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Enabling poor rural people
to overcome poverty

Executive Board

Minutes of the Ninety-fifth Session

Executive Board — Ninety-fifth Session
Rome, 15-17 December 2008

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-fifth session of the Executive Board

I. Introduction

1. The ninety-fifth session of the Executive Board was held in Rome from 15-17 December 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-fifth 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 2008/95/R.1) and adopted the agenda contained in document EB 2008/95/R.1/Rev.1. The agenda is attached as annex III.

B. Programme of work, Programme Development Financing Facility and administrative and capital budgets of IFAD and its Office of Evaluation for 2009 (agenda item 3)

5. The programme of work, Programme Development Financing Facility (PDFF) and the administrative and capital budgets of IFAD and its Office of Evaluation for 2009 (EB 2008/95/R.2 and its addendum, to be consolidated as EB 2008/95/R.2/Rev.1), together with the report of the Audit Committee thereon (EB 2008/95/R.3), were considered by the Board. Appreciation was expressed to both the Audit Committee and the Evaluation Committee for their review of the proposals put forward.
6. IFAD's planned programme of work for 2009 was approved by the Board at a target level of US\$715 million, subject to availability of resources, representing a 10 per cent increase over the programme of work for 2008.
7. Directors commended the greater clarity of the document and welcomed the proposal to present a single budget in future. While noting the increase in the resources allocated to operations, Directors urged Management to redouble its efforts to align costs with contribution to results. Management committed itself to further enhancing IFAD's efficiency and effectiveness, including through the human resources reform process.
8. The Board then approved a total PDFF in the amount of US\$41.98 million.
9. Having reviewed the Fund's proposed administrative budget for 2009 of US\$73.33 million and capital budget of US\$4.08 million, the Board authorized their submission to the thirty-second session of the Governing Council. Directors were assured that due consideration would be given to their comments, including with respect to the current high rate of inflation and the effects that this could have on future proposals.
10. Finally, the Board reviewed the work programme and the administrative budget of the Office of Evaluation (OE) for 2009 at the level of US\$5.85 million, and recommended submission to the thirty-second session of the Governing Council. The priorities and the pipeline of corporate-level evaluations to be undertaken by OE in the coming years were also approved.

11. As regards the OE work programme and in response to queries from a number of Board Directors, it was clarified that the joint evaluation with the African Development Bank (AfDB) on agricultural and rural development in Africa would be shared with Management and relevant governments in March 2009, after which the evaluation would be submitted to the Board. Prior to that, an interim report would be issued. The Board was also informed that work would begin on the evaluation of IFAD's performance on gender equality and women's empowerment in the second half of 2009,¹ while the IFAD Evaluation Policy would be considered as part of the peer review scheduled to begin in early 2009.

C. Proposal for a voluntary separation programme (agenda item 4)

12. The Executive Board considered the proposal for a voluntary separation programme (EB 2008/95/R.4). Directors recognized that this proposal represents an important step in working towards the four objectives of the reform process by accelerating staff turnover, particularly where a mismatch exists in terms of skills, mobility and staff motivation. As such, the Board recommended the submission of the document, together with the draft resolution included therein, to the Governing Council in February 2009 for adoption.

D. Evaluation (agenda item 5)

(a) Reports of the Chairperson of the Evaluation Committee

13. The Executive Board considered and endorsed the reports of the Chairperson of the Evaluation Committee on the Committee's fifty-third session (EB 2008/95/R.5) and on the Committee's fifty-fourth session and an informal seminar on OE's new evaluation manual (EB 2008/95/R.6). In so doing and in the light of the findings of the recent country programme evaluation in Ethiopia, the Board approved a waiver to proceed with the design of the second phase of the Pastoral Community Development Project in Ethiopia prior to completion of the interim evaluation.

(b) Annual Report on Results and Impact of IFAD Operations (ARRI)

14. The Executive Board reviewed the sixth Annual Report on Results and Impact of IFAD Operations (EB 2008/95/R.7 and its addendum), covering operations evaluated in 2007, together with Management's response to the report. OE was commended on the quality of the report, which served as an important tool for Management and the Board to monitor the performance of IFAD's projects and programmes and draw lessons that could further improve future project design and implementation. The findings of the report were very encouraging: all projects evaluated showed satisfactory results in project performance and overall project achievement as well as marked improvements as regards sustainability.
15. There was broad discussion about the difficulty of comparing evaluations of IFAD programmes and projects with those of other agencies and international financial institutions. Related questions about the analytical methodology were addressed. Board members were reassured that, as IFAD's own data on evaluated programmes and projects grow, comparisons will become more accurate. Directors also expressed the wish to see greater space devoted in the report to the evaluation of direct benefits, a suggestion that OE has adopted in the new evaluation manual. The Board then approved the recommended learning themes to be covered in the 2009 and 2010 ARRIs. The Board looked forward to reviewing the list of learning themes for future editions, to be presented in 2009.

¹ At the subsequent fifth session of the Consultation on the Eighth Replenishment of IFAD's Resources, it was agreed that the Executive Board would consider a corporate policy and implementation strategy on gender as soon as this evaluation, which is to be undertaken by IFAD's independent Office of Evaluation in 2009, is finalized.

E. Report on IFAD's Development Effectiveness (RIDE) (agenda item 6)

16. The Executive Board considered the second Report on IFAD's Development Effectiveness together with OE's comments (EB 2008/95/R.8 and its addendum, to be consolidated as EB 2008/95/R.8/Rev.1). As the Board was informed at its September 2008 session, the Portfolio Performance Report has now been merged with the RIDE to provide a comprehensive overview of the Fund's performance as a whole, covering both the development effectiveness of its programmes and its organizational effectiveness. As with the ARRI, the findings of the RIDE show an improvement in IFAD's performance, with three out of the four Results Measurement Framework headline indicators having already exceeded their targets for 2010. The report gives tangible evidence of how IFAD has responded to the call for an expanded programme of work and increased development and organizational effectiveness, and has succeeded in combining more with better. Data also show increased organizational effectiveness as a result of better management and monitoring in planning, finance and human resources.
17. The Board expressed appreciation to Management for the quality of the report and put forward several proposals for improvements thereto. Management reiterated that the production of the RIDE was an evolving process and that comments made by Board Directors would be taken into account in the further development of the report.

F. Progress report and activity plan for IFAD's country presence (agenda item 7)

18. In reviewing the progress report and activity plan for IFAD's country presence, Directors welcomed the impact of strengthened IFAD country presence, which had contributed significantly to improving project implementation and performance; increasing knowledge sharing, partnership-building, alignment and harmonization; and enhancing policy dialogue. Appreciation was expressed for the overall results of a more effective engagement by IFAD at the country level and of reinforced country ownership. Within this framework of broad support, the Board approved the proposed expansion of IFAD's country presence in 2009, as set out in paragraphs 57-58 of document EB 2008/95/R.9. The Executive Board Director for the United States stated that she could not join in the consensus approval of the activity plan and, as such, abstained.
19. A conference room paper was circulated addressing commitments made by Management as regards implementing the country presence and developing the country presence policy, in response to the issues raised by Directors during the discussion. These included entry and exit criteria and strategies, presentation of information on the cost benefits of IFAD's proposals for increased country presence in future, and the limit on the expansion of IFAD's country offices in 2010. This conference room paper will form part of the revised progress report and activity plan for IFAD's country presence (EB 2008/95/R.9 and EB 2008/95/CRP.2 to be consolidated as EB 2008/95/R.9/Rev.1).

