Executive Board

Minutes of the Ninety-third Session
Note to Executive Board Directors

Directors are invited to contact the following focal point with any technical questions about this document:

Paolo Ciocca
Secretary of IFAD
telephone: +39 06 5459 2254
e-mail: p.ciocca@ifad.org
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Minutes of the Ninety-third Session of the Executive Board

I. Introduction
1. The ninety-third session of the Executive Board was held in Rome from 24-25 April 2008. A list of delegations is attached as annex I.
2. The Executive Board had before it the documents listed in annex II.

II. Opening of the session
3. In his capacity as chairperson, the President of IFAD, Mr Lennart Båge, opened the ninety-third session of the Executive Board.

III. Decisions of the Executive Board
A. Adoption of the agenda (agenda item 2)
4. The Executive Board considered the provisional agenda (EB 2008/93/R.1/Rev.1) and adopted the agenda contained in document EB 2008/93/R.1/Rev.2. The agenda is attached as annex III.

B. Evaluation (agenda item 3)
(a) Reports of the Chairperson of the Evaluation Committee
(i) Report of the Chairperson of the Evaluation Committee on the field visit to the Philippines
5. The Executive Board welcomed the report of the Chairperson of the Evaluation Committee on the field visit to the Philippines (EB 2008/93/R.2), which took place from 6-11 April 2008. Directors noted the success of the visit to the project area, the learning workshop and the meetings with the Asian Development Bank and government representatives, which had provided opportunities for useful discussions. A discussion of the lessons learned by the Evaluation Committee, the Office of Evaluation, and Management from the field visit will be held with a view to providing guidance in the planning of future field visits. Participants expressed their deepest appreciation for the excellent arrangements made and attention accorded by the Government of the Philippines to all those participating in the annual field visit, during both the trip to the Cordillera region and the workshop in Manila.

(ii) Report of the Chairperson of the Evaluation Committee on the fifty-first session of the Evaluation Committee
6. The Chairperson of the Evaluation Committee presented the Board with the Committee’s report on its fifty-first session (EB 2008/93/R.3), held on 18 April 2008, at which the Committee had reviewed the country programme evaluation of Brazil and the interim evaluation of the Community-based Rural Development Project in Burkina Faso and the Board endorsed the recommendations contained therein.

(b) Appointment of the Director of the Office of Evaluation
7. In accordance with IFAD’s evaluation policy best practice, the Board considered the appointment of the Director of the Office of Evaluation (EB 2008/93/R.4), in a closed session, and endorsed the President’s recommendation that Mr Luciano Lavizzari should be appointed for a second and final term of five years, commencing 1 May 2008.

C. Country strategic opportunities programme: Afghanistan (agenda item 4)
8. The Executive Board reviewed the country strategic opportunities programme (COSOP) for Afghanistan (EB 2008/93/R.5). While commending the quality of the COSOP, Board Directors also highlighted the importance of IFAD’s re-engagement in
this country. However, particular attention would clearly have to be paid to managing risk and resolving difficulties as the likelihood of both was very high. Successful implementation of this COSOP would depend on: (i) strong partnerships and cooperation with bilateral and multilateral institutions, as well as local institutions and central government authorities; (ii) continuous alignment of the COSOP with the changing needs of Afghanistan through yearly reviews; (iii) continuity of IFAD’s presence in the country through proxy field presence and direct supervision; and (iv) strict adherence to United Nations security rules. Particular attention would also be paid to: (i) strong focus on reducing gender disparities; (ii) providing alternatives to opium cultivation; and (iii) capacity-building at the local level (especially in provinces with little donor engagement).

D. Resources available for commitment (agenda item 5)

9. The resources available for commitment (EB 2008/93/R.6 and its addendum) were reviewed by the Executive Board. Directors noted that with net inflows from 1 January to 31 March 2008 estimated at US$137 million and a required total for loan and grant proposals at this session of approximately US$85.2 million, no additional advance commitment authority was required.

