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Enabling poor rural people  
to overcome poverty

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

Executive Board — Ninety-fifth Session  
Rome, 15-17 December 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 8, 9 and 11 of document EB 87/31/R.57, as observers to sessions of the Governing Council:

- (a) Agricultural Cooperative Development International/Volunteers in Overseas Cooperative Assistance (ACDI/VOCA)
- (b) International Fertilizer Development Center (IFDC)
- (c) Washington Office on Latin America (WOLA)
- (d) World Neighbors (WN)



## 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.
2. 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 policy-makers 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.
3. In this connection, IFAD has received applications for observer status at Governing Council sessions from four international organizations: Agricultural Cooperative Development International/Volunteers in Overseas Cooperative Assistance (ACDI/VOCA); International Fertilizer Development Center (IFDC); Washington Office on Latin America (WOLA) and World Neighbors (WN). Information on the organizations is provided in the annexes.

### **Recommendation**

4. ACDI/VOCA, IFDC, WOLA and WN meet the criteria established by the Executive Board.
5. ACDI/VOCA promotes broad-based economic growth and the development of civil society in emerging democracies and developing countries; IFDC increases sustainable agricultural productivity through the development and transfer of effective and environmentally sound plant nutrient technology and agricultural marketing expertise; WOLA’s mission is to foster human rights, democracy, and social and economic justice in Latin America; and WN supports the transformation of communities by helping people address hunger, poverty, disease and other challenges that undermine their livelihood, and by inspiring lasting leadership and collective action for change.
6. It is therefore proposed that the Executive Board authorize the President to invite the above-mentioned NGOs to attend the thirty-second session and future sessions of the Governing Council as observers.

# **Agricultural Cooperative Development International/Volunteers in Overseas Cooperative Assistance (ACDI/VOCA)**

## **Introduction**

ACDI/VOCA is an organization that promotes broad-based economic growth and the development of civil society in emerging democracies and developing countries, offering a comprehensive range of technical assistance services to address the most pressing and intractable development problems.

## **Mission**

ACDI/VOCA's mission is to promote economic opportunities for cooperatives, enterprises and communities through the innovative application of sound business practice.

## **Activities and objectives**

ACDI/VOCA works in four main practice areas:

- **Agribusiness systems:** to improve the performance of agribusiness stakeholders and create significant and sustainable growth and wealth through activities that range from improving household food security and income to interventions that affect entire industries.
- **Enterprise development:** to promote poverty reduction and economic growth by facilitating both the advancement of small and medium-sized enterprises and their integration into larger industries and the global economy to stimulate growth through market-driven opportunities and value chains.
- **Financial services:** to help rural households, farms and other enterprises access essential financial services.
- **Community development:** to mobilize the breadth of local resources to affirm democracy, set priorities, build cohesion, make investments and accumulate socio-economic gains.

## **Membership and governance**

ACDI/VOCA is a membership organization supported mainly by United States agricultural cooperatives and farm credit banks. There are three categories of membership: members, voting members and associate members.

## **Structure**

ACDI/VOCA is a private, non-profit organization formed in 1997 from the merger of two companies: Agricultural Cooperative Development International (ACDI) and Volunteers in Overseas Cooperative Assistance (VOCA). Both were United States non-profit economic development organizations working largely in agriculture.

## **Countries of operation**

ACDI/VOCA has worked in 144 countries and currently has 90 active projects in 40 countries.

## **Funding**

ACDI/VOCA receives funding from the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), the United States Department of Agriculture, the Millennium Challenge Corporation, the World Bank, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and other development agencies, and has partnerships with a growing number of private-sector corporations such as British Petroleum (BP). It is affiliated with the National Council of Farmer Cooperatives and the Farm Credit Council.

**Relationships with IFAD and other international organizations**

ACDI/VOCA has collaborated and continues to collaborate with IFAD on several initiatives, inter alia:

In 1997 a grant was provided to ACDI/VOCA under the IFAD/NGO Extended Cooperation Programme for a project in Support of Targeted Technical Assistance for the Southern and Eastern Regions Rural Rehabilitation, in The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.

An additional grant was provided in June 2008 for financing the Public-Private Partnership for Grains and Oilseed Development Project, in Ghana.

Moreover, ACDI/VOCA's Vice-President, Ms Susan Schram, co-chairs the United States NGO Working Group on IFAD and Rural Poverty, which supports the United States contribution to the replenishment of IFAD's resources.

**Location**

ACDI/VOCA has its headquarters in Washington, D.C., United States, with field offices in many of the 40 countries in which it operates.

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# International Fertilizer Development Center (IFDC)

## Introduction

IFDC was established in 1974 to address global food security challenges through improved use of fertilizers and related technologies. Since inception, IFDC's programmes have been science-based and focused on the achievement of enduring solutions to soil fertility management.

