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Enabling the rural poor  
to overcome poverty

## **Invitation of observers to sessions of the Governing Council**

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 the invitation to the International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movements and the International Commission on Irrigation and Drainage to attend the thirtieth and future Governing Council sessions as observers, as contained in paragraph 3.



## **Invitation of observers to sessions of the Governing Council**

1. Observers are invited to attend IFAD Governing Council sessions in accordance with the provisions of the Agreement Establishing IFAD and various Governing Council and Executive Board rules and decisions, in particular those set out in documents EB 87/31/R.57 and EB 88/34/R.52. The Executive Board decided at its thirty-fourth session that NGO observers should fall into one of the following categories: (a) well-established 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; and (c) "operational NGOs" that have already commenced collaboration with IFAD on a number of projects or that have demonstrated a strong interest in beginning such wide-ranging collaboration with IFAD. The Board also determined that the NGOs selected should ensure adequate representation of NGOs from developing countries.
2. In this connection, IFAD has received applications for observer status at Governing Council sessions from two international organizations: the International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movements (IFOAM) and the International Commission on Irrigation and Drainage (ICID). Information on the organizations is provided in the annexes.

### **Recommendation**

3. IFOAM and ICID both meet the criteria established by the Executive Board. IFOAM seeks to facilitate constructive dialogue on organic agriculture. ICID is dedicated to enhancing the worldwide supply of food and fibre for all by improving water and land management. Given that the objectives and activities of the two institutions are in conformity with those of IFAD, it is proposed that the Executive Board authorize the President to invite IFOAM and ICID to attend the thirtieth and future sessions of the Governing Council as observers.

## **International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movements (IFOAM)**

IFOAM is a worldwide umbrella organization for the organic movement, uniting more than 750 member organizations in 108 countries. It was launched in 1972 when the president of a French organization, Nature et Progrès, appealed to organizations and individuals worldwide to come together to ensure a future for organic agriculture. People working in alternative agriculture responded to the call by banding together from areas as far apart as India and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. The German-speaking countries, France and Canada, as well, saw IFOAM activity from early on. By the 1980s, IFOAM also had active leaders in the United States of America, had attracted the involvement of African agents of organic agriculture, and had launched a unique and fruitful relationship with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO).

Over the 1990s, IFOAM took steps to decentralize its governance by establishing regional bodies and organized the first major international conference on environmental issues after the 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in Rio de Janeiro, where IFOAM was an active proponent of the "organic way".

Through the years, the Federation has consistently succeeded in fostering active debate; networking beyond the borders of class, gender and region; fine-tuning its organizational structure, policies and standards; attracting volunteers; overcoming financial challenges; working with a wide array of organic movements; producing standards that have served as a model for numerous pieces of important legislation and voluntary standards, such as the Codex Alimentarius; and integrating scientific expertise and business sense into the sometimes emotional debate on organic agriculture.

### **Mission and objectives**

IFOAM is a grass-roots and democratic organization. Through international conferences, committee meetings and other forums, it facilitates constructive dialogue about the status of organic agriculture and its future.

IFOAM's mission is to lead, unite and assist the organic movement in its full complexity. Its goal is the worldwide adoption of ecologically, socially and economically sound systems based on the principles of organic agriculture.

### **Activities**

IFOAM implements specific projects that facilitate the adoption of organic agriculture, particularly in developing countries. It also represents organic agriculture movements at United Nations and other intergovernmental agencies.

To achieve its mission and address the complexity of the various components of the organic agriculture movement worldwide, IFOAM has established official committees and groups with specific purposes, from the development of standards to the facilitation of organic agriculture in developing countries.

### **Membership and structure**

There are three categories of affiliation with the Federation: members (with voting rights), associates and supporters (both without voting rights). IFOAM members comprise associations, institutions, businesses and non-profit organizations whose activities are predominantly organic. Supporters and associates comprise individuals and organizations whose activities are not predominantly organic. Admission of members and associates is determined by the IFOAM World Board.