E. Project/programme proposals for consideration by the Executive Board (agenda item 6)

(a) Western and Central Africa

Cape Verde: Rural Poverty Alleviation Programme

10. The Executive Board considered the programme proposal contained in document EB 2008/93/R.7 with its addendum and important assurances, and adopted the following resolution:

“RESOLVED: that the Fund shall make a supplementary loan to the Republic of Cape Verde in various currencies in an amount equivalent to two million six hundred thousand special drawing rights (SDR 2,600,000) to mature on or prior to 1 March 2048 and to bear a service charge of three fourths of one per cent (0.75 per cent) per annum, and to be upon such terms and conditions as shall be substantially in accordance with the terms and conditions presented to the Executive Board herein.”

(b) Eastern and Southern Africa

(i) Kenya: President’s memorandum – Central Kenya Dry Area Smallholder and Community Services Development Project (loan no. 547-KE and BSF grant no. BG-33-KE) – Amendment to the loan agreement

11. The Executive Board considered and approved the amendment to the loan agreement and reallocation of loan proceeds for the Central Kenya Dry Area Smallholder and Community Services Development Project as set out in document EB 2008/93/R.8.

(ii) Mauritius: Marine and Agricultural Resources Support Programme

12. The Executive Board considered the programme proposal contained in document EB 2008/93/R.9 with its addendum and important assurances, and adopted the following resolutions:

“RESOLVED: that the Fund shall make a loan to the Republic of Mauritius in various currencies in an amount equivalent to three million four hundred and fifty thousand special drawing rights (SDR 3,450,000) to mature on or prior to 15 July 2026 and to bear an interest rate equal to the reference interest rate per annum as determined by the Fund annually, and to be upon such terms and conditions as shall be substantially in accordance with the terms and conditions presented herein.
RESOLVED FURTHER: that the Fund shall provide a grant to the Republic of Mauritius in various currencies in an amount equivalent to two hundred and fifty thousand special drawing rights (SDR 250,000) and upon such terms and conditions as shall be substantially in accordance with the terms and conditions presented herein.”

(iii) **President’s memorandum: Request for a waiver of the policy on taxes for the Agricultural Services Support Programme (loan no. 642-TZ) and the Agricultural Sector Development Programme – Livestock: Support for Pastoral and Agro-Pastoral Development (loan no. 672-TZ) in the United Republic of Tanzania and the Agricultural Support Programme (loan no. 690-MZ) in Mozambique**

13. The Executive Board considered the proposal contained in document EB 2008/93/R.28 and approved a waiver of the policy on taxes for the Agricultural Services Support Programme (loan no. 642-TZ) and the Agricultural Sector Development Programme - Livestock: Support for Pastoral and Agro-Pastoral Development (loan no. 672-TZ) in the United Republic of Tanzania and the Agricultural Support Programme (loan no. 690-MZ) in Mozambique.

(c) **Asia and the Pacific**

(i) **India: Mitigating Poverty in Western Rajasthan Project**

14. The Executive Board considered the project proposal contained in document EB 2008/93/R.10 with its addendum and important assurances, and adopted the following resolutions:

"RESOLVED: that the Fund shall make a loan to the Republic of India in various currencies in an amount equivalent to eighteen million four hundred sixty thousand special drawing rights (SDR 18,460,000) to mature on or prior to 15 April 2048 and to bear a service charge of three fourths of one per cent (0.75 per cent) per annum, and to be upon such terms and conditions as shall be substantially in accordance with the terms and conditions presented herein.

RESOLVED FURTHER: that the Fund shall provide a grant to the Republic of India in various currencies in an amount equivalent to three hundred and seventy thousand special drawing rights (SDR 370,000) and upon such terms and conditions as shall be substantially in accordance with the terms and conditions presented herein."

(ii) **Philippines: Second Cordillera Highland Agricultural Resource Management Project**

15. The Executive Board considered the project proposal contained in document EB 2008/93/R.11 with its addendum and important assurances, and adopted the following resolutions:

"RESOLVED: that the Fund shall make a loan to the Republic of the Philippines in various currencies in an amount equivalent to sixteen million one hundred and fifty thousand special drawing rights (SDR 16,150,000) to mature on or prior to 15 April 2048 and to bear a service charge of three fourths of one per cent (0.75 per cent) per annum, and to be upon such terms and conditions as shall be substantially in accordance with the terms and conditions presented herein.

