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IFAD

INTERNATIONAL FUND FOR AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT

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REPORT AND RECOMMENDATION OF THE PRESIDENT

TO THE EXECUTIVE BOARD ON A PROPOSED

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE GRANT

TO THE

INTERNATIONAL LAND COALITION

IN SUPPORT OF ITS

PROGRAMMES, PARTNERSHIP ACTIVITIES AND SERVICES

**REPORT AND RECOMMENDATION OF THE PRESIDENT OF IFAD TO THE
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PROGRAMMES, PARTNERSHIP ACTIVITIES AND SERVICES**

I. INTRODUCTION

I submit the following Report and Recommendation on a proposed technical assistance grant (TAG) to the International Land Coalition (the Coalition) in support of its programmes, partnership activities and services, in the amount of USD 500 000 for a one-year period.

II. BACKGROUND

1. The IFAD Conference on Hunger and Poverty in 1995 put access to land on the agenda. IFAD recognized the need for a convergence of efforts to address the land access barriers faced by the poor. The Coalition is effectively responding to this need by convening a wide range of stakeholders from civil-society, intergovernmental and governmental organizations to work together in this common cause.

2. IFAD also realized that building an alliance among multiple stakeholders would require broad ownership of the Coalition. Accordingly, the Coalition was established with an IFAD identity, but also with autonomy to ensure partners' commitment to and ownership of agreed activities. The Coalition's Assembly of Members, convened in conjunction with the Fund's Twenty-Fifth Anniversary Council in February 2003, affirmed that this model of work is succeeding. In addition to expanding civil-society membership, the level of government participation is growing as shown in the demand from governments to establish the Coalition's Land Alliances for National Development (LAND) programme in their countries.

3. The Coalition is a global alliance of intergovernmental, governmental and civil-society organizations. It works with the rural poor to increase their secure access to natural resources, especially land, and to enable them to participate directly in local, national, regional and international policy- and decision-making processes that affect their livelihoods.

III. RATIONALE

4. While the Coalition has many members, IFAD fills a special role as its host organization. Because of this role, each Coalition activity provides visibility to IFAD, has an important advocacy function, and furthers the Fund's goal to improve the asset holdings of rural poor men and women.

5. The Coalition's work to strengthen the voice of communities complements the efforts that IFAD is making to promote land and other access issues in its lending programmes. IFAD officials often report that governments dismiss land issues claiming that they have had no signs of community demand. The Coalition's projects for strengthening the influence of the rural poor's institutions are therefore an essential part of the overall process.

6. Shaping public policies and influencing the development agenda within countries and globally is an area where the Coalition's convening capacity has been recognized at both country and international levels. Most recently, the High-Level Segment of the United Nation's Economic and

Social Council (June-July 2003) invited the Coalition to convene a ministerial round table on access to land. The Coalition's achievements at this round table have, in significant measure, resulted from IFAD capacity, including that of its Washington/New York office. There is unrealized scope for IFAD and the Coalition to work together to influence global and national policy agendas more effectively, as is under discussion with the Assistant President of the External Affairs Department and the new Policy Division.

7. The proposed TAG contributes to the costs sustained by the Coalition Secretariat in administering and managing over 60 projects in the following six core action areas:

