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## IFAD

### INTERNATIONAL FUND FOR AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT

#### Executive Board – Eighty-Sixth Session

Rome, 12-13 December 2005

## REPORT ON THE EVALUATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL LAND COALITION

### A. Operational Framework of the International Land Coalition

1. The International Land Coalition,<sup>1</sup> which was established as a result of the Conference on Hunger and Poverty convened by IFAD in Brussels in November 1995, is a separate entity – governed by its own constitution and governance framework and hosted by IFAD. In view of the Conference's emphasis on building strategic alliances among various development organizations to improve access by the rural poor to natural resources, especially land, IFAD agreed to host the Land Coalition. In 1996, IFAD's Executive Board approved a grant for the establishment and development of the Land Coalition and to initiate the agreed programme of action. In July 1998, the Coalition's Secretariat was formally established.

2. The Land Coalition currently has 36 members, which include civil society organizations and intergovernmental organizations; voting and decision-making authority lies with the Assembly of Members. Some 60 partners participate in the activities of the Land Coalition but do not have voting rights, and over 50 other organizations are affiliated. The Coalition Council is the executive body responsible for the governance of the Land Coalition.

3. As the international focal point and host organization, IFAD is a permanent member of the Assembly of Members and of the Council, of which it is co-chair jointly with a civil society organization.

4. Land Coalition activities are undertaken in collaboration with its members and partners at the international, national and local levels. The activities are based on the strategic thrusts defined in the Coalition's Strategic Framework. The intervention model for implementation of these activities has two main elements. First, building coalitions and networks and creating space for dialogue, advocacy and related policy analysis are broadly supported through the convening of multi-stakeholder meetings, facilitating contacts between organizations concerned with land issues at the local and national level, and grant funding in support of networking. The second element relates to empowerment, capacity-building, knowledge-sharing and scaling-up of civil society experience and is realized through six supporting programmes

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<sup>1</sup> Formerly known as the Popular Coalition to Eradicate Hunger and Poverty.

## B. The Context of the Evaluation

5. The Land Coalition has been active for almost ten years, seven of these with a secretariat. As the host organization and major source of the Coalition's funds, IFAD has long recognized the strategic importance of land issues in combating rural poverty, and access to resources is a key element of IFAD's strategic framework.<sup>2</sup> IFAD also recognizes the importance of the strong links the Coalition has with civil society organizations.

6. IFAD has provided 11 technical assistance grants to the Land Coalition for a total of USD 7.2 million since 1996. This has been complemented by funding from other donors in the amount of USD 4.0 million, equivalent to 36% of the Coalition's total funding.<sup>3</sup>

7. In 2003, the Land Coalition requested longer-term security of funding as most of its activities are long-term. The Executive Board of IFAD responded in 2004 by approving a grant of USD 1 865 000 to be used over the period ending 31 December 2006 for the Coalition's operational, administrative and programme requirements and to strengthen its linkages with IFAD programmes. This grant followed a satisfactory internal review of the Land Coalition by IFAD. The first tranche of USD 900 000 was provided for 2005, and a second tranche of USD 965 000 for expenditures in 2006 was approved in April 2005. At that time, IFAD management committed to undertake a full independent evaluation of the Land Coalition in keeping with the new IFAD Policy for Grant Financing approved by the Board in 2003.<sup>4</sup> As with other recipients of IFAD grants, future grants to the Land Coalition will be governed by this policy.

## C. Evaluation Objectives, Processes and Progress Made

8. The independent external evaluation of the Land Coalition is now under way. The main objective of this evaluation is to provide IFAD, as a founder and host of the Coalition, with an independent review of the progress being made in achieving the Coalition's mission and strategic objectives. The evaluation will assess the relevance of Land Coalition activities vis-à-vis achieving stated objectives and related institutional issues.

9. The evaluation will also assess what lessons have been learned from past experience and offer recommendations on what steps the Land Coalition should take to improve future performance.<sup>5</sup> Immediate or short-term initiatives will be highlighted, but the focus will be on any longer-term strategic changes required to enable the Land Coalition to improve its ability to achieve its objectives and evolve as an institution in the future.

10. The evaluation was endorsed by the Coalition Council, which will be responsible for planning the future work of the organization.

11. In terms of the evaluation approach, it was decided at the outset that the independent external evaluation of the Land Coalition would follow a modus operandi similar to that used by IFAD's Office of Evaluation.

12. IFAD intends to submit the evaluation findings to the Eighty-Seventh Session of the Executive Board in April 2006.

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<sup>2</sup> Strategic Framework for IFAD, 2002-2006 – Enabling the Rural Poor to Overcome Their Poverty, IFAD 2002.

<sup>3</sup> In addition, some donors provide additional support in terms of staff time that is not reflected in budget figures.

<sup>4</sup> IFAD Policy for Grant Financing (documents EB 2003/80/R.5/Rev.1 and EB 2003/80/C.R.P.1).

<sup>5</sup> An overall balance between learning and accountability perspectives will be maintained in this evaluation exercise.