RESOLVED FURTHER: that the Fund shall provide a grant to the Republic of the Philippines in various currencies in an amount equivalent to three hundred and forty one thousand special drawing rights (SDR 341,000) and upon such terms and conditions as shall be substantially in accordance with the terms and conditions presented herein."

(d) **Latin America and the Caribbean**

(panama: participative development and rural modernization project)

16. The Executive Board considered the project proposal contained in document EB 2008/93/R.12 with its addendum and important assurances, and adopted the following resolution:
“RESOLVED: that the Fund shall make a loan to the Republic of Panama in various currencies in an amount equivalent to two million six hundred thousand special drawing rights (SDR 2,600,000) to mature on or prior to 1 February 2026, and to bear an interest rate equal to the reference interest rate per annum as determined by the Fund annually, and to be upon such terms and conditions as shall be substantially in accordance with the terms and conditions presented to the Executive Board herein.”

(e) IFAD’s response to food price increases

17. The Board noted the information contained in the oral report provided on IFAD’s response to food price increases within its approved and ongoing loans. Directors took note that many IFAD loans in the countries most critically affected by the dramatic increases in food, fertilizer and seed prices had significant components for the provision of inputs. They further noted IFAD’s willingness to respond rapidly to requests by borrowing Member States to utilize these resources, totalling up to US$200 million, to ensure that smallholder farmers in these countries have access to inputs to maintain and expand their output in the next crop season.

F. Grant proposals for consideration by the Executive Board (agenda item 7)

(a) Grants under the global/regional grants window to CGIAR-supported international centres

18. The Executive Board considered the information contained in document EB 2008/93/R.13 and, by adopting the following resolutions, agreed to support two agricultural research and training programmes to be implemented through centres supported by the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR):

“RESOLVED: that the Fund, in order to finance, in part, the Programme for Linking Livelihoods of Poor Smallholder Farmers to Emerging Environmentally Progressive Agro-industrial Markets, shall make a grant not exceeding one million five hundred thousand United States dollars (US$1,500,000) to the International Center for Tropical Agriculture (CIAT) for a four-year programme upon such terms and conditions as shall be substantially in accordance with the terms and conditions presented to the Executive Board herein.

FURTHER RESOLVED: that the Fund, in order to finance, in part, the Programme on Rewards for, Use of and Shared Investment in Pro-poor Environmental Services (RUPES-II), shall make a grant not exceeding one million five hundred thousand United States dollars (US$1,500,000) to the World Agroforestry Centre (ICRAF) for a four-year programme upon such terms and conditions as shall be substantially in accordance with the terms and conditions presented to the Executive Board herein.”

(b) Grants under the global/regional grants window to non-CGIAR-supported international centres and organizations

19. The Executive Board considered the information contained in document EB 2008/93/R.14 and, by adopting the following resolutions, agreed to support six agricultural research and training programmes to be implemented through non-CGIAR-supported centres:

“RESOLVED: that the Fund, in order to finance, in part, the Regional Capacity-building and Knowledge Management for Gender Equality programme, shall make a grant not exceeding one million five hundred thousand United States dollars (US$1,500,000) to the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations for a two-year programme upon such terms and conditions as shall be substantially in accordance with the terms and conditions presented to the Executive Board herein.

FURTHER RESOLVED: that the Fund, in order to finance, in part, the Medium-term Cooperation Programme with Farmers’ Organizations in Asia and the Pacific Region, shall make a grant not exceeding one million eighty-three thousand United States
dollars (US$1,083,000) to the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and a grant not exceeding three hundred thirty-seven thousand United States dollars (US$337,000) to the Self Employed Women’s Association for a three-year programme upon such terms and conditions as shall be substantially in accordance with the terms and conditions presented to the Executive Board herein.

