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IFAD

INTERNATIONAL FUND FOR AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT

Executive Board – Eighty-Sixth Session

Rome, 12-13 December 2005

INVITATION OF OBSERVERS TO SESSIONS OF THE GOVERNING COUNCIL

1. Observers have been invited to past sessions of the Governing Council in accordance with the provisions of the Agreement Establishing IFAD and various Governing Council and Executive Board rules and decisions. Such rules and decisions, together with a list of observers that may be invited to each session of the Governing Council, are set out in documents EB 87/31/R.57 and EB 88/34/R.52, which were reviewed by the Executive Board at its Thirty-First and Thirty-Fourth Sessions in September 1987 and September 1988, respectively. At its Thirty-Fourth Session, the Executive Board decided, inter alia, to amend the existing criteria for the selection of NGOs as observers in order that they fall into one of the following categories:

- (a) well-established consensual or “umbrella” organizations, with a large and wide-ranging membership;
- (b) “Advocacy NGOs” that make major efforts to introduce IFAD’s objectives and activities to policymakers and the general public;
- (c) “Operational NGOs”, which have already commenced collaboration with IFAD on a number of projects or which have demonstrated a strong interest in beginning such wide-ranging collaboration with IFAD; and
- (d) in the selection of NGOs from the groups specified in subparagraphs (a), (b) and (c) above, it shall be ensured that NGOs from the developing countries are adequately represented by consensual NGOs from Latin America and the Caribbean, the Near East and North Africa, Africa and Asia.

2. In this connection, applications for observer status with IFAD have been received from: the Sovereign Military Hospitaller Order of St. John of Jerusalem, of Rhodes and of Malta (the Order of Malta), the Regional Centre on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development for the Near East (CARDNE), and the NGOs Alisei, Counterpart International and Heifer International. Information on each of these organizations is contained in the attached annexes.

Recommendation

3. Whereas the Order of Malta, CARDNE, Alisei, Counterpart International and Heifer International meet the criteria established by the Executive Board, as stipulated in paragraphs 8 and 9 of document EB 87/31/R.57 and in paragraph 1 above, and as the activities of these organizations aim at improving the livelihoods of poor people in less developed countries, in conformity with IFAD's objectives, it is proposed that the Executive Board authorize the President to invite the Order of Malta, CARDNE, Alisei, Counterpart International and Heifer International to attend the Twenty-Ninth and future sessions of the Governing Council as observers.

**SOVEREIGN MILITARY HOSPITALLER ORDER OF ST. JOHN OF JERUSALEM,
OF RHODES AND OF MALTA**

The origins of the Sovereign Military Hospitaller Order of St. John of Jerusalem, of Rhodes and of Malta – better known as the Order of Malta – date back to the eleventh century, when a monastic community founded a Hospital in Jerusalem to care for pilgrims of any religious faith or race. Made a religious Order under a Bull issued by Pope Pascal II in 1113, the main role of the Order was to participate in the military defence of the sick and the pilgrims. Its military role ended with the loss of the Order's territory in 1798. Today, the mission of the Order of Malta is exclusively humanitarian. Because of its centuries-old experience and its members' active involvement in the major trends in society, the Order has been able to adapt its resources effectively. The Order of Malta is now a major global professional organization, providing humanitarian aid and medical care. Its 11 500 members are organized in grand priories, priories and national associations, and the Order is also supported by approximately 80 000 trained volunteers and 10 000 salaried personnel, mostly medical.

Objectives

In accordance with its constitutional charter, the purpose of the Order of Malta is the promotion of the Christian virtues of charity and brotherhood. The Order performs its charitable works for the sick, the needy and refugees regardless of religion, race or age.

Activities

The Order of Malta is involved in medical and humanitarian activities. It has a permanent presence in most countries in the world. The Order is especially active in developing countries, providing aid to the poor, the needy and the sick through its worldwide network of associations, hospitals and dispensaries. Its operational assistance projects and programmes respond to emergencies through the activities of Malteser International, which groups the resources of major national associations of the Order. For many years, one of the Order's main activities has been assistance to people affected by Hansen's disease (leprosy), mainly through the Geneva-based Comité international de l'Ordre de Malte (CIOMAL), founded specifically for this purpose. More recently, the Order has expanded its work to address other pressing health issues such as HIV/AIDS.

