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Enabling poor rural people
to overcome poverty

Programme of events for the thirty-third session of the Governing Council

Executive Board — Ninety-eighth Session
Rome, 15-17 December 2009

For: **Information**

Note to Executive Board Directors

This document is submitted for the information of 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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Programme of events for the thirty-third session of the Governing Council

1. Rule 6 of the Rules of Procedure of the Governing Council provides that the President of IFAD shall prepare, with the approval of the Executive Board, a provisional agenda for each session of the Governing Council. Accordingly, the provisional agenda for the thirty-third session of the Governing Council, to be held on 17 and 18 February 2010, was considered and approved at the ninety-seventh session of the Executive Board in September 2009, and is hereby attached for the Board's information (annex).
2. As requested by the Board at that session, information on events foreseen for the forthcoming Governing Council is also provided herebelow. This provisional programme of events has been drawn up subsequent to intensive in-house consultation and is also informed by feedback received from the Fund's membership. In particular, it builds on suggestions and recommendations made both at the Convenors and Friends meetings¹ and during discussions at the ninety-seventh session of the Executive Board.
3. In recent years IFAD's Governing Council has evolved from merely a general assembly-style meeting into a more multifaceted and interactive showcase event. The roundtables held on these occasions have added significant value to both IFAD's perception and its showcasing capacity, constituting a forum for substantive knowledge exchange and dialogue among Governors, IFAD staff and development partners, while also providing a platform for global policy advocacy. Nonetheless, various aspects of the organization of the Governing Council, including the sequence of the inaugural ceremony, need to be reviewed to improve the event's effectiveness in attracting keynote speakers.
4. At the ninety-seventh session of the Executive Board, Directors were invited to note that the Fund's Management was in the process of redesigning the organization of the Governing Council to focus on a thematic discussion. Directors welcomed in principle the proposal to change the format and to make the next session of the Governing Council more interactive, substantive and productive.
5. The thirty-third session of the Governing Council in February 2010 will be held at a critical time in terms of world events this year, following the Group of Eight Summit in L'Aquila in July, the FAO World Summit on Food Security in November and the United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP15) in Copenhagen in December. With this in mind, the following theme is proposed for an interactive plenary panel discussion: *"From summit resolutions to farmers' fields: climate change, food security and smallholder agriculture"*. Climate change, food security and poverty reduction represent three major cross-cutting themes that affect the agricultural sector:
 - (a) Agriculture is one of the sectors most vulnerable to climate change; it is also a major contributor to greenhouse gases; and it is the main source of income for most of the world's 1.4 billion poor people. Addressing the challenges represented by climate change and capitalizing on the opportunities for smallholder farmers is of the utmost importance.
 - (b) Food security and adequate nutrition for all can only be achieved through the promotion of sustainable agricultural development, which – as emphasized by the joint statement issued by the G8 Summit in L'Aquila – must remain a priority on the political agenda.
 - (c) Given the overwhelming dependence of the majority of the world's poor on the agriculture sector and the recognition that the combined effect of, inter

¹ 7 May and 2 September 2009.

alia, longstanding underinvestment in agriculture and food security has led to increased hunger and poverty in developing countries, there is a vital need to address poverty reduction and safeguard the progress made towards the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals through the promotion of sustainable agricultural and rural development.

6. With IFAD's focus on rural poverty and agriculture and its experience over more than thirty years, the Fund is now presented with new opportunities and a corresponding level of responsibility in playing a stronger, catalytic role and promoting an inclusive approach involving all relevant stakeholders, at the global, regional and national levels. In this regard, the theme envisaged will have strong links with discussions in other forums and could also contribute to influencing their outcome, while creating an adequate communication platform to sustain a global advocacy call for greater investment in smallholder agriculture and rural development.
7. In this regard, an interactive dialogue – featuring a panel of high-profile personalities who influence the development agenda – will be held during the plenary session of the Governing Council. A number of eminent people have been invited to take part in the discussion, and contacts have been made with their respective organizations and offices with a view to ensuring their participation. The panel will be moderated by an internationally renowned television journalist. The IFAD Secretariat will provide the Executive Board with further and more up-to-date information on this matter during the course of the Board session. IFAD's membership will be kept informed of developments by means of regular updates on the IFAD website.
8. On the second day of the Governing Council, a number of parallel side events will be held on key topics. These events will provide an opportunity for dialogue and for showcasing IFAD field experiences and challenges, featuring IFAD staff, project counterparts, government officials, and partners. The main focus of the side events will be to further the understanding of how to successfully scale up, given IFAD's higher level of replenishment for 2010-2012 and the international framework post-L'Aquila/Rome/Copenhagen. At present the following side events are foreseen:
 - (a) Asia and the Pacific and Latin America and the Caribbean (with a specific focus on South-South cooperation);
 - (b) Sub-Saharan Africa (with a specific focus on natural resource management: success, challenges and future directions);
 - (c) Near East and North Africa and Central and Eastern Europe and the Newly Independent States (with a specific focus on addressing water scarcity and food in a changing climate);
 - (d) Rural Poverty Report (presentation of the first draft).
9. IFAD division directors and senior staff will assist the groups and introduce the relevant topics. National delegations will be free to attend the side events of their choice and, in order to maximize interaction, may even wish to have different members attend different discussion groups. Accredited journalists will be invited to attend the side events.
10. A provisional programme of events is presented here below with a draft timetable/format for the proposed schedule of work. It encompasses the formal items as set out in the provisional agenda for the Council's consideration, and the panel discussions and side events. This timetable seeks to allow sufficient time to handle the formal agenda while also maximizing opportunities for interactive dialogue on substantive issues related to the activities of the Fund.
11. In any event the timetable is to be considered a work in progress and subject to change as confirmation of attendance is provided in due course.

