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Enabling poor rural people
to overcome poverty

Report of the secretariat of the International Land Coalition

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Note to Executive Board Directors

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Report of the secretariat of the International Land Coalition

1. The International Land Coalition (ILC) is a global alliance of civil society and intergovernmental organizations working together to promote secure and equitable access to and control over land for poor women and men through advocacy, dialogue and capacity building. IFAD hosts the ILC secretariat, is a member of the Coalition and is currently the co-chair of the ILC Council.
2. In 2006, IFAD commissioned an external evaluation of ILC. The evaluation confirmed the continuing relevance of the Coalition's mandate and recommended a series of institutional reforms aimed at building ILC into a more member-led coalition and lessening dependence on IFAD as the host of the secretariat.
3. Based on the findings of the external evaluation, IFAD set in place a series of six-monthly milestones to be achieved during the period of its 2007-2008 grant to ILC. The background and overall aims of the grant are set forth in Executive Board document EB 2006/89/R.36, IFAD's plan for its future relationship with the International Land Coalition.
4. The attached report, prepared by the ILC secretariat, summarizes ILC's achievements in meeting the milestones set out in document EB 2006/89/R.36.

Report submitted by the secretariat of the International Land Coalition on achievements in meeting milestones

I. Introduction

1. The period 2007-2008 has been notable for the institutional transformation of ILC, which gathered momentum following the external evaluation conducted in 2006. Significant changes have been made in the functioning of the Coalition, in particular institutional changes to strengthen procedures for working as a coalition of members.
2. This report summarizes the achievements of ILC in meeting the milestones outlined by IFAD in document EB 2006/89/R.36.

II. Achievements in meeting milestones

Plan of action approved

3. In November 2006, the ILC Council approved a plan of action, which was then ratified by the Assembly of Members in April 2007. The plan has two main thrusts: (a) a set of commitments to make structural changes in the institution that would, among others, clarify its legal identity, strengthen the role of its members and expand its membership base; and (b) development of its operational activities into more strategically focused, integrated programmes at country, regional and global levels.

ILC Strategic Framework 2007-2011 and related strategies approved

4. The Assembly of Members in April 2007 approved the Strategic Framework 2007-2011, which had been developed under the direction of a committee of the ILC Council and with the involvement of members.
5. The Strategic Framework is implemented through a range of associated strategies and a new operating framework. A communications strategy was approved by the Council in November 2007 to enhance member-to-member relations, knowledge interchange and joint actions. The 2007 Assembly of Members amended the constitution to provide for an expansion of the membership. This led to the approval, in November 2007, of 33 new members, bringing the membership total to 65. Both the membership expansion and communications strategy support the Coalition's strategic objective of becoming a globally representative, member-led, regionalized and decentralized coalition.

Integrated resource mobilization strategy approved

6. The Assembly of Members in April 2007 approved the ILC resource mobilization strategy. This strategy provides direction for achieving a more diversified and sustainable funding base for the Coalition.

Form of legal status approved, registration procedures authorized and activated, and legal status finalized

7. Under a resolution of November 2007, the ILC Council determined that ILC was an autonomous institution that derived its identity from its members.¹ The Coalition is therefore recognized as being independent from IFAD, the host of its secretariat. In defining the Coalition as an independent entity, the resolution also notes that the secretariat does not have an independent identity, but draws on the legal personality of the host organization.
8. This resolution was accepted by IFAD Management as a basis for preparing a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with ILC on the hosting of the secretariat.

¹ The ILC Council based this resolution on a study it commissioned on options and recommendations for establishing its legal identity.

This action demonstrates IFAD's willingness to enter into an agreement with ILC as an autonomous entity.

Revisions to governance structure approved

9. The 2007 Assembly of Members decided that revisions to the constitution and governance framework should be considered after the 2007-2008 institutional change programme had been completed. As the change programme and the milestones to measure progress have been largely achieved, the ILC Council has established a committee to propose amendments to the constitution for consideration at their November 2008 session. On the basis of ILC Council decisions, amendments to the constitution will be proposed to the Assembly of Members in April 2009.

New business and housing agreement approved and activated with IFAD

10. The draft MOU outlines the new business and hosting arrangements that the ILC secretariat will have with IFAD. It defines the terms and conditions under which IFAD will continue to host the ILC secretariat. These include full recovery by IFAD of the costs associated with hosting the secretariat and a three-year limit on IFAD's hosting of the secretariat.
11. The MOU is now being finalized by the members of the ILC Council and is expected to be approved during or before the ILC Council session in November 2008.

Results-based programme of work

12. In November 2007, the ILC Council approved regional strategies for Africa, Asia and Latin America, as developed by members in these regions. It also approved the 2008 workplan and budget, which are aligned with the regional strategies.
13. In April 2008, the ILC Council approved two key documents for ensuring results-based implementation of the Strategic Framework: the operating framework, which outlines how ILC will put the Strategic Framework in operation; and the monitoring and evaluation framework, which sets out processes, roles and responsibilities for monitoring and evaluation.

Funding by other donors

14. Document EB 2006/89/R.36 sets the target that not less than 65 per cent of ILC's funding should be provided by non-IFAD sources by December 2008 and, within this, cofinancing by IFAD of the administrative portion must not exceed 50 per cent. These targets were achieved and surpassed one year earlier than required. As at 1 January 2008, the approved ILC budget showed that 79 per cent of its total funding was coming from non-IFAD sources. Furthermore, IFAD's contribution to the administrative portion is 35 per cent for 2008.

III. Conclusions

15. ILC has made significant progress in bringing about the institutional transformation envisaged in the plan of action and in meeting the milestones set in IFAD's plan for its future relationship with the Coalition. These results have been reached under the direction of the 2008 Assembly of Members, with the active oversight and involvement of the ILC Council and the facilitation of the secretariat.
16. A number of documents defining the strategic, institutional and operational frameworks required to achieve the above have been developed and approved by members, and are now being put into practice. The number and diversity of members have increased substantially, and members are playing an ever-increasing role in the Coalition, in particular through the regionalization process in Asia, Africa and Latin America.
17. Two of the milestones set in document EB 2006/89/R.36 are pending the last steps of finalization. Amendments to ILC's constitution will be made in accordance with the procedures set out in the constitution. The draft text of an MOU between IFAD and

ILC has been submitted to the Coalition Council for approval. The text will be finalized on the basis of recommendations made by IFAD Management and the ILC Council. ILC is therefore pleased to report that, with the completion of these processes, it will have met or exceeded all the milestones set by IFAD, in advance of the December 2008 deadlines.