The Order's activities also include the collection and sorting of medical supplies, which are distributed worldwide to the sick and needy, with the approval of the World Health Organization. The Order, on occasion, provides medical care to United Nations peace missions (for instance, in the Balkans, Central America, Kuwait and Timor-Leste). It is particularly active in the Middle East, where it operates a series of dispensaries and the only standing hospital in Bethlehem, which assists people from the three major religions practised in the region.

Membership and Structure

The governance structure of the Order of Malta is similar to that of a national government. It is organized under legislative, executive and judicial powers. The Order of Malta is a sovereign subject of international law, with its own constitution, passports, postage stamps, and public institutions. The 78th Grand Master, Fra' Andrew Bertie, was elected Head of the Order for life in 1988 and governs the Order, assisted by the Sovereign Council that he chairs. The Council has four senior officers – the Grand Commander, the Grand Chancellor, the Grand Hospitaller and the Receiver of the Common Treasure – and six other members, all elected by the Chapter General from among the Professed Knights or Knights in Obedience. The Sovereign Council is elected for a term of five years.

Countries of Operation

The Order of Malta currently maintains diplomatic relations at the ambassadorial level with 93 countries, all members of the United Nations.

Funding

The priories, national associations and foundations of the Order fund their medical, hospitaller and humanitarian activities through subscriptions and donations from their members; gifts and legacies; and fund-raising campaigns directed at thousands of regular donors. In Europe, the Order receives major funding from national health and social security systems, donations from outside the Order, subsidies from governments and contributions from large foundations.

The activities in the developing countries are financed from a variety of sources: the Order's priories and national associations, the European Union, specialized agencies of the United Nations, national governments and international foundations. The variety of funding sources makes it possible to deal with a wide range of situations in terms of urgency and scale, while remaining completely independent from governments and public donors.

The accounts of all the Order's associations, organizations and hospitaller establishments undergo regular audits by external accountants. In addition, these bodies are subject to the overall control of the Board of Auditors of the Order of Malta, whose seat is in the Grand Magistry in Rome.

Relationships with IFAD and Other International Organizations

Given its humanitarian mandate and commitment to fighting poverty, disease and hunger worldwide, the Order of Malta closely follows the work of the United Nations. The Order is represented in the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the World Food Programme (WFP), serving as an observer to keep the Order informed on new developments and identify opportunities for cooperation. A cooperation agreement with FAO was signed on 14 November 2005. The Order is also present at the United Nations in New York, Vienna and Geneva, at the World Health Organization (WHO), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO).

Location

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**REGIONAL CENTRE ON AGRARIAN REFORM AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT
FOR THE NEAR EAST**

The Regional Centre on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development for the Near East (CARDNE) is an autonomous intergovernmental organization hosted by the Government of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan. The centre serves the needs of member states of the Near East and North Africa region in a broad range of issues related to agricultural and pastoral communities in rural areas.

Objectives

Working through a network of designated national centres in member states, CARDNE's functions and objectives are:

- to assist national action and to stimulate and promote regional cooperation on agrarian reform and rural development;
- to improve the production, income and living conditions of small-scale farmers, pastoral nomads and other needy rural groups;
- to integrate rural people into the development process and to promote their involvement in the social, economic and cultural life of their communities; and
- to serve member states in these areas by providing consultative services and technical support, fostering the exchange of ideas and experience, and encouraging collaborative activities for the benefit of the people of the member states.

Activities

CARDNE works towards achieving its objectives through a variety of activities, based always on participatory methods that draw on the expertise and experience of local communities. These include:

- conducting and promoting research and studies on various aspects of agrarian reform and rural development;
- holding consultative conferences that allow officials, researchers, planners, executives and local community representatives to exchange ideas and experiences;
- organizing regional and national training courses and workshops on the planning, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation of programmes and projects;
- providing consultative expertise, technical support and liaison services to national centres and other relevant organizations; and
- serving as a clearing house and databank for information on agrarian reform and rural development.

Membership

Currently, CARDNE's membership includes Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Mauritania, the Sudan, the Syrian Arab Republic, Tunisia and Yemen.

Structure

The centre is governed by a governing council consisting of all member states, which meets once every two years. An executive committee of five member states oversees regular activities and meets at least once a year. The director-general is the legal representative of the centre and directs the centre according to the policies and decisions adopted by the governing council. The current director-general is Mr Khaldoun Sbaihi.

Countries of Operation

CARDNE serves the needs of its member states in the Near East (comprising the Middle East and North Africa).

Funding

CARDNE is funded mainly through members' contributions set according to the United Nations rates in the context of the budget as approved by CARDNE's governing council.