FURTHER RESOLVED: that the Fund, in order to finance, in part, the FIDAFRIQUE-IFADAFRICA Network – Programme for Promoting Knowledge-sharing and Innovation for Rural Poverty Reduction in sub-Saharan Africa, shall make a grant not exceeding two million United States dollars (US$2,000,000) to the West Africa Rural Foundation (Fondation Rurale de l’Afrique de l’Ouest) for a three-year programme upon such terms and conditions as shall be substantially in accordance with the terms and conditions presented to the Executive Board herein.

FURTHER RESOLVED: that the Fund, in order to finance, in part, the Regional Research and Dissemination Programme on Campesino Innovations: A Joint IFAD-IDRC Initiative (Scaling up Rural Innovations) shall make a grant not exceeding one million United States dollars (US$1,000,000) to the International Development Research Centre (IDRC) for a four-year programme upon such terms and conditions as shall be substantially in accordance with the terms and conditions presented to the Executive Board herein.

FURTHER RESOLVED: that the Fund, in order to finance, in part, the Programme for Enhanced Bamboo-based Smallholder Livelihood Opportunities – Phase II, shall make a grant not exceeding one million two hundred fifty thousand United States dollars (US$1,250,000) to the International Network for Bamboo and Rattan for a three-year programme upon such terms and conditions as shall be substantially in accordance with the terms and conditions presented to the Executive Board herein.

FURTHER RESOLVED: that the Fund, in order to finance, in part, the Traidcraft Exchange: Local Market Services Development Project, shall make a grant not exceeding one million United States dollars (US$1,000,000) for a two-year project upon such terms and conditions as shall be substantially in accordance with the terms and conditions presented to the Executive Board herein.”

(c) Grant under the global/regional grants window to the Global Mechanism of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa for the Programme for Designing Integrated Financing Strategies for UNCCD Implementation in Selected Countries of Asia and the Pacific, and Latin America and the Caribbean

20. The Executive Board considered the information contained in document EB 2008/93/R.15 and its corrigendum, to be revised as EB 2008/93/R.15/Rev.1, and approved the proposed grant by adopting the following resolution:

“RESOLVED: that the Fund, in order to finance, in part, the Programme for Designing Integrated Financing Strategies for UNCCD Implementation in Selected Countries of Asia and the Pacific, and Latin America and the Caribbean, shall make a grant not exceeding one million two hundred and fifty thousand United States dollars (US$1,250,000) to the Global Mechanism of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa for the first phase of a two-year grant covering the period 2008-2010, upon such terms and conditions as shall be substantially in accordance with the terms and conditions presented to the Executive Board herein.”

G. Planned project activities (agenda item 8)

21. The Executive Board reviewed the document on planned project activities for 2008-2009 (EB 2008/93/R.16), taking note of the information provided on the projects in the pipeline and COSOPs under preparation and planned for 2008.
H. **Report on the Eighth Replenishment of IFAD’s resources (agenda item 9)**

22. The Executive Board noted the Report on the organizational session of the Consultation of the Eighth Replenishment of IFAD’s resources (EB 2008/93/R.17), which presented an account of the session held on 15 February 2008. An oral update was also provided on the recently concluded second session and, in this regard, Directors strongly welcomed the announcement by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia of its contribution of US$50 million to the Eighth Replenishment of IFAD’s resources, which represents a fivefold increase over its contribution to the previous replenishment, and the announcement by the People’s Republic of Bangladesh of a contribution of US$600,000, which demonstrates the value borrowing Member States place on their partnership with IFAD.


23. In accordance with the decision of the Board at its December 2007 session, the Working Group on the Performance-based Allocation System (PBAS) presented a report on its meeting of 28 February 2008, and also a brief account of the fourth multilateral development bank/microfinance institution technical meeting on performance-based allocation systems, hosted by IFAD on 3-4 April 2008 (EB 2008/93/R.18). Directors took note that arrangements were being made for a workshop which would further explain the PBAS methodology as well as deal with the broader issues of pipeline development and portfolio implementation in the Latin America and Caribbean region. Further details on the timing and venue would be provided as soon as possible. The PBAS working group would meet again subsequent to this workshop and report back to the Board.