## Objectives

IFDC's goal is to increase smallholder incomes rapidly and sustainably by expanding their access to agricultural input/output markets and to improved technology, knowledge and practices. This goal is to be reached through two primary objectives:

- Increased agricultural markets and trade for farmers through the promotion and expansion of IFDC's agribusiness development and policy implementation model.
- Improved and sustainable agricultural productivity through the continuous improvement, development and adaptation of ecologically sound, integrated plant nutrient technologies.

## Activities

For more than 30 years, IFDC has provided a broad range of services in technical assistance, research, training and problem solving. IFDC's results-oriented projects cover specialties from agribusiness to engineering and technology development, from management information systems to plant nutrient management, policy reform and market development.

## Membership and governance

IFDC is governed by an international board of directors composed of members from developed and developing countries.

## Structure

IFDC is a non-profit international organization. It functions with a multidisciplinary, multilingual staff, suited for conducting a broad range of research and development activities in sustainable food systems. Its cadre of scientists and professionals provide a mix of applied research, technology transfer, and market development capabilities. The IFDC staff, recruited from more than 40 countries, is both internationally and technically diverse, and almost one half of the total are chemical engineers, chemists, economists, agronomists, geologists, soil scientists, marketing specialists and sociologists.

## Countries of operation

IFDC operates worldwide. It has conducted technology transfer activities in more than 120 countries and has contributed to the development of human resources and institutional capacity-building in 150 countries through more than 600 training programmes.

## Funding

The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) was the chief sponsor for the establishment of IFDC. The International Development Research Centre (IDRC) of Canada was a co-sponsor and provided the first financing as a start-up grant in late 1974. Currently, USAID provides an institutional support grant and the balance of funding derives from a broad array of international public and private sources provided on a sponsored project basis.

## Relationships with IFAD and other international organizations

IFDC has enjoyed a good working relationship with IFAD over the years, as it has with many other development organizations.

IFAD's support helped IFDC to develop its very effective urea deep placement technology in Bangladesh.



IFDC also assisted IFAD with soil fertility and fertilizer use issues in West Africa.

IFAD was one of the sponsors of the Africa Fertilizer Summit organized by IFDC on behalf of the African Union in Abuja, Nigeria, in June 2006.

IFDC and IFAD are currently initiating the Programme for Extending Agro-Input Dealer Networks to improve the accessibility of fertilizer products for smallholders.

**Location**

IFDC has offices in 22 countries and a representation office in Washington, D.C.

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## Washington Office on Latin America (WOLA)

### Introduction

Founded in 1974 by a coalition of religious and civic leaders, WOLA is a non-profit policy, research and advocacy organization working to advance democracy, human rights and social justice in Latin America and the Caribbean.

### Objectives

One of WOLA's most important roles is to function as a key resource and interlocutor for Latin American NGOs working for human rights and social justice. WOLA also plays an important role in fostering dialogue, debate and policy consensus among United States and Latin American NGOs. It plays a leadership role in several advocacy coalitions and regularly organizes workshops, conferences, round tables and briefings designed to stimulate policy debate. More specifically, WOLA's programmes seek to:

- Strengthen the capacity of civil society organizations in Latin America and in the United States to formulate and advocate policies that advance democracy and equitable economic development while protecting human rights.
- Monitor and analyse ongoing programmes to strengthen democratic institutions and foster economic growth in order to develop new policies and programmes better able to achieve these objectives.
- Engage with policy-makers in multilateral lending institutions to promote greater access by civil society organizations to the policy-making process and more coherent policies by those institutions linking equitable development to greater democracy.
- Strengthen democracy and human rights in the Andes and reorient United States drug control policy to the region.
- Promote increased public support and coherence of United States policies to strengthen democracy, promote and protect human rights, and foster equitable economic growth in Latin America and the Caribbean.

### Activities

A hallmark of WOLA's work is the close relationship it has with sister organizations in the region. WOLA staff works with regional colleagues in formulating and carrying out its programmes, and facilitates access for regional colleagues to the policy-making community in Washington, D.C. In addition, WOLA press statements and staff commentary are featured regularly in the Latin American press, and briefs, reports and other written materials often are reprinted by counterparts in the region for broad distribution within their countries. In executing its programmes, WOLA staff meets with and educates representatives of Congress, the Departments of State and Defence, the Organization of American States (OAS), the media and NGOs. WOLA staff holds meetings, writes policy briefs and updates, and hosts many visitors from the region.

### Membership and structure

WOLA is governed by a board of directors, composed of 21 members. The board meets three times per year. It includes an executive committee as well as committees for development, nominations, audit, communications and programmes. Each of these committees meets regularly and members thereof interact with appropriate staff offering advice and assistance as needed.

