2000

**APPOINTMENT OF THE PRESIDENT:
TRANSITION IN THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT**

**PROPOSAL BY THE CONVENORS OF IFAD'S LISTS
(Note Prepared by the Secretariat)**

1. The Executive Board, at its Seventieth Session in September 2000, considered two documents on the above subject: (a) document EB 2000/70/R.9, suggesting some possible parameters for, *inter alia*, the examination of candidates, terms of reference and assumption of office; and (b) document EB 2000/70/R.27, containing personal proposals from the chairperson of the Governing Council. The latter document followed a meeting of the Governing Council's Bureau (on 10 September 2000) with the objective of facilitating the decision-making process for the appointment of the next President of IFAD at the Twenty-Fourth Session of the Governing Council in February 2001. The Bureau also met with the convenors of the three lists on 11 September 2000 to discuss these and other issues.

2. All meetings discussed the procedures for the nomination of candidates for the Presidency of IFAD, his/her terms of reference and his/her election and appointment, together with related matters, including a transitional period. No consensus was reached at the last Executive Board session, but all three lists expressed the unanimous opinion that the Fund deserved the best possible President and agreed to continue work on reviewing the procedures.

3. Subsequently, the list convenors carried out a series of consultations and meetings on 16 and 28 November 2000, that included several representatives from each list.

4. The following progress was made:

Transitional Period

5. There is an emerging consensus among all concerned that, for the proper hand-over from one President to the next, there should be a transitional period on the order of six weeks. Given no change in the normal term of office (i.e., four years) of each elected President, once the first transition has



occurred, subsequent transitions would be built in. However, there was consensus that this transitional period should be institutionalized by the appropriate amendment of the Agreement Establishing IFAD.

6. Accordingly, the list convenors recommend that the Executive Board consider a draft resolution (attached as an annex hereto) at its present session for possible submission to the Governing Council for adoption at its Twenty-Fourth Session in February 2001. If the draft resolution were to be submitted, it would be understood that this proposal would be dealt with in the order of business by the Governing Council before the election of the next President.

Other Aspects

7. The convenors are considering whether to propose that the Governing Council establish a working group to review the procedures for appointing the President of IFAD and other issues.

8. It should be noted that an amendment to the Agreement Establishing IFAD requires a majority of four-fifths of the total number of votes of the Governing Council, in accordance with Article 12(a)(i) of the agreement.

DRAFT RESOLUTION ON TRANSITION IN THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF IFAD

Resolution ---/XXIV

Transition in the Office of the President of IFAD

The Governing Council of IFAD,

Having considered document GC 24/L.--- and the proposal therein and the Executive Board's recommendation thereon;

Having noted that the second and last term of office of the incumbent President of IFAD is to expire on 21 February 2001;

Bearing in mind Article 6, Section 8(a) and (b), of the Agreement Establishing IFAD;

Decides that:

- (a) In accordance with Article 6, Section 8(b), of the Agreement Establishing IFAD, and in order to ensure a smooth handover of the office of the President of IFAD:
 - (i) The incumbent President of IFAD, Fawzi Hamad Al-Sultan, shall continue to perform the duties of his office until 31 March 2001. The incumbent President shall consult, as appropriate, the President-Elect during this transitional period and provide briefing and such other facilities as may be required for the President-elect to acquaint him/herself with the office.
 - (ii) The incumbent President shall perform his duties until the date referred to in paragraph (i) above on the same terms and conditions of service as are applicable to him on the date of the adoption of this Resolution.
- (b) Article 6, Section 8(a), of the Agreement Establishing IFAD shall be amended to read as follows [the text added is underlined]:

“The Governing Council shall appoint the President by a two-thirds majority of the total number of votes. He/she shall be appointed for a term of four years and shall be eligible for reappointment for only one further term. The person so appointed shall assume the office of the President of IFAD, and the incumbent shall relinquish the said office, on a date no later than six (6) weeks after the said appointment. The person so appointed shall be afforded every facility and opportunity to acquaint him/herself with the office during the said transitional period. The appointment of the President may be terminated by the Governing Council by a two-thirds majority of the total number of votes.”
- (c) This Resolution and the amendment to the Agreement Establishing IFAD contained therein shall enter into effect on the date of the adoption of this Resolution.