Relationships with IFAD and Other International Organizations

Over the last three years, CARDNE has been assigned several training tasks for the staff and beneficiaries of IFAD-financed projects in Jordan, Lebanon and the Syrian Arab Republic. CARDNE's involvement has been through the implementation support of the Near East and North Africa Division and through direct partnership with projects.

CARDNE has signed agreements for collaboration with many organizations such as FAO; the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA); the International Center for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas (ICARDA); the International Centre for Advanced Mediterranean Agronomic Studies (CIHEAM); the Arab Organization for Agricultural Development (AOAD); the Arab Center for the Studies of Arid Zones and Dry Lands (ACSAD); the Inter-Islamic Network on Water Resources Development and Management (INWRDAM); the Queen Zein Al Sharaf Institute for Development (ZENID) (a Jordanian NGO); and the Development and Employment Fund (a Jordanian NGO).

Location

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ANNEX III

ALISEI

The Italian NGO Alisei was founded in February 1998 by merging two pre-existing associations: Nuova Frontiera (founded in Milan in 1983) and Cidis (founded in Perugia in 1984). Both were active in the fields of:

- international cooperation for development;
- humanitarian aid; and
- intercultural education towards development.

Objectives

Alisei was created with the aim of integrating and optimizing the knowledge, lessons learned and the human, financial and logistic resources of the two pre-existing associations, in order to cope in a more efficient and flexible way with the challenges posed by the new European and international development contexts.

Activities

Alisei is active in the following sectors:

- Humanitarian aid: Alisei's general strategy is to assist and protect regardless of gender, ethnicity, or political or religious beliefs. Alisei focuses on creating adequate conditions for the continuity of emergency, post-emergency, rehabilitation and reconstruction activities, and sustainable development.
- International cooperation for development: Alisei's interventions aim to consolidate and develop local potential and capability through such tools as advocacy, education, awareness, microcredit and creation of basic infrastructure for development.
- Information-raising and education for development: Alisei seeks to identify interconnections and relations vis-à-vis North-South development problems, and consequently is constantly elaborating intervention strategies linking local experiences with global problems. As such, Alisei promotes, both in Italy and in Europe, a wide range of initiatives related to information and education campaigns, workshops, elaboration of didactic frameworks, and collaboration with schools and academic institutions, in order to analyse and debate issues relevant to development and underdevelopment, human rights, etc.
- Migration: Alisei provides information and education services through public offices for the social and cultural integration of immigrants, as well as assistance to individuals through professional guidance and intercultural activities, social investigation and publications.
- Self-construction housing schemes: Alisei is helping non-European Union immigrants and other socially excluded and marginalized groups achieve their right to live in a proper house by means of an integrated and replicable strategy.

Membership

Alisei is composed of founder and regular members. All individuals sharing the aims of Alisei can become members.

Countries of Operation

At present, Alisei is conducting humanitarian support and international cooperation activities in:

- Africa: Angola, Côte d'Ivoire, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ethiopia, Gabon, Mozambique, the Congo, Sao Tome and Principe, Tunisia, Kenya, Equatorial Guinea, Togo and Benin.
- Latin America: Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua.
- Asia: Afghanistan, Georgia and Iraq.
- Europe: Bosnia and Herzegovina, and Italy.

Funding

Alisei is funded by both the public and the private sector. Public funds are mobilized from government sources (such as national ministries and city councils), European regions, the European Union and the United Nations. In 2003, Alisei had a total income of EUR 26.95 million.

Relationships with IFAD and Other International Organizations

Alisei has maintained a close working relationship with bilateral institutions (for example, the Italian Cooperation and the Department for International Development [DFID] of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland) as well as multilateral institutions (for example, the European Commission). It plans to work with IFAD by focusing on the issues of indigenous people.

Location

Alisei develops its activities through its main operational offices in Milan, Perugia and Rome (also the legal premises), and through other minor operative offices across Italy (Bologna, Ravenna, Terni, Naples, Caserta and Avellino).

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COUNTERPART INTERNATIONAL

Since its establishment in 1965 as the Foundation for the People of the South Pacific (FSP), Counterpart International's central organizational purpose has remained the same: to support the creation and development of strong local institutions and non-governmental networks capable of meeting local and regional needs on a sustainable basis.