G. IFAD's participation in the Debt Initiative for Heavily Indebted Poor Countries (agenda item 8)

20. The Executive Board considered the report on IFAD's participation in the Debt Initiative for Heavily Indebted Poor Countries (EB 2008/95/R.10 to be revised as EB 2008/95/R.10/Rev.1), and approved the submission of the progress report to the thirty-second session of the Governing Council, appropriately revised to reflect the decisions taken by the Board.

21. The Board also approved the proposed contributions to the reduction of both the Central African Republic's and Liberia's debt to IFAD by adopting the following resolutions:

"RESOLVED: that the Fund, upon the decision of the Executive Board, shall reduce the value of the Central African Republic's debt to IFAD through the integration of its arrears to IFAD into the debt relief and through the reduction by up to 100 per cent of its respective semi-annual debt-service obligations to IFAD (principal and service charge/interest payments), as these fall due, up to the aggregate NPV amount of SDR 10.4 million in 2006 NPV terms. The debt relief will be provided during the interim period, i.e. between the decision point and the completion point, but it will only become legally effective at completion point for the country.

RESOLVED: that the Fund, upon the decision of the Executive Board, shall reduce the value of the Republic of Liberia's debt to IFAD through the integration of its arrears to IFAD into the debt relief and through the reduction by up to 100 per cent of its respective semi-annual debt-service obligations to IFAD (principal and service charge/interest payments), as these fall due, up to the aggregate NPV amount of SDR 13.8 million in 2007 NPV terms. The debt relief will be provided during the interim period, i.e. between the decision point and the completion point, but it will only become legally effective at completion point for the country."

H. Country strategic opportunities programmes (COSOPs) (agenda item 9)

(a) Ethiopia

22. The Executive Board expressed its support for the Ethiopia COSOP and commended IFAD Management and operational staff for the high quality of the document. The Board welcomed the fact that the COSOP builds on the recommendations of the recently concluded country programme evaluation, and Ethiopia's second-generation Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper. It recommended that during implementation, IFAD should work closely with the Government and development partners on watershed management, and the promotion of appropriate reforms geared towards transparent and competitive markets for agricultural inputs and outputs.

(b) Guatemala

23. The Executive Board supported the COSOP for Guatemala. It was suggested that coordination with other donors in market matters be ensured and that activities related to partnership with the private sector be encouraged. Management explained that malnutrition will be dealt with primarily through the social cohesion programme and that the related activities will be complementary to the IFAD programme in the country.

(c) Guinea

24. Board members commended the overall quality of the Guinea COSOP, its consistency with the national poverty reduction strategy and its focus on selected strategic objectives. It was acknowledged that support to decentralization and capacity strengthening at the local level is key to improved governance. Board members stressed the need to be mindful of risks associated with (i) the challenges of achieving sustainability of microfinance services, particularly in the current macroeconomic context; and (ii) exceeding the real demand for support by farmers' organizations given that other donors' programmes are also focused on these organizations. A more complete presentation of potential partnerships with specific bilateral donor programmes in rural development was also requested. These comments will be taken into consideration in the implementation of the COSOP.

(d) Indonesia

25. The Executive Board reviewed the 2009-2013 COSOP for Indonesia. While the Board commended the good quality of the country strategy, it emphasized the need for: the new country programme to build on lessons learned from previous operations; the identification of risks and risk management; the explicit recognition of the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness; the realignment of the country programme with the Government's midterm development plan; and continued coordination with other development partners.

(e) Morocco

26. The Executive Board reviewed the Morocco COSOP, and endorsed its strategic objectives and the expected results. Board Directors strongly supported the focus on literacy programmes for rural men and women, under strategic objective 1, and the development of small- and medium-scale irrigation under strategic objective 3. Management pointed out that the country's main stakeholders had full ownership of the COSOP, noting also that partnerships had been mobilized to ensure effectiveness. Making a difference on the ground by building on the successes of past and ongoing programmes was also an integral part of the COSOP. Some Directors underlined the constraints posed to the development of Moroccan agriculture by the lack of economies of scale, the small and fragmentary nature of farm lands and the need for a consolidation of economic activities in smallholder agriculture. Management indicated that both the aggregation of activities at the community level and the organization of smallholders and their production into appropriate value chains are strategic thrusts of both the national agricultural strategy – the Morocco Green Plan – and the COSOP. This will contribute to the consolidation of the means of production and economic activities and to the streamlining of the rural economy.

I. Resources available for commitment (agenda item 10)

27. The resources available for commitment (EB 2008/95/R.16 and its addendum) were reviewed and the Board approved the use of the advance commitment authority (ACA) for an amount of up to US\$110.5 million. Directors noted that the total use of additional ACA at the end of 2008, on the basis of expected net inflows by the end of December, was estimated at US\$753.6 million.

J. Project/programme proposals for consideration by the Executive Board (agenda item 11)

28. Directors noted that the proposals originally foreseen for Ecuador and Mexico had been removed from the agenda to allow for further consultations between IFAD and the respective Governments on the most appropriate financial and technical instruments.
29. The Executive Board considered the following project/programme proposals:

(a) Western and Central Africa

- (i) *Democratic Republic of the Congo: Integrated Agricultural Rehabilitation Programme in Maniema Province*

30. The Executive Board considered the programme proposal contained in document EB 2008/95/R.17 with its addendum and important assurances, and adopted the following resolution:

“RESOLVED: that the Fund shall provide a grant to the Democratic Republic of the Congo in various currencies in an amount equivalent to fifteen million seven hundred thousand special drawing rights (SDR 15,700,000) and upon such terms and conditions as shall be substantially in accordance with the terms and conditions presented to the Executive Board herein.”

(ii) *Ghana: Rural and Agricultural Finance Programme*

31. The Executive Board considered the programme proposal contained in document EB 2008/95/R.18 with its addendum and important assurances, and adopted the following resolution:

“RESOLVED: that the Fund shall make a loan to the Republic of Ghana in various currencies in an amount equivalent to four million and fifty thousand special drawing rights (SDR 4,050 000) to mature on or prior to 15 July 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.”

(iii) *Mauritania: Value Chains Development Programme for Poverty Reduction*

32. The Executive Board considered the programme proposal contained in document EB 2008/95/R.19, and recognized that the proposed programme was well designed and that it targeted the poorest people in Mauritania, one of the world’s poorest countries. However in view of the significant governance issues, and their possible impact on sustainability, it was agreed that consideration of the programme would be deferred until the ninety-sixth session of the Executive Board, in April 2009.

