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Enabling poor rural people  
to overcome poverty

## **Report on the organizational session of the Consultation on the Eighth Replenishment of IFAD's Resources**

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

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For: **Information**

## **Note to Executive Board Directors**

This document is submitted for the information of 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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## Report on the organizational session of the Consultation on the Eighth Replenishment of IFAD's Resources

1. The organizational session of the Consultation on the Eighth Replenishment of IFAD's Resources was officially opened on 15 February 2008 with the participation of representatives from List A and List B countries, and of 15 countries from List C as follows:
  - List C1: Cameroon, Egypt, Kenya, Mali and South Africa
  - List C2: China, India, Pakistan, the Republic of Korea, and Turkey
  - List C3: Argentina, Brazil, Guatemala, Mexico and Panama
2. In addition, representatives from Afghanistan, Angola, Bangladesh and the Niger attended the meeting as observers.
3. The session began with a short introduction by the Chairperson. He highlighted the importance of completing the work of the Consultation within the proposed time frame to ensure that its report is considered by the Governing Council in 2009. As the Seventh Replenishment period will end on 31 December 2009, effectiveness of the Eighth Replenishment by 2010 would allow continuity and consistency with the established three-year cycle.
4. Following the adoption of the provisional agenda, Management provided an overview of the implementation of the conclusions and recommendations of the Seventh Consultation. This included a presentation on the implementation of IFAD's Action Plan for Improving its Development Effectiveness, the principal vehicle of change over the Seventh Replenishment period.
5. IFAD's independent external adviser on strategy made a presentation on the aid architecture and trends in financing agriculture for development. He noted that allocations to agriculture from governments and as a percentage of global official development assistance (ODA) have continued to decline; in the case of ODA to less than 2.9 per cent for 2006. This trend persisted despite clear evidence that investing in small-scale agriculture yields high returns in terms of sustainable poverty reduction, and was all the more urgent in the light of new challenges such as rising food prices and climate change. He concluded by drawing attention to IFAD's role and comparative advantages. Members welcomed the presentation and looked forward to discussing these issues in the context of IFAD's Replenishment Consultation.
6. The proposed dates for the Consultation were discussed and approved as follows:
  - Second session: 22-23 April 2008
  - Third session: 8-9 July 2008
  - Fourth session: 7-8 October 2008
  - Fifth session: 18-19 December 2008
7. Members began to identify topics for the Consultation to consider at subsequent sessions; themes identified include: achieving and measuring results, climate change, fragile states, gender, innovation and knowledge management, partnerships, IFAD's role and comparative advantages, IFAD's role in middle-income countries and new financial instruments.

8. Consistent with the practice that has served past Consultations well, and in order to maintain the agreed timetable, the Chairperson invited Members to ensure that all the key issues were identified by the end of the April session.
9. The Chairperson concluded by noting that, at the April session, IFAD will present priorities for the Eighth Replenishment period (2010-2012) and financing requirements.