Objectives

The objectives of Counterpart International are to:

- facilitate and strengthen partnerships among communities, NGOs and businesses;
- help communities become economically self-sufficient;
- promote democratic processes for identifying, prioritizing, and addressing multisectoral needs;
- provide humanitarian and disaster relief to at-risk people and communities;
- improve the delivery and effectiveness of health care and social services, especially to the marginalized;
- facilitate and strengthen partnerships among communities, NGOs and businesses to safeguard the environment and attain sustainable development goals;
- safeguard the environment to attain sustainable development goals within communities; and
- respect the cultural and religious beliefs of the people it serves.

Activities

The approach of Counterpart International is needs-based, practical and collaborative. Partnership development and the fostering of strategic alliances at the local, national, regional and international levels are key to its development strategy, as is promoting collaboration among governments, NGOs and the private sector.

The activities of Counterpart International are grouped as follows:

- Civil society activities support individuals, communities and institutions through access to partnerships, knowledge and tools to build vibrant and sustainable civil societies. Key practice areas include institutional development, advocacy, community mobilization, community foundation development, and conflict prevention and mitigation.
- Food security and sustainable agriculture activities enhance the resilience of the world's most vulnerable populations affected by disease, hunger and conflict. This is achieved through community-driven programming in nutrition and agriculture, emphasizing responses to HIV/AIDS.
- Economic development activities increase incomes and improve lives by assisting microenterprises and small and medium enterprises – producers, traders, service providers and exporters – to gain stability, grow, and generate employment. Businesses and communities are strengthened by facilitating access to financial and business support services and building the capacity to advocate for a business-friendly policy environment.

ANNEX IV

- Global health and nutrition activities focus on increasing access to health care for the most vulnerable and improving its quality. Using a behavioural change approach, activities promote sustainable solutions in the areas of maternal health and child survival, malaria and tuberculosis reduction, hygiene and sanitation improvements, promotion of good nutrition and breast feeding and the control of diarrhoeal disease, acute respiratory infections and HIV/AIDS.
- Community and humanitarian assistance bridges the gap between emergency help and long-term development. Through its supply-chain management system, it acquires, delivers and distributes goods to end-users based on their needs. It has delivered and distributed more than 6 000 containers of clothing and food, medical supplies and pharmaceutical, household, agricultural and emergency relief supplies, in addition to vehicles and equipment.
- Environment and conservation activities are conducted through total ecosystem management projects for poverty reduction, biodiversity conservation, pollution control and sustainable economic development.
- Sustainable tourism provides jobs, increases incomes, revives local culture, improves health and protects the environment by injecting capital into local businesses and households.

Membership

Counterpart International's members are geographically distributed as follows:

North America:	United States of America (Headquarters)
Central America and the Caribbean:	Barbados, Belize, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Saint Lucia, Trinidad and Tobago
South America:	Brazil, Ecuador, Peru
Africa:	Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Senegal, Zimbabwe
Asia:	Afghanistan, India, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Philippines, Russian Federation, Sri Lanka, Tajikistan, Timor-Leste, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, Viet Nam
Europe:	Armenia, Belarus, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, France, Germany, Republic of Moldova, Spain, Switzerland, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
Middle East:	Azerbaijan, Georgia, Iraq, Jordan
Australia and the South Pacific:	Australia, Fiji, Kiribati, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu

Countries of Operation

Counterpart International operates in all of its member countries.

Funding

Counterpart International is a registered non-profit organization. Its programmes are funded by a combination of government and private-sector grants. In 2004, it was awarded a total of USD 29 263 073 in grant funds. In 2004, Counterpart International's total assets were valued at USD 34 725 703. During the same period (2004), in-kind donations in the form of humanitarian assistance were valued at more than USD 71 million.

Relationships with IFAD and Other International Organizations

In recent years, the relationship between IFAD and Counterpart International has grown considerably. Counterpart International has developed close ties with IFAD's North America Liaison Office in Washington, D.C. under the directorship of Ms Cheryl Morden and her predecessor Ms Vera Weill-Hallé. Dr Thoric Cederstrom forms part of the IFAD-NGO Working Group on Rural Poverty and represented Counterpart International at the United States Treasury participatory forum on the IFAD replenishment. In June 2004, Counterpart International and IFAD jointly organized a well-received workshop in Samoa. Counterpart International's sister organization, Foundation of the Peoples of the South Pacific International, has been indicated in IFAD's subregional strategic opportunities paper for Pacific Islands countries as a valuable partner, receiving a grant for the Mainstreaming of Rural Development Innovations Programme in the Pacific. Recently, Counterpart International collaborated with IFAD's Results and Impact Management System (RIMS) to develop training manuals and guidelines for upcoming baseline surveys of its various programmes.