(iv) *Niger: Agricultural and Rural Rehabilitation and Development Initiative Project – Institutional Strengthening Component (ARRDI-ISC)*

33. The Executive Board considered the project proposal contained in document EB 2008/95/R.20 with its addendum and important assurances, and adopted the following resolutions:

“RESOLVED: that the Fund shall make a loan to the Republic of the Niger in various currencies in an amount equivalent to five million four hundred thousand special drawing rights (SDR 5,400,000) to mature on or prior to 1 October 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, under the Debt Sustainability Framework, to the Republic of the Niger in various currencies in an amount equivalent to five million four hundred thousand special drawing rights (SDR 5,400,000) and upon such terms and conditions as shall be substantially in accordance with the terms and conditions presented herein.”

(b) **Eastern and Southern Africa**(i) *Kenya: Supplementary loan in support of the Southern Nyanza Community Development Project*

34. The Executive Board considered the project proposal contained in document EB 2008/95/R.21 with its addendum and adopted the following resolution:

“RESOLVED: that the Fund shall make a supplementary loan to the Republic of Kenya in various currencies in an amount equivalent to four million special drawing rights (SDR 4,000,000) to mature on or prior to 15 December 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.”

35. The Executive Board approved the supplementary loan proposal for Kenya, for which negotiations had not been finalized prior to the Board’s consideration, on the condition that minor modifications to be made to the existing loan agreement for the Southern Nyanza Community Development Project be concluded early in 2009.

(ii) *Swaziland: Rural Finance and Enterprise Development Programme*

36. The Executive Board considered the programme proposal contained in document EB 2008/95/R.22 with its addendum and adopted the following resolution:

“RESOLVED: that the Fund shall make a loan to the Kingdom of Swaziland in various currencies in an amount equivalent to four million and fifty thousand special drawing rights (SDR 4,050,000) to mature on or prior to 1 December 2028 and to bear an interest rate of one half of 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.”

37. The Executive Board approved the loan proposal for Swaziland, for which negotiations had not been finalized prior to the Board’s consideration, subject to the completion of negotiations within six months of Board approval and the condition that any important variations to the terms presented to this session be brought to the attention of the Board at a future session.

(iii) *United Republic of Tanzania: Supplementary loan in support of the Agricultural Sector Development Programme*

38. The Executive Board considered the programme proposal contained in document EB 2008/95/R.23 with its addendum and important assurances and adopted the following resolution:

“RESOLVED: that the Fund shall make a supplementary loan to the United Republic of Tanzania in various currencies in an amount equivalent to thirty-seven million six hundred and fifty thousand special drawing rights (SDR 37,650,000) to mature on or prior to 15 November 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.”

(c) **Asia and the Pacific**(i) *China: Dabieshan Area Poverty Reduction Programme*

39. The Executive Board considered the programme proposal contained in document EB 2008/95/R.24 with its addendum and important assurances and adopted the following resolution:

“RESOLVED: that the Fund shall make a loan to the People’s Republic of China in various currencies in an amount equivalent to twenty-one million four hundred and thirty-eight thousand special drawing rights (SDR 21,438,000) to mature on or prior to 15 December 2028 and to bear an interest rate of one half of 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.”

(ii) *Lao People’s Democratic Republic: Sustainable Natural Resource Management and Productivity Enhancement Project*

40. The Executive Board considered the project proposal contained in document EB 2008/95/R.25 with its addendum and important assurances and adopted the following resolution:

“RESOLVED: that the Fund shall provide a grant to the Lao People’s Democratic Republic in various currencies in an amount equivalent to ten million one hundred thousand special drawing rights (SDR 10.1 million) and upon such terms and conditions as shall be substantially in accordance with the terms and conditions presented herein.”

(iii) *Philippines: Rapid Food Production Enhancement Programme*

41. The Executive Board considered the programme proposal contained in document EB 2008/95/R.26 with its addendum and important assurances and adopted the following resolution:

“RESOLVED: that the Fund shall make a loan to the Republic of the Philippines in various currencies in an amount equivalent to ten million six hundred and eighty-five thousand special drawing rights (SDR 10,685,000) to mature on or prior to 15 October 2028 and to bear an interest rate of one half of 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.”

42. The Executive Board approved the loan proposal to the Republic of the Philippines, on the basis of intermediate lending terms, which will require renegotiation with the Government. Should any important variations to the terms and conditions presented to the Board result from the negotiations, these will be submitted to a future session of the Board.

(iv) *Tajikistan: Khatlon Livelihoods Support Project*

43. The Executive Board considered the project proposal contained in document EB 2008/95/R.27 with its addendum and important assurances and adopted the following resolution:

“RESOLVED: that the Fund shall provide a grant to the Republic of Tajikistan in various currencies in an amount equivalent to seven million nine hundred thousand special drawing rights (SDR 7,900,000) and upon such terms and conditions as shall be substantially in accordance with the terms and conditions presented herein.”

(v) *Viet Nam: Pro-Poor Partnerships for Agroforestry Development Project*

44. The Executive Board considered the project proposal contained in document EB 2008/95/R.28 with its addendum and important assurances and adopted the following resolution:

“RESOLVED: that the Fund shall make a loan to the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam in various currencies in an amount equivalent to fourteen million one hundred and ten thousand special drawing rights (SDR 14,110,000) to mature on or prior to 15 December 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.”

(d) **Latin America and the Caribbean**(i) *Belize: Rural Finance Programme*

45. The Executive Board considered the programme proposal contained in document EB 2008/95/R.29 with its addendum and important assurances and adopted the following resolution:

“RESOLVED: that the Fund shall make a loan to Belize in various currencies in an amount equivalent to two million and fifty thousand special drawing rights (SDR 2,050,000) to mature on or prior to 1 October 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.”

- (ii) *Bolivia: President's memorandum: Management of Natural Resources in the Chaco and High Valley Regions Project – Expansion of the project area and target group*

46. The Executive Board considered the proposal contained in document EB 2008/95/R.30 and approved an expansion of the project area and target group of the Management of Natural Resources in the Chaco and High Valley Regions Project in Bolivia by adopting the following resolution:

“RESOLVED: that the Fund shall approve an expansion of the project area and target group of the Management of Natural Resources in the Chaco and High Valley Regions Project in the Republic of Bolivia, to take effect on the date of approval hereof, upon the terms and conditions presented herein.”

- (iii) *Brazil: President's memorandum: North-East Rural Family Enterprise Development Support Project – Modifications to the loan agreement*

47. The Executive Board considered the proposal contained in document EB 2008/95/R.31 and approved the proposed modifications to the loan agreement for the North-East Rural Family Enterprise Development Support Project as follows: (i) the borrower, to be changed from the Federative Republic of Brazil to Banco do Nordeste do Brasil; (ii) the project's executing agency, to be changed from the Ministry of Agrarian Development to Banco do Nordeste do Brasil; and (iii) the supervision arrangements, to be changed from supervision by the United Nations Office for Project Services to direct supervision by IFAD, to take effect on 1 January 2009. The Fund shall carry out negotiations with the new contracting party and conclude the necessary legal arrangements.