**Funding**

WOLA receives support from foundations, individuals, and religious organizations.

**Relationships with IFAD and other international organizations**

WOLA is a member of the United States NGO Working Group on IFAD and Rural Poverty. In advocating for IFAD and poor rural producers, WOLA has met with United States congressional staff to discuss IFAD's work and to urge increased United States support for the Fund, particularly in the form of increased contributions to the Seventh and Eighth Replenishments of IFAD's resources.

WOLA has continued to strengthen its existing advocacy collaboration with IFAD over the years by linking IFAD with key farmer organizations and groups.

**Location:**

WOLA's headquarters is located in Washington, D.C.

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**President:** Mr Charles Currie, SJ  
Chair of the Board

**Contact person:** Ms Joy Olson  
Executive Director

## World Neighbors (WN)

### Introduction

Funded in 1951, WN is an international development organization that works with some of the most remote and marginalized communities in ecologically fragile areas of Asia, Africa and Latin America.

### Objectives

WN's objectives are to inspire people and strengthen communities to find lasting solutions to hunger, poverty and disease and to promote a healthy environment.

### Activities

Through over 57 years of experience, WN has learned important lessons about what works in supporting rural development. Successful rural development processes must be:

- **People-centred:** invest in people as the agents of change, rather than things.
- **Focused on finding solutions to limiting factors:** support people to identify key limiting factors, experiment to find practical solutions that generate success, and then disseminate them.
- **Holistic:** food production, health, environment, cultural norms, local organization, gender and political context all affect one other and must be addressed.
- **Strengthening of local capacity:** strengthen the capacity to identify, analyse and solve problems using locally available resources and the simplest tools.
- **Focused on gender equity:** women must be given the opportunity to lead dignified lives and to contribute more fully to the well-being of their families and communities.

WN strengthens the capacity of local organizations and marginalized populations, such as ethnic minorities, women and tribal groups, to undertake a range of complementary, mutually reinforcing activities in three main development sectors: sustainable agriculture and rural livelihoods, community-based natural resources management, and community and reproductive health. While WN's holistic programme approach focuses on these three areas, the cross-cutting themes of local capacity-building, gender and action learning infuse all of WN's work.

### Membership and governance

A volunteer board of 22 trustees contributes its time, expertise and financial support to WN. Trustees are elected for three-year terms and the full board meets four times per year. Board members may serve no more than three consecutive three-year terms without a three-year break in service. The chair of the board, who is elected each year from among the voting members of the board of trustees, is eligible to serve for up to four consecutive one-year terms.

### Structure

WN is a private, charitable, non-profit organization. Its operations are led by the President who is assisted by a coordinating team (CT) composed of nine senior staff members. The CT meets twice a month with the purpose of enabling a joint (cross-departmental) process of accountability for improving organizational performance, stability and health. WN employs 167 staff members and approximately 9,200 volunteers in 18 countries who help make its programmes possible.

### **Countries of operation**

WN maintains its headquarters in Oklahoma City, and key resource development and advocacy staff are positioned strategically in other locations across the United States. There are seven area offices serving 18 countries in Africa, Asia and Latin America. The seven regions are Mesoamerica (Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua), the Andes (Bolivia, Ecuador, Peru), West Africa (Burkina Faso, Mali, the Niger), East Africa (Kenya, Uganda, the United Republic of Tanzania), South Asia (India, Nepal), Southeast Asia (Indonesia, the Philippines, Timor-Leste) and Haiti.

### **Funding**

Since 1951, WN has been supported primarily through private donations. Gifts from individuals and charitable foundations represent the largest source of income. The remainder is provided by income from endowments, donations from civic organizations, congregations, corporations and grants from development assistance organizations.

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

WN has maintained a strong relationship with IFAD for many years.

Presently, WN is participating in the United States NGO Working Group on IFAD and Rural Poverty, and it is about to begin attending a series of IFAD-led meeting on United Nations procurement portals/publications. WN has benefited from IFAD support in the past, and IFAD is currently considering a WN project that would use remittances to support, strengthen and expand its savings and credit model in Bihar, India and Terai, Nepal.

Another United Nations agency with which WN maintains a relationship is the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO). Also, several of WN's area offices maintain working relationships with the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR), the International Potato Center (CIP), Promoting Local Innovation in Ecologically-oriented Agriculture and Natural Resource Management (PROLINNOVA) and other international organizations.

### **Location**

WN headquarters is located in Oklahoma City, United States. It also maintains seven area offices in: Bali, Indonesia; Guatemala City, Guatemala; Port-au-Prince, Haiti; Kathmandu, Nepal; Nairobi, Kenya; Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso; and Quito, Ecuador.

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