IFOAM's structure consists of the General Assembly (composed of members only); the World Board (elected by the General Assembly for a three-year term) and the official committees, working groups and task forces created at the recommendation of IFOAM

members. IFOAM member organizations also establish regional groups and sector-specific interest groups (e.g. the IFOAM Organic Trade Forum, the IFOAM Organic Retailers Association, the IFOAM Aquaculture Group and the IFOAM Forum of Consultants) and engage in other initiatives, such as the IFOAM Farmers' Group.

### **Countries of operation**

IFOAM's outreach is worldwide.

### **Funding**

The activities of IFOAM are financed by membership dues and the contributions of governments and their agencies, foundations and individuals.

### **International relationships**

IFOAM actively participates in international agricultural and environmental negotiations with the United Nations and multilateral institutions to further the interests of the organic agriculture movement worldwide. IFOAM has observer status or is otherwise accredited by the following international institutions:

- Economic and Social Council of the United Nations
- Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
- United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
- Codex Alimentarius Commission
- World Trade Organization
- United Nations Environment Programme
- Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
- International Labour Organization

IFOAM has collaborated with IFAD since 2002 and took part in IFAD's thematic evaluation of organic agriculture in Asia.

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## **International Commission on Irrigation and Drainage (ICID)**

The International Commission on Irrigation and Drainage (ICID) was established in June 1950 as a scientific, technical and voluntary not-for-profit international NGO with headquarters in New Delhi, India. The Commission's membership has grown from 11 founding members (Algeria, Egypt, India, Indonesia, Iraq, Israel, Italy, the Netherlands, Sri Lanka, Thailand and the then Yugoslavia) to 105 member countries today. The Commission is dedicated to enhancing the worldwide supply of food and fibre for all by improving water and land management and the productivity of irrigated and drained lands through appropriate water and environmental management and the application of irrigation, drainage and flood management techniques.

In recognition of its significant contribution to the programmes and objectives of the International Year of Peace (1986) proclaimed by the United Nations General Assembly, ICID was designated as a Messenger of Peace by the United Nations Secretary-General in September 1987.

Over the years, ICID has focused not only on the technical issues faced by the sector but also on new areas of relevance, such as integrated water resources management, sustainability, food security, the environment and sustainability.

### **Mission and objectives**

ICID's mission is to stimulate and promote the development of the art, science and techniques of engineering, agriculture, economics, ecology and social sciences in managing water and land resources for irrigation, drainage, flood control and river training applications (including capacity-building and research and development), adopting comprehensive approaches and up-to-date techniques for sustainable agriculture in the world.

### **Activities**

The Commission's work is governed by its constitution and by-laws. ICID has a half century of experience in the transfer of water management technology and the handling of related issues. Building on this experience and a comprehensive water management framework, it strives to promote programmes to enhance the sustainable development of irrigated agriculture. ICID was involved in the discussions leading to Agenda 21, which has become the focal point of several of its technical activities. Its active contribution to the Second World Water Forum (WWF-2) was widely recognized, and it also contributed significantly to WWF-3 and WWF-4. Task forces are set up from time to time to study topical subjects of interest to the irrigation and drainage sector. The following task forces were set up to provide ICID with inputs to WWF-3:

- Global Issues related to Food Production, Security and Trade (2001-05)
- Socio-economic Sustainability of Services provided by Irrigation, Drainage and Flood Control Schemes in Water Resources Sector (2001-04)
- Benchmarking of Irrigation and Drainage Systems (2001-04)
- Promoting Appropriate Decision-making Procedures for New Dams, Particularly for Irrigation, Drainage and Flood Management (2001-04)

Technical papers and ICID position papers based on the outcomes of these task forces are available on the ICID website.

More recently, another task force was created to guide ICID inputs for WWF-4, held in Mexico City in March 2006. ICID co-sponsored several sessions at the forum, during which participating ICID representatives presented keynote speeches and also provided their expertise as panellists. ICID national committees and working groups collaborated



in several sessions and co-sponsored them at WWF-4. A separate "mega-session" on water infrastructure was also planned by ICID together with other water-related organizations such as the International Water Resources Association, the International Commission on Large Dams, the International Hydropower Association, the International Water Association, and the International Association of Hydraulic Engineering and Research. A report on the deliberations at seven of the sessions in which ICID was actively associated has been widely circulated and is available on the ICID website.

