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IFAD

INTERNATIONAL FUND FOR AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT

Executive Board – Eighty-First Session

Rome, 21-22 April 2004

PROPOSAL FOR A NEW HEADQUARTERS FOR IFAD

1. IFAD staff are currently located in three separate buildings along the Via del Serafico (No. 107, 127, and 200). The third building (No. 200) is shared with four private commercial firms, and IFAD occupies its seventh and eighth floors. The building at No. 107 has been completely renovated in order to comply with the European Union regulations and the full costs of such refurbishment are being paid by the proprietor and the host Government as per IFAD's Headquarters Agreement.
2. The present office set-up is very inconvenient and ineffective as staff have to walk between buildings for meetings and services. More importantly, the security situation of staff going from one building to the other is highly unsatisfactory and it is very difficult to control visitors' access, especially at 107 and 127 where there are multiple entries. An additional major problem is the lack of conference space, because of which all consultation meetings, seminars and workshops have to be held off premises.
3. In 2003, Pirelli Real Estate, proprietor of the buildings on Via del Serafico 107 and 200, approached IFAD with a preliminary proposal for the rental of a building on Via Paolo di Dono in the vicinity of IFAD's present headquarters. This building has a number of advantages:
 - (a) it has the capacity to house all staff and consultants in one building instead of three, which will ensure a more effective use of staff time and resources;
 - (b) it has sufficient space to fit conference rooms large enough to host IFAD's consultation meetings and other major events (for which at present IFAD has to rent premises with rent being paid by the Italian Government);

- (c) it will also provide a more secure environment since it has only one entry point (instead of several as at present), which is highly desirable;
- (d) the proposed new office building is more representative of a United Nations Headquarters;
- (e) it will allow for a better concentration of outsourced services, leading to efficiencies in service and costs; and
- (f) it will reduce, for both IFAD and the Italian Government, the administrative work imposed by dealing with multiple landlords (we currently have two).

4. In early 2004, the Italian Government informed IFAD that it had reviewed and approved this proposal. At the Twenty-Seventh Session of the Governing Council, the Italian Government formally announced its approval for a new headquarters building. The outcome for the Italian Government will be a more efficient and effective use of its resources and another step forward in securing Rome as a major centre for United Nations agencies.

5. The building will have to undergo approximately 18 months of renovation works which will be financed by the proprietor and covered with the new rent which will be paid for by the Italian Government as per IFAD's Headquarters Agreement. IFAD will be in a position to move into its new headquarters by early 2006.

6. The Board will be regularly informed of the progress made in this regard.