J. **Financial matters (agenda item 11)**

(a) **Report on the status of contributions to the Seventh Replenishment of IFAD’s resources**

24. The Executive Board reviewed the status of contributions to the Seventh Replenishment of IFAD’s resources (EB 2008/93/R.19). The Board was informed that, pledges to the Seventh Replenishment now totalled US$642.8 million, or 89 per cent of the target, while instruments of contribution and payments not supported by instruments of contribution amounted to US$558.2 million or 91 per cent of pledges. Member States that had not yet announced their pledges to the Seventh Replenishment were urged to do so promptly; while those that had not yet deposited their respective instruments of contribution or paid their contributions were also requested to do so as soon as possible.

(b) **IFAD’s investment portfolio**

   (i) **Report on IFAD’s investment portfolio for 2007**

25. The Executive Board considered the report on IFAD’s investment portfolio for 2007 (EB 2008/93/R.20). Directors noted that the aggregate income from investments in 2007 amounted to US$142.57 million, representing a net rate of return of 6.1 per cent and included an outperformance of 25 basis points compared with the return of the portfolio’s aggregate benchmark.

   (ii) **Report on IFAD’s investment portfolio for the first two months of 2008**

26. The Executive Board reviewed the report on IFAD’s investment portfolio for the first two months of 2008 (EB 2008/93/R.21), noting that there had been a positive return, resulting in an aggregate investment income of US$55.1 million and an estimated net rate of return for the two-month period of 2.2 per cent.
(c) Principal, interest and service charge payments

(i) Status report on arrears in principal, interest and service charge payments

27. In reviewing the status report on arrears in principal, interest and service charge payments (EB 2008/93/R.22), the Board noted that, as at 31 December 2007, there was an overall increase in arrears of US$2.4 million compared with 2006. Directors welcomed the update that, over the past few months, several borrowers had made payments on overdue charges in an amount of US$5.5 million.

(ii) Estimated principal and net service charge payments forgone as a result of the implementation of the Debt Sustainability Framework

28. In accordance with the Executive Board decision that, commencing in 2008, IFAD would report annually to the Board at its April session on the estimated principal and net service and interest charge payments forgone in the previous financial year as a result of the implementation of the Debt Sustainability Framework (DSF), the Board reviewed the first such report as contained in document EB 2008/93/R.23. In 2007 - the first year of DSF implementation – 18 projects, programmes and country-specific grants were approved under the DSF, for a total value of US$100.6 million, or 17.9 per cent of the overall programme of work for the year, and a total of SDR 1,012 in net interest and service charge payments had been forgone.

(d) Requirements for the twenty-ninth drawdown of Member States’ contributions in 2008

29. The Executive Board reviewed the requirements for the twenty-ninth drawdown of Member State contributions in 2008 (EB 2008/93/R.24). It approved the drawdown of 35 per cent of the Seventh Replenishment contributions starting in May 2008 to meet loan and grant disbursements for 2008. It also authorized the use of the Fund’s liquid assets to finance disbursement needs not covered by the drawdown.

(e) Report of the Audit Committee

30. The Chair of the Audit Committee presented the Committee’s report on its ninety-ninth meeting (EB 2008/93/R.25), held on 10 April 2008, during which the Committee reviewed IFAD’s consolidated financial statements for 2007 and recommended their endorsement by the Board. The Committee had also been presented with the external quality assessment of the internal audit function, which had found that IFAD’s internal audit generally conformed to the International Standards for the Professional Practice of Internal Auditing. Formal consideration of the assessment would take place at the next meeting of the Audit Committee.

(f) Audited financial statements of IFAD for 2007

31. The Executive Board reviewed the audited financial statements of IFAD for 2007 and the report of the external auditor thereon (EB 2008/93/R.26 and its addendum, to be revised as EB 2008/93/R.26/Rev.1). In accordance with the recommendation of the Audit Committee, the Board endorsed the financial statements and agreed to submit them to the thirty-second session of the Governing Council for approval.