- (iv) *Guatemala: Sustainable Rural Development Programme for the Northern Region*

48. The Executive Board considered the programme proposal contained in document EB 2008/95/R.33 with its addendum and important assurances and adopted the following resolutions:

“RESOLVED: that the Fund shall make a loan to the Republic of Guatemala in various currencies in an amount equivalent to twelve million one hundred thousand special drawing rights (SDR 12,100,000) to mature on or prior to 15 February 2027 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 Guatemala in various currencies in an amount equivalent to three hundred thousand special drawing rights (SDR 300,000) and upon such terms and conditions as shall be substantially in accordance with the terms and conditions presented herein.”

- (v) *Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of): Orinoco Delta Warao Support Programme*

49. The Executive Board considered the programme proposal contained in document EB 2008/95/R.35 with its addendum and adopted the following resolution:

“RESOLVED: that the Fund shall make a loan to the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela in various currencies in an amount equivalent to eight million eight hundred thousand special drawing rights (SDR 8.8 million) to mature on or prior to 15 December 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.”

50. The Executive Board approved the loan proposal to the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, for which negotiations had not been finalized prior to the Board's consideration, subject to the completion of negotiations within six months of Board approval and the condition that any important variations to the terms presented to this session be brought to the attention of the Board at a future session.

(e) **Near East and North Africa**

(i) *Bosnia and Herzegovina: Rural Livelihoods Development Project*

51. The Executive Board considered the project proposal contained in document EB 2008/95/R.36 with its addendum and important assurances and adopted the following resolution:

"RESOLVED: that the Fund shall make a loan to Bosnia and Herzegovina in various currencies in an amount equivalent to seven million five hundred thousand special drawing rights (SDR 7,500,000) to mature on or prior to 15 March 2029 and to bear an interest rate of one half of 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."

(ii) *The West Bank: President's memorandum: Report on the Participatory Natural Resource Management Programme financed from the IFAD Fund for Gaza and the West Bank*

52. The Executive Board considered the programme proposal contained in document EB 2008/95/R.37 and adopted the following resolution:

"RESOLVED: that, subject to payment of arrears, the Fund shall provide a grant to the Palestinian Authority in various currencies in an amount equivalent to three million two hundred eighty-six thousand and six hundred forty-nine special drawing rights (SDR 3,286,649) from the IFAD Fund for Gaza and the West Bank, upon such terms and conditions as shall be substantially in accordance with the terms and conditions presented to the Executive Board in the Report and Recommendation of the President for the Participatory Natural Resource Management Programme (EB 98/63/R.21/Rev.1) as modified in paragraph 16 above."

(iii) *Yemen: President's memorandum: Pilot Community-Based Rural Infrastructure Project for Highland Areas – Modification to the financing agreement*

53. The Executive Board considered the proposed modifications to the financing agreement for the Pilot Community-Based Rural Infrastructure Project for Highland Areas contained in document EB 2008/95/R.38 (revised as EB 2008/95/R.38/Rev.1 to include SDR amounts) and adopted the following resolutions:

"RESOLVED: that the Fund shall make a supplementary loan to the Republic of Yemen in various currencies in an amount equivalent to one million two hundred thousand special drawing rights (SDR 1,200,000), bringing the total amount of the loan to seven million one hundred thousand special drawing rights (SDR 7,100,000), to mature on or prior to 15 October 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 approved by the Executive Board at its eighty-fourth session in April 2005.

RESOLVED FURTHER: that the Fund shall provide a supplementary grant to the Republic of Yemen in various currencies in an amount equivalent to one million two hundred thousand special drawing rights (SDR 1,200,000), bringing the total amount of the grant to one million four hundred and seventy thousand special drawing rights (SDR 1,470,000), and upon such terms and conditions as shall be

substantially in accordance with the terms and conditions approved by the Executive Board at its eighty-fourth session in April 2005.”

K. Grant proposals for consideration by the Executive Board (agenda item 12)

(a) **Grant under the global/regional grants window to the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), for the Strategic Partnership to Develop Innovative Policies on Climate Change Mitigation and Market Access**

54. The Executive Board considered the information contained in document EB 2008/95/R.39 and approved the proposed grant by adopting the following resolution:

“RESOLVED: that the Fund, in order to finance, in part, the Strategic Partnership to Develop Innovative Policies on Climate Change Mitigation and Market Access, shall make a grant not exceeding three million United States dollars (US\$3,000,000) to the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) 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.”

(b) **Grant under the global/regional grants window to a CGIAR-supported international centre, the International Water Management Institute, for the project for Improving Sustainability of Impacts of Agricultural Water Management Interventions in Challenging Contexts**

55. The Executive Board considered the information contained in document EB 2008/95/R.40 and, by adopting the following resolution, agreed to support an agricultural research and training programme to be implemented through a centre supported by the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR):

“RESOLVED: that the Fund, in order to finance, in part, the project for Improving Sustainability of Impacts of Agricultural Water Management Interventions in Challenging Contexts, shall make a grant not exceeding one million two hundred thousand United States dollars (US\$1,200,000) to the International Water Management Institute for a three-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 International Land Coalition for the programme Putting a Pro-Poor Land Agenda into Practice**

56. The Executive Board considered the information contained in document EB 2008/95/R.41 and approved the proposed grant by adopting the following resolution:

“RESOLVED: that the Fund, in order to finance, in part, Putting a Pro-Poor Land Agenda into Practice, shall make a grant not exceeding one million one hundred and fifty thousand and six hundred United States dollars (US\$1,150,600) to the International Land Coalition for a one-year programme upon such terms and conditions as shall be substantially in accordance with the terms and conditions presented to the Executive Board herein.”

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

57. The Executive Board considered the information contained in document EB 2008/95/R.42 with its corrigendum (to be consolidated as EB 2008/95/R.42/Rev.1) and, by adopting the following resolutions, agreed to support six agricultural research and training programmes to be implemented through centres and organizations not supported by the CGIAR.

“RESOLVED: that the Fund, in order to finance, in part, the Development of Innovative Site-specific Integrated Animal Health Packages for the Rural Poor, shall make a grant not exceeding one million six hundred thousand United States dollars (US\$1,600,000) to the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations/Programme Against African Trypanosomiasis 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 Reducing Risks of Wheat Rusts Threatening the Livelihoods of Resource-poor Farmers through Monitoring and Early Warning, 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 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 Empowering Smallholder Farmers in Markets (ESFIM), shall make a grant not exceeding one million United States dollars (US\$1,000,000) to the International Federation of Agricultural Producers 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 Initiative for Smallholder Agriculture Adaptation to Climate Change in the Indian Ocean Islands, shall make a grant not exceeding seven hundred fifty thousand United States dollars (US\$750,000) to the Indian Ocean Commission 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 Support to PhytoTrade Africa 2009-2010 – The Southern African Natural Products Trade Association, shall make a grant not exceeding one million two hundred thousand United States dollars (US\$1,200,000) to PhytoTrade Africa 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 recipient of the grant approved by the Executive Board at its ninety-fourth session in September 2008 in order to finance, in part, the Rural Finance Knowledge Management Partnership – Phase II, shall be changed from Kenya Gatsby Trust (KGT) to the African Rural and Agricultural Credit Association (AFRACA).”

58. The Board also noted that AFRACA would be responsible and accountable for retroactive expenses incurred by KGT related to services provided to lay the groundwork for the Rural Finance Knowledge Management Partnership – Phase II during the period August to December 2008.