Provisional programme of events

Wednesday, 17 February 2010

Morning session

9.30 a.m. – 1.30 p.m.

9.30 a.m. to 11.30 a.m.

Inaugural ceremony (a Head of State is expected to inaugurate the Council).

11.30 a.m. to 1.30 p.m.

The agenda items that may be covered during the morning are the opening of the session; adoption of the agenda; election of the new Bureau; and the statements of the President of IFAD, FAO Director-General and WFP Executive Director. Time permitting, it may be possible to deal with the report on the Eighth Replenishment and the synthesis of deliberations of the global meeting of the Farmers' Forum 2010.

Afternoon session

3 p.m. to 7 p.m.

3 p.m. to 5.30 p.m.

Interactive dialogue on the theme of the Governing Council: *"From summit resolutions to farmers' fields: Climate change, food security and smallholder agriculture"*. The panel would be composed of two or three guest speakers and two or three heads of delegation who would each speak for no more than five minutes, followed by a question-and-answer session.

5.30 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Further agenda items, including general statements

7 p.m.

Reception for all delegates

Thursday, 18 February 2010

Morning session

9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

9 a.m. to 10 a.m.

Continuation of consideration of agenda items, including general statements

10 a.m. to 12 a.m.

Several events will be held simultaneously on specific topics. The events may be chaired by ministers or senior representatives from the regions involved and, if possible, include guests invited to the Council, heads of delegations and the IFAD staff concerned.

12 a.m. to 12.50 p.m.

Conclusion of remaining agenda items, including general statements

12.50 p.m. to 1 p.m.

Closure of the Session

1.30 p.m. to 3 p.m.

Lunch hosted by President Nwanze for heads of delegation

Provisional agenda

1. Opening of the session
2. Adoption of the agenda
3. Election of the Bureau of the Governing Council
4. Statement of the President of IFAD
5. General statements
6. Report on the Eighth Replenishment of IFAD's resources
7. Audited financial statements of IFAD for 2008
8. IFAD's capital and administrative budgets and the budget of the Office of Evaluation for 2010
9. Revision of IFAD's Lending Policies and Criteria
10. Progress report on implementation of the performance-based allocation system
11. Progress report on the Global Mechanism of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification
12. Other business

Annotations

1. **Opening of the session**

The thirty-third session of the Governing Council will be held on Wednesday, 17 February and Thursday, 18 February 2010.

2. **Adoption of the agenda**

The provisional agenda, prepared by the President and approved by the Executive Board in accordance with rule 6 of the Rules of Procedure of the Governing Council, is contained in the present document (GC 33/L.1).

3. **Election of the Bureau of the Governing Council**

The Governing Council is invited to elect a chairperson and two vice-chairpersons for the coming two years, in accordance with rule 12 of its Rules of Procedure.

4. **Statement of the President of IFAD**

Mr Kanayo F. Nwanze will make a statement to the Governing Council.

5. **General statements**

Governors are invited to make general statements under this agenda item and to comment on other items on the agenda, as appropriate.

6. **Report on the Eighth Replenishment of IFAD's resources**

A report on the status of the Eighth Replenishment of IFAD's resources will be presented in document GC 33/L.2.

7. **Audited financial statements of IFAD for 2008**

In accordance with regulation XII of the Financial Regulations of IFAD and section 9 of the By-Laws for the Conduct of the Business of IFAD, the Governing Council will be invited to consider document GC 33/L.3, which will contain the audited financial statements of IFAD for 2008 and the report of the external auditor. The ninety-sixth session of the Executive Board reviewed the statements in April 2009 and recommended that they be submitted for approval by the Governing Council.

8. **IFAD's capital and administrative budgets and the budget of the Office of Evaluation for 2010**

The budgets of IFAD and its Office of Evaluation for 2010, as recommended by the Executive Board for approval, will be presented in document GC 33/L.4, together with a draft resolution thereon.

9. **Revision of IFAD's Lending Policies and Criteria**

In accordance with resolution 154/XXXII on the Eighth Replenishment of IFAD's Resources, the Executive Board shall submit to the thirty-third session of the Governing Council proposals for amendments to the Lending Policies and Criteria in order to further differentiate between various levels of concessionality of Fund financing and strengthen the partnership relations between the Fund and the Member States that use its resources. These proposals will be provided in document GC 33/L.5.

10. **Progress report on implementation of the performance-based allocation system**

Document GC 33/L.6 will provide the Council, for its information, with the seventh progress report on the implementation of the performance-based allocation system for IFAD, approved by the Executive Board in September 2003.

11. **Progress report on the Global Mechanism of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification**

The twenty-first session of the Governing Council of IFAD approved the selection of IFAD to house the Global Mechanism of the United Nations Convention to Combat

Desertification. Document GC 33/L.7 will report on the operations of the Global Mechanism during 2009.

12. **Other business**

Under this item, the Governing Council will consider any additional matters not included in the provisional agenda that may be proposed by members of the Council and/or the Secretariat.