K. Other business (agenda item 12)

(a) Invitation of observers to sessions of the Governing Council

32. The Executive Board considered the invitation of observers to sessions of the Governing Council. It was found that the International Center for Biosaline Agriculture and Rotary International met the criteria established by the Executive Board, as shown in document EB 2008/93/R.27. The Board therefore authorized the President of IFAD to invite both organizations to attend the thirty-second session of the Governing Council and future sessions thereafter as observers.

(b) Minutes of the ninety-second session of the Executive Board

33. The Board approved the amendment to the minutes of its ninety-second session, as shown in document EB 2008/93/R.29, and, in adopting the revised minutes, approved their disclosure on IFAD’s public website.
(c) **Lifting of restriction of Executive Board papers EB 2000/70/R.9 and EB 2000/70/R.27 in line with the IFAD Policy on the Disclosure of Documents**

34. Having considered the proposal contained in document EB 2008/93/R.30, the restriction originally placed on documents EB 2000/70/R.9 and EB 2000/70/R.27 was lifted with the approval of the Board thus allowing their disclosure on IFAD’s public website. In response to a request for further information on the procedures for the election of the President of IFAD, it was agreed that the Secretariat would compile an information paper in this regard for circulation to IFAD’s membership.

(d) **Procedures for the review of projects and country strategic opportunities programmes by the Executive Board**

35. At the request of the Executive Board Director for Belgium, Directors discussed the procedures for the review of projects and COSOPs by the Executive Board. Directors made various suggestions on how to enhance the Board’s participation in the early stages of the design process. This issue will be the subject of an informal seminar to be held in conjunction with the September 2008 Board session, and the modality and structure of the seminar will be discussed with the Convenors and Friends.
Delegations at the ninety-third session of the Executive Board

Délégations à la quatre-vingt-treizième session du Conseil d’administration

Delegaciones en el 93º período de sesiones de la Junta Ejecutiva

Executive Board — Ninety-third Session
Rome, 24-25 April 2008

For: Information
ALGERIA
Executive Board Director
Mohamed Larbi GHANEM
Chef de division de l’organisation de
la planification et des programmes
Ministère des finances
Alger

Habiba DJERIR TALEB
Secrétaire diplomatique
Représentant permanent suppléant
de la République algérienne
démocratique et populaire auprès
des organisations spécialisées
des Nations Unies
Rome

ARGENTINA
Executive Board Director
María del Carmen SQUEFF
Consejero
Representante Permanente Alterna
de la República Argentina
ante el FIDA
Roma

BELGIUM
Executive Board Director
Martine VAN DOOREN
Ministre Conseiller
Représentant permanent adjoint
du Royaume de Belgique
auprès du FIDA
Rome

BRAZIL
Carlos Eduardo LAMPERT COSTA
Deputy Secretary for
International Affairs
Ministry of Planning, Budget
and Management
Brasilia, D.F.

Felipe HADDOCK LOBO GOULART
Second Secretary
Alternate Permanent Representative
of the Federative Republic of Brazil
to the United Nations Food and
Agriculture Agencies
Rome
CAMEROON

Executive Board Director

Médi MOUNGUI
Deuxième Conseiller
Représentant permanent adjoint
de la République du Cameroun
auprès du FIDA
Rome

CANADA

Kent VACHON
Counsellor (Development)
Alternate Permanent Representative
of Canada to the United Nations
Food and Agriculture Agencies
Rome

CHINA

Executive Board Director

YANG Shaolin
Deputy Director-General
International Department
Ministry of Finance
Beijing

ZHOU Qiangwu
Director
International Department
Ministry of Finance
Beijing

LIU Fang
Deputy Director
International Department
Ministry of Finance
Beijing

ZHANG Yansong
Counsellor
Deputy Permanent Representative
of the People’s Republic of China
to the United Nations Food and
Agriculture Agencies
Rome

ZHANG Lei
Third Secretary
Alternate Permanent Representative
of the People’s Republic of China
to the United Nations Food and
Agriculture Agencies
Rome
DENMARK

Executive Board Director

Kristian HØJERSHOLT
Minister Counsellor
Deputy Permanent Representative of
the Kingdom of Denmark to IFAD
Rome

