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Report of the Chairperson on the first special session of the Evaluation Committee on the Peer Review

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For: Review

Report of the Chairperson on the first special session of the Evaluation Committee on the Peer Review

1. This report covers the deliberations of the Evaluation Committee during its special session held on 14 October 2010 at the headquarters of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO). The topic for discussion was the Peer Review of IFAD's Office of Evaluation and Evaluation Function.
2. All Committee members attended the session, with Egypt in the Chair.
3. The Committee was joined by Mr Shyam Khadka, Senior Portfolio Manager, on behalf of the Associate Vice-President, Programmes, Programme Management Department (PMD); the Director of the IFAD Office of Evaluation (IOE); the Secretary of IFAD; and other IFAD staff.
4. Representatives from Cameroon, China, Germany, Italy and Pakistan joined the meeting as observers.
5. At the opening of the session, the Committee decided that:
 - (a) Meetings under the parallel process established at the Committee's sixty-fourth session should be considered special sessions of the Evaluation Committee on the Peer Review;
 - (b) The first special session on the Peer Review should be considered to be a formal session of the Committee; and
 - (c) The nature of future special sessions would depend on the items to be discussed and on the actions required of the Committee.
6. In taking this decision, the Committee acknowledged the request from the Office of the Secretary and Management for clear instructions in advance, in order to prepare and facilitate the appropriate servicing of the special sessions.
7. It was decided that no minutes would be prepared for special sessions on the Peer Review.
8. **Peer Review of IFAD's Office of Evaluation and Evaluation Function.** The Committee considered the submissions from the two consultants shortlisted at its sixty-fourth session and decided to move ahead with the engagement of Mr Bruce Murray. IOE was charged to proceed accordingly.
9. The Committee then considered the updated Action Plan for the Implementation of the Findings and Recommendations of the Peer Review of IFAD's Evaluation System. The Committee decided that:
 - (a) A column should be added to highlight which of the five domains each of the deliverables would fall under;
 - (b) A note should be included in the status column highlighting when delivery of certain items has been postponed; and
 - (c) The document would be further discussed at the next special session, possibly to be held during the week of 25 to 29 October 2010 at IFAD headquarters, with the exact date and time to be communicated by the Chairperson.
10. **Closing of the session.** At the closing of the session, the Committee was informed that the Chairperson of the Committee had been recalled to his capital but would endeavour to be in Rome for the upcoming sessions of the Committee, as well as the upcoming Executive Board session. The Committee, IOE and IFAD Management all expressed their appreciation for the Chairperson's leadership and hard work on behalf of the Committee.