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Enabling poor rural people  
to overcome poverty

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

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

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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 for the invitation of the following organizations, which meet the criteria set out in paragraphs 7, 8 and 10 of the document EB 87/31/R.57, as observers to sessions of the Governing Council: International Center for Biosaline Agriculture (ICBA) and Rotary International.



## **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 Center for Biosaline Agriculture (ICBA) and Rotary International. Information on the organizations is provided in the annexes.

### **Recommendation**

3. ICBA and Rotary International both meet the criteria established by the Executive Board. ICBA seeks to facilitate constructive dialogue on biosaline agriculture. Rotary International is dedicated to improving health, supporting education and alleviating poverty. 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 ICBA and Rotary International to attend the thirty-second and future sessions of the Governing Council as observers.

## International Center for Biosaline Agriculture (ICBA)

### Objectives

The International Center for Biosaline Agriculture is a scientific research institution established to help water-scarce countries improve the productivity, social equity and environmental sustainability of water use through an integrated water resource systems approach, with special emphasis on saline and marginal-quality water. ICBA gives top priority to sharing the results of its research with its partners in the national and regional research systems.

### Activities

ICBA initially established working relationships with the research agencies of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries, and later broadened its research network to the member countries of the Islamic Development Bank (IsDB). Gradually, ICBA has extended its reach to countries throughout the Islamic world and beyond to help farmers cultivate their crops in saline soils and irrigate them with salty or marginal water. Increasingly, ICBA is conducting research on water quality and the use of marginal, saline and treated waste water for sustainable agriculture and environmental greening.

ICBA has two information networks. The Global Biosaline Network (GBN) is a web-based databank for individuals interested in biosaline agriculture. GBN, which provides a platform for discussion groups on relevant topics and a virtual library, includes nearly 600 members from over 70 countries. The Inter-Islamic Network on Biosaline Agriculture (INBA) targets national, regional and international institutions, ministries of agriculture and water resources, universities, agricultural research and development agencies, extension services, NGOs and farmer groups. INBA facilitates exchange of knowledge and materials through meetings, workshops and publications.

### Membership and governance

ICBA's policies are governed by its Board of Directors. The Board of Directors reports to the Board of Trustees, which is chaired by the President of IsDB. The other 14 members of the Board of Trustees are IsDB Executive Directors, each with a specific geographic responsibility.

ICBA maintains a special relationship with IsDB as well as with its technical arm, the Standing Committee on Scientific and Technological Cooperation of the Organization of the Islamic Conference. It is also a partner center of the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR).

### Structure

ICBA's research structure is organized into three technical programmes.

- **Integrated Water Resource Systems Programme**  
Under this programme, water systems analysis is conducted at the macro level to help countries map and assess their water resources, analysing the tradeoffs and implications of different allocation and use choices. The programme also addresses specific issues such as water resource economics, allocation policies, water and soil conservation, hydrological and aquifer research, water use efficiency and institutional management.
- **Marginal Quality Water Resources Programme**  
This programme focuses on assessing available and potential sources of marginal quality water; developing efficient, productive uses for those water sources; evaluating water quality; understanding the environmental implications of marginal quality water use; and helping to develop relevant policies, institutions and management systems.

- **Capacity-building and Knowledge-sharing Programme**

In partnership with the Arab Water Council, and with strong support from both IsDB and ICBA's host country, the United Arab Emirates, ICBA is undertaking a fresh and vigorous initiative on capacity-building and knowledge-sharing. This initiative, the Arab Water Academy (AWA), is a prime mover for building modern water management capacity in the region. Water professionals can avail themselves of a range of skills-building activities and services tailored to different needs.

Through the AWA initiative, ICBA will upgrade and expand its information technology, communication and training facilities, library, networking, Internet and video conferencing systems. The capital and operating investment required for this upgrade will be sought from donors with a strong interest in capacity-building, such as IFAD, IsDB, the World Bank, GCC, the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries Fund for International Development (OFID), the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development (AFESD), the European Union (EU), and others.

### **Countries of operation**

ICBA's core activities are undertaken at its headquarters in Dubai and its regional offices in Abu Dhabi and Tashkent. It also works closely with national agencies and universities throughout the Middle East, Central Asia and South Asia. Increasingly, ICBA focuses its attention on the water-constrained countries of sub-Saharan Africa.