(e) **Grant under the country-specific grants window to the Foundation of the Peoples of the South Pacific International for the Mainstreaming of Rural Development Innovations Programme in the Pacific – Phase II**

59. The Executive Board considered the information contained in document EB 2008/95/R.43 and approved the proposed grant by adopting the following resolution:

“RESOLVED: that the Fund, in order to finance, in part, the Mainstreaming of Rural Development Innovations Programme in the Pacific – Phase II, shall make a grant not exceeding one million five hundred thousand United States dollars (US\$1,500,000) to the Foundation of the Peoples of the South Pacific International 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.”

L. Planned project activities (agenda item 13)

60. The Board reviewed the document on planned project activities for 2008-2009 (EB 2008/95/R.44), and took note of the information provided on the projects in the pipeline and on COSOPs under preparation and planned for 2009.

M. Report on the Consultation on the Eighth Replenishment of IFAD’s Resources (agenda item 14)

61. The Executive Board noted the Report on the fourth session of the Consultation on the Eighth Replenishment of IFAD’s Resources (EB 2008/95/R.45), which summarized the deliberations that took place at that session.

N. Financial matters (agenda item 15)

(a) **Status reports**

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

62. The Executive Board reviewed the status of contributions to the Seventh Replenishment of IFAD’s resources (EB 2008/95/R.46). Directors noted the oral update provided on contributions received since 30 September 2008, which brought the total amount of payments received to US\$411 million or 64 per cent of pledges.

- (ii) *Report on IFAD’s investment portfolio for the third quarter of 2008*

63. The Executive Board considered the report on IFAD’s investment portfolio for the third quarter of 2008 (EB 2008/95/R.47) and the update provided. Directors noted that the investment portfolio had performed strongly despite market conditions and that, as at 12 December 2008, the projected year-to-date net investment income amounted to US\$117.6 million, equalling an estimated year-to-date return of 4.88 per cent. The Board welcomed the oral update provided on IFAD’s efforts to protect its investment portfolio from any adverse impact resulting from developments in the international financial markets.

(b) **Report on the special expenditure for IFAD’s new headquarters**

64. The Board considered the final report on the special expenditure for IFAD’s new headquarters (EB 2008/95/R.48) and welcomed the support provided by our host country, Italy, and by those countries that have sponsored meeting rooms. The Board approved the submission of the final report to the thirty-second session of the Governing Council.

(c) **Reports of the Audit Committee**

65. The Executive Board noted and endorsed the reports of the Chairperson of the Audit Committee on the Committee’s 102nd meeting (EB 2008/95/R.49) held on 11 November and its 103rd meeting (EB 2008/95/R.61) held on 11 December. The reports gave an account of the Committee’s review of, inter alia, action taken on

recommendations made in the external quality assessment of IFAD's internal audit function. With regard to the recommendation concerning revisions to the Audit Committee's terms of reference and rules of procedure, the Board noted that a further review would be carried out by the Committee and the results thereof presented to the April 2009 session of the Board. The audit fee of the external auditor of EUR 180,000 was also approved by the Board.

O. Revisions to the General Conditions for Agricultural Development Financing (agenda item 16)

66. The Board reviewed the General Conditions for Agricultural Development Financing (EB 2008/95/R.50). While Directors welcomed the updating exercise, more time was requested to allow for a thorough review. As such, it was proposed that an informal seminar be held prior to consideration of the General Conditions at the next Executive Board session.

P. Progress report on implementation of the performance-based allocation system (agenda item 17)

67. The Executive Board considered the progress report on implementation of the performance-based allocation system (EB 2008/95/R.51 and its addendum). Directors took note of the 2008 country scores and the annual country allocations for 2009, and welcomed the details of the rural development sector framework assessments for 2008 contained in the addendum. The inclusion of Haiti and Liberia among the countries receiving allocations in 2009 was also noted. The Board approved the presentation of the report, together with the country scores and allocations, to the thirty-second session of the Governing Council.

Q. Annual Report on Quality Assurance in IFAD's Projects and Programmes (agenda item 18)

68. In reviewing the first Annual Report on Quality Assurance in IFAD's Projects and Programmes (EB 2008/95/R.52), the Board welcomed the positive impact that quality enhancement and quality assurance reviews are having on project design and the report's identification of areas for further improvement. Some Directors appreciated the fact that one aim of the quality assurance process is eventually to arrive at project approval on a "no objection" basis, and they looked forward to future reports to this effect.

R. Update on the Action Plan: Human resources reform (agenda item 19)

69. The Executive Board received an oral update on human resources reform under IFAD's Action Plan for Improving its Development Effectiveness. Directors were also presented with document EB 2008/95/R.60, which consolidated the high-level aims, objectives and deliverables with respect to human resources reform for 2009 and 2010 within the framework of the existing Human Resources Policy approved by the Executive Board. Directors praised the four objectives of the reform process for the focus on developing a workforce and organizational structure that better reflect IFAD's values, mission and goals.

S. Report of the secretariat of the International Land Coalition (agenda item 20)

70. The Board took note of the 2008 report of the secretariat of the International Land Coalition (EB 2008/95/R.53). The report provided information on the Coalition's corporate and operational achievements as well as on the last phase of implementation of its plan of action, which was drawn up in response to the findings of the external evaluation conducted in 2006. In this context, Directors also noted with appreciation the agreement concluded between IFAD and the International Land Coalition.

T. Progress report on the Global Mechanism of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (agenda item 21)

71. The Executive Board considered the progress report on the activities of the Global Mechanism during 2008 (EB 2008/95/R.54). Directors welcomed its focus on the complementarities between the Global Mechanism's approach to country support and the IFAD Strategic Framework and operating model. The Board approved submission of the report to the thirty-second session of the Governing Council.

U. Thirty-second session of the Governing Council (agenda item 22)

(a) Draft provisional agenda and programme of events for the thirty-second session of the Governing Council

72. The Board noted the programme of events for the thirty-second session of the Governing Council, and approved the provisional agenda (EB 2008/95/R.55), revised to include the items on non-original membership and the proposal for a voluntary separation programme.

(b) Emoluments of the President

73. After consideration of document EB 2008/95/R.56, the Executive Board approved the submission of the Report of the Emoluments Committee to the Governing Council, and recommended the Council's adoption of the draft resolution contained therein.

V. Other business (agenda item 23)

(a) Application for non-original membership

74. The Executive Board considered the application for non-original membership of the Fund submitted by the Republic of the Marshall Islands (EB 2008/95/R.57) and recommended its submission to the thirty-second session of the Governing Council for approval.

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

75. The Executive Board considered the invitation of four new observers to sessions of the Governing Council. It was found that Agricultural Cooperative Development International/Volunteers in Overseas Cooperative Assistance, the International Fertilizer Development Center, the Washington Office on Latin America and World Neighbors met the criteria established by the Executive Board, as shown in document EB 2008/95/R.58. The Board therefore authorized the President of IFAD to invite the four organizations to attend the thirty-second session of the Governing Council and future sessions thereafter as observers.