- (i) **Knowledge Programme** helps civil-society, governmental and intergovernmental organizations learn from each other by identifying, documenting and sharing practical experiences and encouraging governments to incorporate experiences with potential for national impact into public policies. Coalition grants are supporting 12 knowledge projects;
- (ii) **Network Support Programme** strengthens civil-society networks at the country level so that resource-poor households can negotiate their access to resources from a position of collective strength. The Coalition is currently supporting 10 network-building projects;
- (iii) **Community Empowerment Facility (CEF)** strengthens the capacity of communities to gain and maintain access to land and related productive resources. It supports innovative projects that can provide lessons within and beyond the community and country of implementation. Financed by the World Bank and IFAD, the CEF is currently supporting 30 projects selected from 173 proposals. The IFAD Technical Advisory Division involves the relevant country portfolio managers (CPMs) in the assessment process;
- (iv) **Women's Resource Access Programme (WRAP)** raises national and international understanding of the need to improve women's access to land and related livelihood factors. With support from the Japanese contribution to IFAD's Women in Development Trust Fund, WRAPs were initiated in Cambodia, India, Indonesia and Nepal. This success prompted the Department for International Development (United Kingdom) to support replication in Africa. A WRAP in Kenya, the first of four African WRAPs, was launched in May 2003 and was incorporated into the IFAD project preparation process;
- (v) **Towards a Common Platform on Access to Land** aims to build a global consensus on land issues. It is an interactive forum for dialogue, joint pilot activities and consultation whose objective is to promote common assessments, shared vision and political will. Widely endorsed by the World Summit on Sustainable Development and the Commission on Sustainable Development, the Platform has contributed to the emerging role of the Coalition as both a country-level and an international convener of stakeholders on land issues;
- (vi) **Land Alliances for National Development** works with governments to develop or strengthen country-level mechanisms to advise on, debate and negotiate proposed land administration and policy reform, and to advocate changes to related productive services. Four pilot country programmes are under design – in Guatemala, Indonesia, The Philippines and South Africa. The Netherlands is funding the pilot stage.

8. The Coalition is working with IFAD in the design of an action research programme aiming to incorporate land activities into projects funded by the IFAD/Belgian Survival Fund Joint Programme in Niger and Uganda.

9. In addition, the Coalition is collaborating with the Technical Advisory Division to address gender and water issues, undertake joint research and design collaborative field projects. The CPMs are more actively engaging with the CEF. The Coalition supports the CPMs by providing information from its database on partner non-governmental organizations and networks. There is also greater scope for collaboration in the project cycle, as has been pointed out by the regional directors of the Fund's five region divisions.

10. When IFAD agreed to house the Coalition Secretariat and serve as its lead organization, it also stated that it would not be fully responsible for the Coalition's financing. While IFAD support for the Coalition's operating, administrative and programme costs reached almost 100% in the period immediately following the 1995 Conference on Hunger and Poverty, its annual contributions have since declined. IFAD contributed USD 750 000 for the years 2001 and 2002 (of which USD 250 000 was for operations and USD 500 000 for the CEF). Its support in 2003 was USD 600 000. This proposed TAG of USD 500 000 is therefore lower than previous IFAD grants to the Coalition and is based on the projection that Coalition expenditures in 2004 will be equal to those in 2003.

11. The Coalition's operations and administrative budget cover more than just managerial activities. The greatest share of costs is for the operation of the six programme areas listed above and for activities involving IFAD. However, these costs are not adequately covered by the funds mobilized for direct activity costs, and as such this TAG will help cover a portion of the secretariat costs associated with these programmes, partnership activities and services.

IV. GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

12. The goal of the proposed TAG is to contribute to the Coalition's operating, administrative and programme requirements for 2004.

13. The specific objectives of the TAG are to:

- contribute to the costs involved in operating the Coalition Secretariat and its related functions, from governance to programme support;
- support programme functions involved in operating the six programme areas described above; and
- support the advocacy and policy development programme of work, as outlined above.

V. IMPLEMENTATION

14. The implementation plan is contained in the annual programme of work and budget for 2004, which is subject to a two-part approval system: the Coalition Council and the President of IFAD. The TAG will therefore be used in the above-mentioned areas of work and presented in the budget for approval according to the two-step procedure.

15. Any cofinancing mobilized by the Coalition will form an essential part of its programme of work.

VI. MONITORING AND EVALUATION

16. To examine the Coalition's overall effectiveness in achieving its mission, a third-party evaluation will be carried out in 2004. Moreover, monitoring reports on country-level activities will be posted on the Coalition website and will form part of a consolidated report to IFAD's Executive Board.

VII. RECOMMENDATION

17. I recommend that the Executive Board approve the proposed technical assistance grant in terms of the following resolution:

RESOLVED: that the Fund, in order to finance, in part, the global programmes, partnership activities and services of the International Land Coalition, shall make a grant not exceeding five hundred thousand United States dollars (USD 500 000) to the Coalition, commencing on 1 January 2004 and continuing through 31 December 2004, 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.

Lennart Båge
President