Lars Bønløkke HANSEN
Attaché
Royal Danish Embassy
Rome

EGYPT

Executive Board Director

Abdel Aziz MOHAMED HOSNI
Agricultural Counsellor
Deputy Permanent Representative
of the Arab Republic of Egypt
to the United Nations Food and
Agriculture Agencies
Rome

Yasser SOROUR
First Secretary
Alternate Permanent Representative
of the Arab Republic of Egypt
to the United Nations Food and
Agriculture Agencies
Rome

FINLAND

Executive Board Director

Riikka LAATU
Minister Counsellor
Permanent Representative
of the Republic of Finland
to the United Nations Food
and Agriculture Agencies
Rome

FRANCE

Marc TROUYET
Conseiller
Représentant permanent adjoint
de la République française
auprès de l’OAA
Rome
GERMANY

Hans-Heinrich WREDE
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of the
Federal Republic of Germany
to IFAD
Rome

Executive Board Director

Heike KUHN
First Counsellor
Alternate Permanent Representative of
the Federal Republic of Germany
to IFAD
Rome

Diana STOETZER
Desk Officer
Federal Ministry of Economic
Co-operation and Development
Berlin

Rico KASSMAN
Intern
Permanent Representation of the
Federal Republic of Germany
Rome

GREECE

Nike Ekaterini KOUTRAKOU
First Counsellor
Director
Emergency, Humanitarian
and Food Aid Division
Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Athens

Emmanuel MANOUSSAKIS
Minister Plenipotentiary
for Agricultural Affairs
Alternate Permanent Representative
of the Hellenic Republic to IFAD
Rome

GUATEMALA

Ileana RIVERA DE ANGOTTI
Ministro Consejero
Representante Permanente Alterno
de la República de Guatemala
ante los Organismos de las
Naciones Unidas
Roma
INDIA

Executive Board Director

Sindhushree KHULLAR
Additional Secretary (Economic Affairs)
Department of Economic Affairs
Ministry of Finance
New Delhi

Ramalingam PARASURAM
Minister (Agriculture)
Alternate Permanent Representative
of the Republic of India to the
United Nations Food and Agriculture
Agencies
Rome

INDONESIA

Executive Board Director

Hasanuddin IBRAHIM
Secretary-General
Department of Agriculture
Jakarta

Ruly Tisna YULIANSA
Special Advisor to the Minister
for Agriculture
Department of Agriculture
Jakarta

Siti Nugraha MAULUDIAH
Counsellor (Multilateral Affairs)
Alternate Permanent Representative
of the Republic of Indonesia
to IFAD
Rome

Erizal SODIKIN
Agricultural Attaché
Alternate Permanent Representative
of the Republic of Indonesia
to IFAD
Rome

Pamela FADHILAH
Deputy Head of Bureau on
United Nations Issues for
Food and Agriculture
International Cooperation Bureau
Department of Agriculture
Jakarta
ITALY

Executive Board Director: Augusto ZODDA
Adviser
Department of the Treasury
Ministry of Economy and Finance
Rome

JAPAN

Executive Board Director: Seiichi YOKOI
Minister Counsellor
Deputy Permanent Representative of Japan to the United Nations Food and Agriculture Agencies
Rome

Chishiro MATSUMOTO
First Secretary
Economic Section
Embassy of Japan
Rome

KUWAIT

Abdul Rhida BAHMAN
Agricultural Advisor
Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development
Kuwait City

MALI

Executive Board Director: Mohammed Al Moustapha CISSÉ
Premier Conseiller
Chargé d’affaires, a.i.
Ambassade de la République du Mali
Rome

MEXICO

Diego Alonso SIMANCAS GUTIÉRREZ
Segundo Secretario
Representante Permanente Alterno de los Estados Unidos Mexicanos ante el FIDA
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Permanent Representative
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to the United Nations Organizations
for Food and Agriculture
Rome

Executive Board Director
Theo VAN BANNING
Counsellor
Deputy Permanent Representative
of the Kingdom of the Netherlands
to the United Nations Organizations
for Food and Agriculture
Rome