### **Funding**

ICBA was established with funding from IsDB. Additional support came from OFID, AFESD, the Government of the United Arab Emirates and the Municipality of Dubai.

Other important donors include the EU, the Asian Development Bank, the International Agency for Atomic Energy, the United States Agency for International Development, the United Kingdom's Department of International Development, the Arab Bank for Economic Development in Africa, the Environment Agency-Abu Dhabi, Shell International and the Arab Authority for Agricultural Investment and Development.

### **Relationships with IFAD and other international organizations**

ICBA's largest single project – Programme for Saving Freshwater Resources with Salt-Tolerant Forage Production in Marginal Areas of the West Asia and North Africa Region – An Opportunity to Raise the Incomes of the Rural Poor – is supported largely by IFAD. Other United Nations agencies with which ICBA maintains close relations include the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Environment Programme and the United Nations Economic and Social Council for Western Asia.

ICBA maintains close relations with several of the research center members of CGIAR, including the International Center for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas, the International Water Management Institute, the International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics and the International Rice Research Institute.

ICBA also works closely with over 35 national agricultural and environmental agencies as well as universities in its partner countries.

### **Location**

ICBA's headquarters, including its offices, laboratory complex and 100-hectare research farm, are located at Al Ruwayyah, Dubai. ICBA also maintains offices in Abu Dhabi and Tashkent, Uzbekistan.

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# Rotary International

## Introduction

Rotary is a worldwide organization of 1.2 million business and professional leaders united to provide humanitarian service and build goodwill and peace. Founded in 1905 as the world's first volunteer service organization, Rotary quickly expanded around the globe. Today, some 32,000 Rotary clubs in more than 200 countries and geographical areas conduct projects that address such challenges as illiteracy, disease, hunger, poverty and environmental concerns.

## Objectives

The mission of Rotary International and its Foundation is to provide service to others, promote high ethical standards, and advance world understanding, goodwill and peace through its network of business, professional and community leaders. To achieve its objectives, Rotary focuses many of its efforts on improving health, supporting education and alleviating poverty. As indicated by its motto, "Service above Self", Rotary's main objective is service – in the community, in the workplace, and throughout the world.

## Activities

The Four Avenues of Service are Rotary's philosophical cornerstone, on which all Rotary club activity is based:

- **Club service** focuses on strengthening fellowship and ensuring the effective functioning of the club.
- **Vocational service** encourages Rotary members to serve others through their vocations and practice high ethical standards.
- **Community service** covers projects and activities the club undertakes to improve life in its community.
- **International service** encompasses actions taken to expand Rotary's humanitarian reach around the globe and to promote world understanding and peace.

All Rotary members are united in Rotary's global campaign to eradicate polio. Through its flagship PolioPlus programme, Rotary members fund mass immunization campaigns and participate in social mobilization and surveillance efforts. Since 1985, Rotary members have contributed more than US\$650 million and countless volunteer hours to immunize more than two billion children in 122 countries. Rotary is a spearheading partner in the Global Polio Eradication Initiative, along with the World Health Organization, United Nations Children's Fund and United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

In addition to the PolioPlus programme, all Rotary clubs implement at least one local and one international volunteer service project annually. Rotary members offer their time, professional knowledge and expertise, and financial support throughout every phase of the projects. Although clubs' projects address a myriad of global challenges, the following are common areas of focus:

- **Health.** Health projects organized by Rotary clubs address a wide range of health problems in underserved communities, such as quality health care, affordable medicine, safe drinking water, and proper sanitation facilities. Rotary members, particularly those who are medical professionals, provide routine screenings and free medical treatment for HIV/AIDS, malaria, cancer, tuberculosis, cardiovascular diseases and other conditions in their communities and abroad. Well-positioned as residents of their communities, Rotary members lead effective community-wide education and outreach efforts focused on basic sanitation, hygiene and preventive medical practices.