(c) Dates for the 2010 sessions of the Executive Board

76. The Executive Board reviewed document EB 2008/95/R.59 and approved the dates for its sessions in 2010 as follows:

Ninety-ninth session: Wednesday, 14 and Thursday, 15 April 2010

100th session: Wednesday, 15 and Thursday, 16 September 2010

101st session: Wednesday, 15 and Thursday, 16 December 2010

77. An updated version of this document including the final calendar for all three Rome-based agencies will be prepared for the April session of the Executive Board.

(d) Information on Cuba

78. The Board noted the information provided on Cuba, which had been included on the agenda at the request of the Executive Board Director for Mexico.

IV. Minute's silence in memory of Mr Theo van Banning

79. The Executive Board was deeply saddened by the tragic news of the untimely passing of Mr Theo van Banning, Board Director for the Netherlands, on 17 December 2008. Mr van Banning's unfailing commitment to and passion for the Fund, its beneficiaries and the entire membership were recognized and commended. The Board observed a minute's silence in memory of Mr van Banning.

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Enabling poor rural people
to overcome poverty

المندوبون في الدورة الخامسة والتسعين
للمجلس التنفيذي

**Delegations at the
ninety-fifth session of the
Executive Board**

**Délégations à la
quatre-vingt-quinzième session
du Conseil d'administration**

**Delegaciones en el
95º período de sesiones de la
Junta Ejecutiva**

Executive Board — Ninety-fifth Session
Rome, 15-17 December 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

ARGENTINA

Executive Board Director

María del Carmen SQUEFF
Consejero
Representante Permanente Alternativa
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.

José Antônio MARCONDES DE CARVALHO
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of the
Federative Republic of Brazil
to the United Nations Food and
Agriculture Agencies
Rome

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

Rashmi SHARMA
Senior Programme Manager
Regional Development Banks and
Francophonie Division
Canadian International
Development Agency (CIDA)
Gatineau, Quebec

CHINA

WU Jinkang
Deputy Director-General
International Department
Ministry of Finance
Beijing

LIU Fang
Deputy Director
International Department
Ministry of Finance
Beijing

HE Zheng
Officer
International Department
Ministry of Finance
Beijing

SU Juan
Officer
Foreign Capital Project
Management Center
State Council Leading Group Office
of Poverty Alleviation and Development
Beijing

CHINA (cont'd)

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

GAO Peng
First Secretary
Alternate 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

Jeanineke Dahl KRISTENSEN
Minister Counsellor
Deputy Permanent Representative of
the Kingdom of Denmark to IFAD
Rome

Christina WIX WAGNER
Attaché
Department for Multilateral
Organizations
Royal Danish Embassy
Rome

EGYPT

Alaa El Din Wagih ROUSHDY
Counsellor
Alternate Permanent Representative
of the Arab Republic of Egypt
to the United Nations Food and
Agriculture Agencies
Rome

EGYPT (cont'd)

Fatma Hussein SABER
Attaché
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

Inka RÄSÄNEN
Programme Assistant
Embassy of the Republic
of Finland
Rome

FRANCE

Clarisse PAOLINI
Adjointe au Chef du Bureau de l'aide au
développement et des institutions
multilatérales de développement (DGTPE)
Ministère de l'économie, de
l'industrie et de l'emploi
Paris

Jean-François CHARPENTIER
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

GERMANY (cont'd)

Executive Board Director

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

Joachim VON BRAUN
Director-General
International Food Policy
Research Institute (IFPRI)
Washington, D.C.

Alexandra THÜRKOW
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

Agostino PIZZO
Attaché
Embajada de la República
de Guatemala
Roma

INDIA

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

Ghafur A. DHARMAPUTRA
Director for Economic Development
and Environmental Affairs
Department of Foreign Affairs
Jakarta

Purnomo Ahmad CHANDRA
Counsellor
Alternate Permanent Representative
of the Republic of Indonesia to IFAD
Rome

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

Rina SETYAWATI
IFAD Desk Officer
Department of Foreign Affairs
Jakarta

ITALY

Executive Board Director

Augusto ZODDA
Adviser
Department of the Treasury
Ministry of Economy and Finance
Rome

JAPAN

Executive Board Director

Kazumasa SHIOYA
Minister Counsellor
Deputy Permanent Representative
of Japan to the United Nations Food
and Agriculture Agencies
Rome

Toshitaka NAKANO
First Secretary
Economic Section
Embassy of Japan
Rome

KUWAIT

Waleed AL-BAHAR
Regional Manager for Central Asia
and European Countries
Operations Department
Kuwait Fund for Arab
Economic Development
Kuwait City

Lamya AHMED AL-SAQQAF
Permanent Representative of
the State of Kuwait to the
United Nations Food and
Agriculture Agencies
Rome

MALI

Executive Board Director

Mohammed Al Moustapha CISSÉ
Premier Conseiller
Représentant permanent suppléant
de la République du Mali
auprès du FIDA
Rome

MEXICO

Executive Board Director

Jorge Eduardo CHEN CHARPENTIER
Embajador
Representante Permanente de
los Estados Unidos Mexicanos
ante el FIDA
Roma

Diego Alonso SIMANCAS GUTIERREZ
Segundo Secretario
Representante Permanente Alterno
de los Estados Unidos Mexicanos
ante el FIDA
Roma

NETHERLANDS

Executive Board Director

A. M. Agnes VAN ARDENNE-VAN DER HOEVEN
Ambassador
Permanent Representative
of the Kingdom of the Netherlands
to the United Nations Organizations
for Food and Agriculture
Rome

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

Sanne HELDERMAN
Policy Adviser
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

NORWAY

Kirsten BJØRU
Counsellor
Deputy Permanent Representative
of the Kingdom of Norway to IFAD
Rome

PAKISTAN

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

REPUBLIC OF KOREA

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
Minister Plenipotentiary
Permanent Representative of the
Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to FAO
Rome

Tareq Abdulkarim ALDRIWEESH
First Secretary
Alternate Permanent Representative
of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia
to FAO
Rome

SOUTH AFRICA

Executive Board Director

Njabulo NDULI
Director-General
Department of Agriculture
Ministry of Agriculture and
Land Affairs
Pretoria

Duncan SEBEFELO
Counsellor (Multilateral Affairs)
Alternate Permanent Representative
of the Republic of South Africa
to the United Nations Food and
Agriculture Agencies
Rome

SPAIN

Alberto LÓPEZ GARCÍA ASENJO
Consejero
Representante Permanente Adjunto
de España ante los Organismos
de las Naciones Unidas
Roma

María José HERNÁNDEZ MENDOZA
Técnica
Embajada de España
(Oficina de los Representantes
Permanentes Adjunto y Alternos)
Roma

SWEDEN

Executive Board Director

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

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

Yousuf Mohammed BIN HAJAR
Officer
Investment Department
Ministry of Finance and Industry
Abu Dhabi

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES (cont'd)

Obeid Ali Mirghani HASSAN
Press Officer
Embassy of the United
Arab Emirates
Rome

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
Acting 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.

