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Report of the Chairperson on the fifty-sixth session of the Evaluation Committee

Executive Board — Ninety-seventh Session
Rome, 14-15 September 2009

For: **Approval**

Note to Executive Board Directors

This document is submitted for the approval of the Executive Board.

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Recommendation for approval

The Executive Board is invited to consider the report and endorse the revised Evaluation Committee provisional agenda for 2009 as contained in the report of the Chairperson on the fifty-sixth session of the Evaluation Committee.

Report of the Chairperson on the fifty-sixth session of the Evaluation Committee

1. This report covers the deliberations of the Evaluation Committee during its fifty-sixth session on 23 June 2009. The three agenda items for discussion were: (a) the election of the Chairperson of the Evaluation Committee; (b) the briefing on the Evaluation Committee's provisional agenda for 2009 and options for the annual field visit; and (c) other business.
2. All Committee members (Brazil, Canada, Egypt, India, Indonesia, Ireland, the Netherlands, Nigeria and Sweden) attended the session. Observers were present from China and Turkey. The Committee was joined by the Assistant President, Programme Management Department (PMD); the Director, Office of Evaluation (OE); the Secretary of IFAD; and others.

A. Election of the Chairperson of the Evaluation Committee

3. Egypt was elected as Chair of the Evaluation Committee, represented by Dr Abdel Aziz Mohamed Hosni, Executive Board Director, for the duration of its term in the Evaluation Committee.

B. Briefing on the Evaluation Committee's provisional agenda for 2009 and options for the annual field visit

4. The Committee discussed and concurred with the provisional agenda for its remaining sessions in 2009, which is as follows:

Fifty-seventh session: 20-21 July 2009

- (a) Approach paper and terms of reference for the independent external peer review of OE and IFAD's evaluation function
- (b) Preview of OE's three-year rolling work programme for 2010-2012 and resource issues for 2010
- (c) Completion evaluation of the Rural Development Project for the North-Eastern Provinces (PRODERNEA) in Argentina
- (d) President's Report on the Implementation Status of Evaluation Recommendations and Management Actions, together with the comments of OE
- (e) IFAD Policy on Engagement with Indigenous Peoples, together with the comments of OE

Fifty-eighth session: 9 October 2009

- (a) OE's three-year rolling work programme for 2010-2012 and budget for 2010
- (b) Annual Report on Results and Impact of IFAD Operations
- (c) Country programme evaluation of Mozambique

Fifty-ninth session: 1 December 2009

- (a) Draft final report on the independent external peer review of OE and IFAD's evaluation function
- (b) Joint evaluation by the African Development Bank and IFAD on agriculture and rural development in Africa
- (c) Corporate-level evaluation of IFAD's capacity to promote pro-poor replicable innovations

- (d) Report on IFAD's Development Effectiveness, together with the comments of OE
 - (e) Completion evaluation of the Qinling Mountain Area Poverty-Alleviation Project in China
 - (f) IFAD Policy on Grant Financing, together with the comments of OE
5. In addition, in the course of discussions concerning options for the annual field visit, the Committee decided that it would undertake its 2009 annual field visit to India in the context of the country programme evaluation (CPE) of India during the week from 7 to 11 December (subject to final approval by the Government of India). The objectives of the field visit are to: (i) visit an IFAD-funded project on the ground; and (ii) participate in the India CPE national roundtable workshop.
 6. The Committee requested that a three-year tentative field visit programme for the Evaluation Committee covering the period 2010-2012 be developed and included in the forthcoming preview of the three-year rolling work programme for 2010-2012 and 2010 budget document, to be discussed at the Committee's fifty-seventh session on 20-21 July 2009.
 7. The Committee also agreed that OE's external peer review process would be launched with a presentation on the approach paper and terms of reference in the course of its fifty-seventh session in July 2009, to be followed by a discussion at the Executive Board in September. The final report would then be submitted to the Committee and the Executive Board for consideration at their December 2009 sessions.
 8. On another issue, the Committee requested OE to develop a short proposal for further strengthening the evaluation learning loop, which will also consider the role of the Committee in the process. This proposal will be included in OE's comprehensive three-year rolling work programme for 2010-2012 and 2010 budget document, to be discussed with the Evaluation Committee during its fifty-eighth session in October 2009.

C. Other business

9. The fifty-sixth session was preceded by an informal orientation session for new Committee members, covering the fundamental elements of OE and its work, including the Evaluation Policy and methodology, the Evaluation Committee terms of reference and Rules of Procedure, the Annual Report on Results and Impact of IFAD Operations (ARRI), the work programme and budget, and IFAD's operational response to evaluation (the latter presented by PMD). The new members of the Committee commended OE on the organization of the orientation session, which was found to be particularly useful in providing the overall background to OE with relation to IFAD's operating model.
10. In the course of the session, members requested clarification on a number of issues (e.g. related to the OE budget and the use of supplementary funds). The necessary clarifications will be contained within the framework of the preview document on OE's work programme and budget for 2010, to be discussed during the fifty-seventh session of the Committee in July 2009.

