



IFAD
INTERNATIONAL FUND FOR AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT
Governing Council — Twenty-Second Session

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**STATEMENT ADOPTED BY THE NGOS PARTICIPATING IN THE
NINTH IFAD/NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATION CONSULTATION**

Since 1990, IFAD has been holding annual consultations with its Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) partners. During the Ninth IFAD/NGO Consultation, the 35 NGO participants from 31 countries adopted the statement attached in commemoration of the Fund's Twentieth Anniversary.



**STATEMENT BY NGOs AT THE NINTH IFAD/NGO CONSULTATION
IN COMMEMORATION OF THE TWENTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF IFAD**

- Over the past 20 years, IFAD has been spearheading investigations into the changing landscape of international development cooperation, while trying to channel more aid through NGOs, lending support to their purpose-specific capacity-building efforts, and facilitating the development of a true multilateral donor/NGO partnership through policy dialogue advocacy.
- Over the past eight years, IFAD has put increased efforts into strengthening IFAD/NGO collaboration to include policy issues and focused consultations in its priority sectors and areas of intervention, including food security, poverty alleviation, and the fight against desertification and soil degradation
- The hosting by IFAD of the Global Mechanism for channelling resources needed for the implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification is a further indication of the global role that IFAD is called on to play and of the increased responsibility IFAD will have to take in promoting sustainable development for the benefit of, and with the cooperation of, grass-roots communities, civil-society representatives and all the major players concerned.
- The policy framework developed has made it possible for NGOs to interact regularly with IFAD staff and to convey their views to its management. One of the most visible results is the evolution of the extended cooperation programme, from USD 350 000 to USD 2 500 000 a year with a ceiling of USD 75 000 per project, possibly on the rise, as well as through IFAD-financed projects.
- NGOs present at the Ninth Consultation acknowledged with thanks the very concrete and positive achievements registered. No doubt, additional and sustained efforts are still needed to enable the necessary evolution of the complex relationships between grass roots communities, NGOs, governments, donors, the private sector and all identifiable stakeholders, in order to build sustainability in future development undertakings. This is a challenge that IFAD and NGOs should pursue jointly or individually.
- This implies the true involvement of all parties concerned, starting from the initial phase of project formulation through to subsequent phases of implementation, monitoring and evaluation, in order to ensure that the right to ownership and sense of responsibility are shared in an equitable manner by all stakeholders, as this would undoubtedly constitute the best indicator of sustainability.
- As NGOs, we would like once again to express our appreciation for the course taken by IFAD and to encourage the Fund in its future endeavours. We also call on all IFAD partners from the international community to increase their support to IFAD and the orientation taken, in order for the organization to fulfil its mission.

(Cairo, Egypt, 13-16 December 1998)



SIGNATORIES

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