Leslie S. DE GRAFFENRIED
First Secretary
Alternate Permanent Representative
of the United States of America
to the United Nations Food and
Agriculture Agencies
Rome

Elizabeth PETROVSKI
Finance Programme Specialist, USAID
United States Mission to the
United Nations Agencies for
Food and Agriculture
Rome

VENEZUELA (BOLIVARIAN REPUBLIC OF)

Gladys Francisca URBANEJA DURÁN
Embajadora
Representante Permanente de
la República Bolivariana de
Venezuela ante los Organismos
de las Naciones Unidas
Roma

Manuel CLAROS OVIEDO
Segundo Secretario
Representación Permanente de
la República Bolivariana de Venezuela
ante los Organismos de
las Naciones Unidas
Roma

مراقب

OBSERVER
OBERVATEUR
OBSERVADOR

LUXEMBOURG

Arsène JACOBY
Conseiller de Direction
Ministère des finances
Luxembourg-Ville

List of documents placed before the ninety-fifth session of the Executive Board

Document No.	Agenda item	Title
EB 2008/95/R.1	2	Provisional agenda
EB 2008/95/R.1/Add.1		Schedule of work
EB 2008/95/R.2 + Add.1	3	Programme of work, Programme Development Financing Facility and administrative and capital budgets of IFAD and its Office of Evaluation for 2009
EB 2008/95/R.3	3	Report of the Audit Committee on the Programme of work, Programme Development Financing Facility and administrative and capital budgets of IFAD and of its Office of Evaluation for 2009
EB 2008/95/R.4	4	A voluntary separation programme for IFAD 2009–2010
EB 2008/95/R.5	5(a)(i)	Report of the Chairperson on the fifty-third session of the Evaluation Committee
EB 2008/95/R.6*	5(a)(ii)	Report of the Chairperson on the informal and the fifty-fourth sessions of the Evaluation Committee
EB 2008/95/R.7 + Add.1	5(b)	Annual Report on Results and Impact of IFAD Operations evaluated in 2007
EB 2008/95/R.8 + Add.1	6	Report on IFAD's Development Effectiveness
EB 2008/95/R.9 + C.R.P.2	7	Progress report and activity plan for IFAD's country presence
EB 2008/95/R.10	8	IFAD's participation in the Debt Initiative for Heavily Indebted Poor Countries
EB 2008/95/R.11	9(a)	Ethiopia: Country strategic opportunities programme
EB 2008/95/R.12	9(b)	Guatemala: Country strategic opportunities programme
EB 2008/95/R.13	9I	Guinea: Country strategic opportunities programme
EB 2008/95/R.14	9(d)	Indonesia: Country strategic opportunities programme
EB 2008/95/R.15	9(e)	Morocco: Country strategic opportunities programme
EB 2008/95/R.16 + Add.1	10	Resources available for commitment
EB 2008/95/R.17 + Add.1 + Sup.1	11(a)(i)	Democratic Republic of the Congo: Integrated Agricultural Rehabilitation Programme in Maniema Province
EB 2008/95/R.18 + Add.1 + Sup.1	11(a)(ii)	Ghana: Rural and Agricultural Finance Programme
EB 2008/95/R.19 + C.R.P.1/Rev.1*	11(a)(iii)	Mauritania: Value Chains Development Programme for Poverty Reduction
EB 2008/95/R.20 + Add.1 + Sup.1	11(a)(iv)	Niger: Agricultural and Rural Rehabilitation and Development Initiative Project – Institutional Strengthening Component (ARRDI-ISC)

* Document provided in English only.

Document No.	Agenda item	Title
EB 2008/95/R.21 + Add.1	11(b)(i)	Kenya: Supplementary Loan in Support of the Southern Nyanza Community Development Project
EB 2008/95/R.22 + Add.1	11(b)(ii)	Swaziland: Rural Finance and Enterprise Development Programme
EB 2008/95/R.23 + Add.1 + Sup.1	11(b)(iii)	United Republic of Tanzania: Supplementary Loan in Support of the Agricultural Sector Development Programme
EB 2008/95/R.24 + Add.1 + Sup.1	11(c)(i)	China: Dabieshan Area Poverty Reduction Programme
EB 2008/95/R.25 + Add.1 + Sup.1	11(c)(ii)	Lao People's Democratic Republic: Sustainable Natural Resource Management and Productivity Enhancement Project
EB 2008/95/R.26 + Add.1 + Sup.1	11(c)(iii)	Philippines: Rapid Food Production Enhancement Programme
EB 2008/95/R.27 + Add.1 + Sup.1	11(c)(iv)	Tajikistan: Khatlon Livelihoods Support Project
EB 2008/95/R.28 + Add.1 + Sup.1	11(c)(v)	Viet Nam: Pro-poor Partnerships for Agroforestry Development
EB 2008/95/R.29+ Add.1 + Sup.1	11(d)(i)	Belize: Rural Finance Programme
EB 2008/95/R.30	11(d)(ii)	Bolivia: President's memorandum – Management of Natural Resources in the Chaco and High Valley Regions Project – Expansion of the project area and target group
EB 2008/95/R.31	11(d)(iii)	Brazil: President's memorandum – North-East Rural Family Enterprise Development Support Project – Modifications to the loan agreement
EB 2008/95/R.32	n/a	Ecuador: Ibarra-San Lorenzo Development Project
EB 2008/95/R.33+ Add.1 + Sup.1	11(d)(iv)	Guatemala: Sustainable Rural Development Programme for the Northern Region
EB 2008/95/R.34	n/a	Mexico: Community-based Forestry Development Project for Southern States (Campeche, Chiapas and Oaxaca)
EB 2008/95/R.35 + Add.1	11(d)(v)	Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of): Orinoco Delta Warao Support Programme
EB 2008/95/R.36 + Add.1 + Sup.1	11(e)(i)	Bosnia and Herzegovina: Rural Livelihoods Development Project
EB 2008/95/R.37	11(e)(ii)	The West Bank: President's memorandum – Report on the Participatory Natural Resource Management Programme financed from the IFAD Fund for Gaza and the West Bank
EB 2008/95/R.38	11(e)(iii)	Yemen: President's memorandum – Pilot Community-based Rural Infrastructure Project for Highland Areas – Modification to the financing agreement
EB 2008/95/R.39	12(a)	Grant under the global/regional grants window to the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) for the Strategic Partnership to Develop Innovative Policies on Climate Change Mitigation and Market Access
EB 2008/95/R.40	12(b)	Grant under the global/regional grants window to a CGIAR-supported international centre