### **Membership and structure**

Any geographical area independently administered by a sovereign government and interested in the work of the Commission is eligible to participate in its activities. ICID consists of national committees of participating countries, on the basis of one national committee for each country. Individual engineers and scientists participate in the activities of the Commission through their national committees.

In applying for membership, national committees and representatives must indicate their unqualified acceptance of the ICID constitution and by-laws, justify their claim to admissibility and give proof of their representative character by documenting their work in the development and management of irrigation, drainage and flood control in their country.

The **International Executive Council (IEC)** guides ICID policy formation and oversees the activities of its three permanent committees:

- **Permanent Technical Activities Committee**, which is concerned with all the technical activities of ICID, including its publications. It oversees the activities of the working groups; selects themes for congresses, conferences, special sessions and symposiums; and approves their technical conclusions and recommendations. It is composed of about 20 working groups structured around four strategy themes: knowledge, basins, systems and on-farm.
- **Permanent Committee on Strategic Planning and Membership**, which is responsible for increasing the number of member countries and assisting the national committees in achieving the goals set for them. This committee also handles issues related to strategic planning for ICID, deals with organizational matters and coordinates the activities of vice-presidents in their areas of responsibility.
- **Permanent Finance Committee**, which deals with ICID's financial matters and issues having significant financial implications for the Commission. It reviews receipts and expenditures, advises the Council on the previous year's accounts and on the proposed or provisional budget, and makes recommendations on annual subscriptions and other support by participating countries.

The representatives of national committees of member countries present at the IEC meeting constitute the Council, which governs ICID activities. The management board has joint responsibility with the central office for the implementation of the decisions made by the Council and decides on actions needed to further ICID's work.

ICID has determined that its national committees should be broad-based and multidisciplinary in composition and collaborate with other organizations having related aims in their countries. They also organize activities in their countries to implement various action programmes developed, promoted or sponsored by the Commission.

### **Countries of operation**

The ICID membership network is spread over four continents with 27 member countries in Africa, 16 in the Americas, 33 in Asia and Oceania and 29 in Europe. Presently, 59 of these member countries have active status, as determined by payment of the annual subscription.

## **Funding**

Annual subscriptions from national committees of member countries are calculated on the basis of the country's irrigated area and its capacity to pay. ICID's annual budget is extremely modest, i.e. only about US\$210,000. ICID functions as a non-profit international organization devoted to promoting its mission and contributing to fields within its jurisdiction. As such, ICID drives specific initiatives, which can receive targeted funding from donors.

## **International relationships**

ICID has had consultative status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council since 1954, with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) since 1954, with the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) since 1960 and with FAO since 1955. It has had liaison status with the World Health Organization (WHO) since 1955. Reciprocally, UNESCO, the Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Coordinator (UNDRO), WMO, WHO and the International Programme for Technology and Research in Irrigation and Drainage (IPTRID)/FAO attend IEC meetings as permanent observers. The World Bank is a permanent observer to the IEC and is also currently represented on more than a dozen ICID working groups. Partnership with IFAD was approved by the ICID management board on 9 September 2006 and confirmed by the IEC on 14 September 2006.

ICID has technical cooperative arrangements with regional development banks (e.g. the African Development Bank, Asian Development Bank, European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, European Investment Bank and Inter-American Development Bank) and with numerous international NGOs that participate in IEC meetings and other events, on invitation.

ICID, the World Bank and the United Nations Development Programme jointly sponsor the International Programme for Technology and Research in Irrigation and Drainage, presently hosted by FAO, which is working to enhance priority research and technology transfer, especially in developing countries.

ICID's central office also functions as secretariat for the International Water Associations Liaison Committee, which is a group of 14 international water-related organizations and three observer organizations.

ICID has had a standing memorandum of understanding with the International Water Management Institute since 1993, and with the International Water Resources Association since 1994. ICID is a founding member of the World Water Council and the Global Water Partnership.

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