- **Youth.** Rotary-sponsored youth programmes provide service, leadership and cross-cultural opportunities to thousands of individuals age 30 and younger. Interact clubs and Rotaract clubs, created for secondary and university-age students teach Rotary's guiding principles of ethics, service and fellowship. Thousands of students and young professionals participate annually in Rotary's leadership training programme, which emphasizes citizenship and personal growth. Similarly, secondary school-age students spend up to a year living with host families and attending school in a different country through a Rotary-sponsored cultural exchange programme.
- **Education.** Rotary's educational programmes promote international understanding by bringing together people from different countries and promoting learning opportunities. Through Rotary's scholarship programmes, more than 1,000 students annually study abroad and serve as cultural ambassadors. Rotary also partners with seven prestigious universities around the world, providing opportunities for mid-career professionals to earn a master's degree in peace and conflict resolution. Furthermore, Rotary sponsors a short-term international exchange programme for young professionals, designed to help them explore their career fields in other countries and develop professional relationships worldwide.

### Membership

There are currently 1.2 million Rotary club members worldwide. Clubs are non-political, non-religious, and open to all cultures, races and creeds. Founded on the classification principle, clubs strive to maintain memberships that accurately reflect the business and professional composition of the communities in which they are established. The goal of the classification system is to achieve professional diversity within each Rotary club, providing a rich resource of occupational expertise to carry out service projects and provide strong club leadership. Membership in Rotary is by invitation from other Rotary club members.

### Structure

- **Clubs.** Rotary is a grass-roots organization, and most of its humanitarian efforts are carried out at the club level. Individual Rotary members join their local Rotary clubs. Clubs, in turn, belong to the global association of Rotary International. Each club elects its own officers and enjoys considerable autonomy within the framework of Rotary International's constitution and bylaws.
- **Districts.** Approximately 50 clubs within a region are grouped into districts, led by a district governor. The district governor, who serves as an officer of Rotary International, is supported by a district administration team. There are currently 532 districts worldwide.
- **Zones and the Rotary International Board of Directors.** Rotary International's 532 districts are grouped into 34 zones worldwide. Zones alternately elect one director to serve on the Rotary International Board for a two-year term. The Rotary International Board, which has 17 members in addition to the President, President-elect and General Secretary, meets quarterly to establish policies.
- **President.** The Rotary International President, elected annually, serves as the organization's highest-ranking officer and heads its Board of Directors.
- **Council on Legislation.** The Council on Legislation, Rotary's "parliament," meets every three years to deliberate and act upon all proposed enactments and resolutions submitted by clubs, districts and directors.
- **The Trustees of the Rotary Foundation.** The 15 Trustees of the Rotary Foundation, who meet quarterly, are appointed by the Rotary International

president with the agreement of the Rotary International Board. The trustees manage all business of the Foundation. Each trustee is appointed to a four-year term. The Chairman of the Trustees serves for one year.

### **Countries of operation**

Since 1905, Rotary clubs have been established in more than 200 countries and geographical areas on all seven continents.

### **Funding**

Rotary International's activities are funded through dues paid by members, services and other activities (such as for-sale publications, property holdings, meetings and license fees) and net investment returns.

### **Relationships with IFAD and other international organizations**

Rotary International maintains active relationships with many United Nations bodies and NGOs. Beginning at the highest level of collaboration, Rotary International's closest relationships are with the other spearheading partners of the Global Polio Eradication Initiative: the World Health Organization, the United Nations Children's Fund and the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. In addition to the spearheading partners, Rotary International currently maintains cooperative relationships (including signed memoranda of understanding) with Goodwill Industries International, International Reading Association, and the United Nations Population Fund.

Rotary International maintains official relations with numerous components of the United Nations system and other intergovernmental organizations with parallel objectives. Since 1993, Rotary International has maintained general consultative status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC). In addition, Rotary leaders serve as representatives to the following:

- African Union
- Council of Europe
- Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean
- Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
- International Organization of La Francophonie
- Organization of American States
- United Nations Centre for Human Settlements
- United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia
- United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
- United Nations Economic Commission for Europe
- United Nations Economic Commission for Africa
- United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization
- United Nations Environment Programme
- United Nations Secretariat, New York
- United Nations Office at Geneva
- United Nations Office at Vienna
- World Bank

Rotary International is in close contact with IFAD and has identified three thematic areas on which it wishes to focus its work with IFAD: microfinance, water and sanitation, and gender. Rotary International representatives attended IFAD's last Governing Council session as visitors.

**Location**

The Rotary International Secretariat is headquartered in Evanston, Illinois, United States of America, with international offices in Argentina, Australia, Brazil, India, Japan, Korea and Switzerland. The Secretariat's active managing officer is the General Secretary, who heads a 650-member staff serving Rotary members worldwide.

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