Counterpart International also works with the World Bank and is one of the few NGOs with consultative status on the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC).

Location

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HEIFER INTERNATIONAL

Heifer International (Heifer) is a non-profit organization whose vision is of a world of communities living in peace and equitably sharing the resources of a healthy planet. Heifer works with individuals, households and communities who have limited resources and wish to achieve self-reliance through livestock and agricultural community development.

Heifer's success is evident in its longstanding operations: since 1944, Heifer has helped either directly or indirectly more than 38 million people or 7 million families move from poverty towards self-reliance. Direct assistance includes gifts of livestock and training. Indirect assistance includes informal farmer-to-farmer training, livestock breeding services and benefits from the work of Heifer-trained community animal health and environmental workers.

Objectives

Heifer's mission is to work with communities to end hunger and poverty and to care for the earth. The desired outcomes of Heifer's work are that:

- families and communities achieve and maintain income and food security;
- in the communities where Heifer operates, environmental integrity and restoration are recognized and practised;
- individuals and groups are educated and empowered to take action to create a just, economically viable and sustainable world; and
- public and private policies are adopted and systems changed to support household income and food security.

Activities

Heifer's main activities include:

- distribution of livestock and related materials;
- training;
- education;
- sustainable community development; and
- small-scale agricultural enterprise development.

“Passing on the gift” is fundamental to Heifer's approach to sustainable development. Resource-limited families who receive an animal “repay” the loan by passing on one or more of the animal's female offspring to other families in need. These families in turn pass on the gift of livestock, knowledge, resources and skills to other families. Heifer's initiatives include a commitment to supporting gender equity, promoting HIV/AIDS awareness and prevention, caring for the environment, ensuring animal well-being, building microenterprises and promoting advocacy.

Membership

Heifer is not a membership-based organization.

Structure

Heifer's board of directors currently comprises:

- five covenant agency representatives, of which one is permanently assigned to the Church of the Brethren;
- seven directors who represent the north-west, south-west, south-east, north-east, central, mid-west and mid-Atlantic regions of the United States;
- five field directors who represent the following international regions: Africa, Asia/South Pacific, Central/Eastern Europe, Latin America/Caribbean and North America; and
- the chair and vice-chair of the Heifer International Foundation.

The board focuses on the outward vision and long-term impacts of the organization. As such, the board develops broad values and policies.

Heifer's executive leadership team is composed of:

- Chief Executive Officer and President;
- Senior Vice-President for Programmes;
- Senior Vice-President for Internal Operations;
- Senior Vice-President for External Relations; and
- Chief Financial Officer.

Countries of Operation

Heifer currently has field offices that work in partnership with other organizations in 51 countries and 23 American states. The following is an indicative list of countries and areas where Heifer is active:

Africa:	Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Ghana, Kenya, Malawi, Mozambique, Rwanda, South Africa, Uganda, United Republic of Tanzania, Zambia, Zimbabwe
Asia/South Pacific:	Afghanistan, Cambodia, China, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Indonesia, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines, Thailand, Viet Nam
Central/Eastern Europe:	Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Kosovo, Lithuania, Poland, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Slovakia, Ukraine
Latin America/Caribbean:	Bolivia, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua

Funding

In fiscal year 2005, total revenue for the organization amounted to over USD 77 million. Individuals donated 66% (USD 51 million); businesses and organizations contributed 15% (USD 12 million); congregations contributed 13% (USD 10 million); federal and non-federal government grants totalled 4% (USD 3 million); and 2% (USD 1 million) was received from other programmes and sources.

Relationships with IFAD and Other International Organizations

Heifer is continually striving to strengthen relationships with organizations such as IFAD and work towards IFAD's objectives of improving the livelihoods of poor sectors of the population in less developed countries. Heifer has been a member of InterAction for many years and has partnerships with Bread for the World, the Cooperative for Assistance and Relief Everywhere (CARE), the Ecumenical Church Loan Fund (ECLOF), Habitat for Humanity, World Neighbours, Land of Lakes, the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), the International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI), the World Agroforestry Centre (ICRAF), the Sandy River Charitable Foundation and many other like-minded organizations. Heifer is also a member of the ONE campaign, an implementing partner with FAO and a member of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC).

Heifer has strong working partnerships with non-profit international organizations such as Bothar, Send a Cow, Heifer Netherlands, Heifer France, Heifer Hong Kong and Africa's Sustainable Development Council (ASUDEEC). Heifer was the 2004 recipient of the Hilton Humanitarian Award.

Location

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