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Enabling the rural poor  
to overcome poverty

## **Cooperation agreement with the Community of Portuguese- speaking Countries**

Executive Board — Eighty-ninth Session  
Rome, 12-14 December 2006

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For: **Approval**

## **Note to Executive Board Directors**

This document is submitted for approval by the Executive Board.

To make the best use of time available at Executive Board sessions, Directors are invited to contact the following focal point with any technical questions about this document before the session:

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## **Recommendation for approval**

The Executive Board is invited to approve the recommendation regarding a cooperation agreement with the Community of Portuguese-speaking Countries, as contained in paragraph 2.



## **Cooperation agreement with the Community of Portuguese-speaking Countries**

1. The Executive Board is invited to note that IFAD intends to enter into a cooperation agreement with the Community of Portuguese-speaking Countries (CPLP).
2. In accordance with article 8, section 2, of the Agreement Establishing IFAD, the Board is requested to authorize the President of IFAD to negotiate and finalize a cooperation agreement with CPLP along the lines of similar agreements signed by IFAD and other institutions. The text of the agreement as negotiated and concluded would be submitted to the Board for its information at a subsequent session.
3. Relevant information on CPLP and the purpose of the agreement is provided in the annex.

## **Cooperation agreement with the Community of Portuguese-speaking Countries**

### **Establishment**

The Community of Portuguese-speaking Countries (CPLP) is a multilateral forum of mutual friendship among the nations across the world where Portuguese is an official language. CPLP was formed in 1996 by seven countries: Angola, Brazil, Cape Verde, Guinea-Bissau, Mozambique, Portugal and Sao Tomé and Príncipe. Timor-Leste joined in 2002 after regaining independence from Indonesia. At the Bissau Summit in July 2006, Equatorial Guinea and Mauritius – together with 17 international associations and organizations – were admitted as observers. In 2005, at a meeting in Luanda, Angola, the culture ministers of the eight CPLP member States declared 5 May as Lusophone Culture Day.

### **Activities**

CPLP is financed mainly by its eight member States. Funds are used to undertake a range of projects and initiatives. For example, following the coups d'états in Sao Tomé and Príncipe and in Guinea-Bissau, CPLP has helped these countries to embark on economic reforms (in the case of Sao Tomé and Príncipe) and to move towards a democratic form of government (in the case of Guinea-Bissau). Currently, activities being financed include the following: the effort to combat poverty and starvation; an HIV/AIDS programme to assist CPLP's five African member States; rebuilding the judiciary and public administration in Timor-Leste; institution-rebuilding in Guinea-Bissau; development of entrepreneurial skills in Angola; modernization of public administration in Mozambique; and a conference on malaria, which is being organized in Sao Tomé and Príncipe.

### **Governance**

CPLP's Executive Secretariat – located in Lisbon, Portugal – is responsible for designing and implementing CPLP projects and initiatives. The executive secretary has a two-year mandate, and can be re-elected only once. CPLP's guidelines and priorities are established by the biannual Conference of Heads of State and Government and the organization's plan of action is approved by the Council of Foreign Ministers, which meets every year. The Permanent Steering Committee meets monthly to follow up on specific initiatives and projects.

### **Structure**

CPLP has eight member States (Angola, Brazil, Cape Verde, Guinea-Bissau, Mozambique, Portugal, Sao Tomé and Príncipe, and Timor-Leste) and 20 observers (Equatorial Guinea, Mauritius, Instituto Internacional de Macau and 17 international organizations). The world's Portuguese-speaking countries have a combined area of nearly 11 million square kilometres and are home to more than 223 million people linked by similar cultures and a shared history.

### **Objectives of CPLP-IFAD cooperation**

The intention of closer cooperation between CPLP and IFAD is to strengthen dialogue between the two organizations in the area of rural development policy and interventions with an eye to identifying opportunities for cofinancing and fostering partnership through harmonized development interventions. The agreement will enable CPLP and IFAD to work together to strengthen IFAD's core work at the country level in CPLP countries. In this regard, the parties will strive to preserve and, if possible, further strengthen the poverty focus of IFAD in CPLP member States. The cooperation agreement will focus on the following areas:

- (a) Holding annual consultations to discuss issues under the agreement and to strengthen collaboration at the country level, focusing in particular on poverty reduction in CPLP countries;

- (b) Participation – by invitation and with observer status – at key conferences and meetings of mutual interest;
- (c) Cooperation at the country level to review opportunities for increased collaboration with regard to agricultural sector support programmes in CPLP countries and for joint activities – through exchanges of views and experiences in this regard at the annual consultations and through bilateral contacts at the technical level;
- (d) Sharing of documentation and knowledge of mutual interest;
- (e) CPLP participation in IFAD’s enhanced Associate Professional Officer Programme, by proposing qualified candidates from CPLP countries and, if possible, making a voluntary contribution to the programme.

Within the framework of this agreement, CPLP and IFAD will strengthen their partnership and effectively tap their own resources and the resources of their partners to rise to the challenge of rural poverty reduction, especially in CPLP member States. The parties will cooperate to increase their impact at the country level to ensure stronger participation in coordination and cooperation under national poverty reduction strategies.