Document No.	Agenda item	Title
EB 2008/95/R.41	12(c)	Grant under the global/regional grants window to the International Land Coalition for the programme Putting a Pro-poor Land Agenda into Practice
EB 2008/95/R.42 + Corr.1	12(d)	Grants under the global/regional grants window to non-CGIAR-supported international centres
EB 2008/95/R.43	12(e)	Grant under the country-specific grants window to the Foundation of the Peoples of the South Pacific International for the Mainstreaming of Rural Development Innovations Programme in the Pacific – Phase II
EB 2008/95/R.44	13	Planned project activities 2008-2009
EB 2008/95/R.45	14	Report on the fourth session of the Consultation on the Eighth Replenishment of IFAD's Resources
EB 2008/95/R.46	15(a)(i)	Report on the status of contributions to the Seventh Replenishment of IFAD's resources
EB 2008/95/R.47	15(a)(ii)	Report on IFAD's investment portfolio for the third quarter of 2008
EB 2008/95/R.48	15(b)	Final report on the special expenditure for IFAD's new headquarters
EB 2008/95/R.49	15(c)(i)	Report of the Audit Committee – 102 nd meeting
EB 2008/95/R.61	15(c)(ii)	Report of the 103 rd meeting of the Audit Committee
EB 2008/95/R.50	16	Revisions to the General Conditions for Agricultural Development Financing
EB 2008/95/R.51 + Add.1	17	Progress report on implementation of the performance-based allocation system
EB 2008/95/R.52	18	Annual Report on Quality Assurance in IFAD's Projects and Programmes
EB 2008/95/R.60	19	Human resources reform – a people strategy for IFAD
EB 2008/95/R.53	20	Report of the Secretariat of the International Land Coalition
EB 2008/95/R.54	21	Progress report on the Global Mechanism of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification
EB 2008/95/R.55	22(a)	Draft provisional agenda and programme of events for the thirty-second session of the Governing Council
EB 2008/95/R.56	22(b)	Report of the Emoluments of the President
EB 2008/95/R.57	23(a)	Application for non-original membership
EB 2008/95/R.58	23(b)	Invitation of observers to sessions of the Governing Council
EB 2008/95/R.59	23(c)	Proposed dates for sessions of the Executive Board in 2010
EB 2008/95/INF.1		Arrangements for the ninety-fifth session of the Executive Board
EB 2008/95/INF.2		United Republic of Tanzania: Implementation of the second cycle of the Rural Financial Services Programme under the Flexible Lending Mechanism

Document No.	Agenda item	Title
EB 2008/95/INF.3		Agreement concerning the hosting of the Secretariat of the International Land Coalition
EB 2008/95/INF.4		Status report on arrears in principal, interest and service charge payments
EB 2008/95/INF.5		IFAD Initiative for Mainstreaming Innovation – Third Progress Report on the Main Phase
EB 2008/95/INF.6		List of documents for the ninety-fifth session of the Executive Board

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Agenda

Executive Board — Ninety-fifth Session
Rome, 15-17 December 2008

For: **Approval**

Agenda

1. Opening of the session
2. Adoption of the agenda
3. Programme of work, Programme Development Financing Facility and administrative and capital budgets of IFAD and its Office of Evaluation for 2009
4. Proposal for a voluntary separation programme
5. Evaluation
 - (a) Reports of the Chairperson of the Evaluation Committee
 - (b) Annual Report on Results and Impact of IFAD Operations (ARRI)
6. Report on IFAD's Development Effectiveness (RIDE)
7. Progress report and activity plan for IFAD's country presence
8. IFAD's participation in the Debt Initiative for Heavily Indebted Poor Countries
9. Country strategic opportunities programmes (COSOPs)
 - (a) Ethiopia
 - (b) Guatemala
 - (c) Guinea
 - (d) Indonesia
 - (e) Morocco
10. Resources available for commitment
11. Project/programme proposals for consideration by the Executive Board
 - (a) Western and Central Africa
 - (i) Democratic Republic of the Congo: Integrated Agricultural Rehabilitation Programme in Maniema Province
 - (ii) Ghana: Rural and Agricultural Finance Programme
 - (iii) Mauritania: Value Chains Development Programme for Poverty Reduction
 - (iv) Niger: Agricultural and Rural Rehabilitation and Development Initiative Project – Institutional Strengthening Component (ARRDI-ISC)
 - (b) Eastern and Southern Africa
 - (i) Kenya: Supplementary loan in support of the Southern Nyanza Community Development Project
 - (ii) Swaziland: Rural Finance and Enterprise Development Programme
 - (iii) United Republic of Tanzania: Supplementary loan in support of the Agricultural Sector Development Programme
 - (c) Asia and the Pacific
 - (i) China: Dabieshan Area Poverty Reduction Programme
 - (ii) Lao People's Democratic Republic: Sustainable Natural Resource Management and Productivity Enhancement Project
 - (iii) Philippines: Rapid Food Production Enhancement Programme
 - (iv) Tajikistan: Khatlon Livelihoods Support Project

- (v) Viet Nam: Pro-Poor Partnerships for Agroforestry Development Project
- (d) Latin America and the Caribbean
 - (i) Belize: Rural Finance Programme
 - (ii) Bolivia: President's memorandum: Management of Natural Resources in the Chaco and High Valley Regions Project – Expansion of the project area and target group
 - (iii) Brazil: President's memorandum: North-East Rural Family Enterprise Development Support Project – Modifications to the loan agreement
 - (iv) Guatemala: Sustainable Rural Development Programme for the Northern Region
 - (v) Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of): Orinoco Delta Warao Support Programme
- (e) Near East and North Africa
 - (i) Bosnia and Herzegovina: Rural Livelihoods Development Project
 - (ii) The West Bank: President's memorandum: Report on the Participatory Natural Resource Management Programme financed from the IFAD Fund for Gaza and the West Bank
 - (iii) Yemen: President's memorandum: Pilot Community-Based Rural Infrastructure Project for Highland Areas – Modification to the financing agreement
- 12. Grant proposals for consideration by the Executive Board
 - (a) Grant under the global/regional grants window to the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), for the Strategic Partnership to Develop Innovative Policies on Climate Change Mitigation and Market Access
 - (b) Grant under the global/regional grants window to a CGIAR-supported international centre, the International Water Management Institute, for the project for Improving Sustainability of Impacts of Agricultural Water Management Interventions in Challenging Contexts
 - (c) Grant under the global/regional grants window to the International Land Coalition for the programme Putting a Pro-Poor Land Agenda into Practice
 - (d) Grants under the global/regional grants window to non-CGIAR-supported international centres
 - (e) Grant under the country-specific grants window to the Foundation of the Peoples of the South Pacific International for the Mainstreaming of Rural Development Innovations Programme in the Pacific – Phase II
- 13. Planned project activities
- 14. Report on the Consultation on the Eighth Replenishment of IFAD's Resources
- 15. Financial matters
 - (a) Status reports
 - (i) Report on the status of contributions to the Seventh Replenishment of IFAD's resources
 - (ii) Report on IFAD's investment portfolio for the third quarter of 2008
 - (b) Report on the special expenditure for IFAD's new headquarters
 - (c) Reports of the Audit Committee
- 16. Revisions to the General Conditions for Agricultural Development Financing

17. Progress report on implementation of the performance-based allocation system
18. Annual Report on Quality Assurance in IFAD's Projects and Programmes
19. Update on the Action Plan: Human resources reform
20. Report of the secretariat of the International Land Coalition
21. Progress report on the Global Mechanism of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification
22. Thirty-second session of the Governing Council
 - (a) Draft provisional agenda and programme of events for the thirty-second session of the Governing Council
 - (b) Emoluments of the President
23. Other business
 - (a) Application for non-original membership
 - (b) Invitation of observers to sessions of the Governing Council
 - (c) Dates for the 2010 sessions of the Executive Board
 - (d) Information on Cuba