Vincent ROZA
Policy Officer
Co-ordination and Institutional
Affairs Division
United Nations and International
Financial Institutions Department
Ministry of Foreign Affairs
The Hague

NIGERIA

Executive Board Director
Yaya O. OLANIRAN
Permanent Representative of the
Federal Republic of Nigeria
to the United Nations Food and
Agriculture Agencies
Rome

Muyiwa Olumuyiwa AZEEZ
Chief Agricultural Officer (IFAD)
Federal Ministry of Agriculture
and Water Resources
Abuja

Abubakar Nura MUHAMMAD
IFAD Projects Coordinator
National Food Reserve Agency (NFRA)
Federal Ministry of Agriculture
and Rural Development
Abuja
NORWAY

Executive Board Director
Arne B. HØNNINGSTAD
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of the Kingdom of Norway to IFAD Rome

PAKISTAN

Muhammad ZIA-UR REHMAN
Secretary
Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Livestock
Islamabad

Aamir Ashraf KHAWAJA
Agricultural Counsellor
Alternate Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan to the United Nations Food and Agriculture Agencies Rome

QATAR

Akeel HATOOR
Adviser
Embassy of the State of Qatar Rome

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Executive Board Director
SEO Hae-dong
First Secretary
Alternate Permanent Representative of the Republic of Korea to the United Nations Food and Agriculture Agencies Rome

SAUDI ARABIA

Executive Board Director
Bandar Bin Abdel Mohsin AL-SHALHOOB
Permanent Representative of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to FAO Rome
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Counsellor (Agricultural Affairs)
Alternate Permanent Representative
of the Republic of South Africa
to the United Nations Food and
Agriculture Agencies
Rome

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Executive Board Director  Jorge CABRERA ESPINÓS
Primer Secretario
Embajada de España
Roma

SWEDEN

Executive Board Director  Amalia GARCIA-THÄRN
Minister Counsellor
Permanent Representative
of the Kingdom of Sweden
to IFAD and WFP
Rome

SWITZERLAND

Executive Board Director  Pio WENNUBST
Conseiller
Représentant permanent adjoint
de la Confédération suisse auprès
de la FAO, du FIDA et du PAM
Rome

Alexandre GHÉLEW
Conseiller
Chargé de programmes
Section multilatéral
Direction du développement
et de la coopération
Département fédéral des
affaires étrangères
Berne

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

Executive Board Director  Majed Ali Ahmed OMRAN AL SHAMSI
Director
Revenue Department
Ministry of Finance and Industry
Abu Dhabi
UNITED KINGDOM
Executive Board Director
Elizabeth NASSKAU
Deputy Permanent Representative of
the United Kingdom of Great Britain and
Northern Ireland to the United Nations
Food and Agriculture Agencies
Rome

UNITED STATES
Executive Board Director
Elizabeth H. MORRIS
Deputy Director
Office of Multilateral
Development Banks
Department of the Treasury
Washington, D.C.

Andrew VELTHAUS
International Economist
Office of Multilateral
Development Banks
Department of the Treasury
Washington, D.C.

VENEZUELA (BOLIVARIAN REPUBLIC OF)
Gladys Francisca URBANEJA DURÁN
Embajadora designada de la
República Bolivariana de
Venezuela ante los Organismos
de las Naciones Unidas
Roma
IRELAND

Observer

Joanne KING
Second Secretary
Embassy of Ireland
Rome
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Implementation of the second cycle of the Sahelian Areas Development Fund Programme under the Flexible Lending Mechanism

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EB 2008/93/INF.7 Republic of Peru

Project for Strengthening Assets, Markets and Rural Development Policies in the Northern Highlands (Sierra Norte)

EB 2008/93/INF.8 Progress in IFAD’s implementation of the 2007 triennial comprehensive policy review

EB 2008/93/INF.10* Summary of project, programme and grant proposals discussed by the Executive Board

* Document provided in English only.
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Executive Board — Ninety-third Session
Rome, 24-25 April 2008

For: Approval
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