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**IFAD**

**INTERNATIONAL FUND FOR AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT**

**Governing Council – Twenty-Seventh Session**

Rome, 18-19 February 2004

**INTERACTIVE DIALOGUE ON THE THEME OF  
TRADE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT:  
OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES FOR THE RURAL POOR**

1. Document GC 27/L.1, dispatched to delegates in January of this year, provides the Provisional Agenda and Programme of Events of this Session of the Governing Council, wherein it is advised that on the afternoon of Wednesday, 18 February 2004, the Council will hold an interactive dialogue on the theme: *Trade and Rural Development: Opportunities and Challenges for the Rural Poor*. The timing for this dialogue has now been set as 15.00-17.30 hours.

2. The background document for the interactive dialogue is being dispatched to delegates.

3. The Governing Council is invited to note additional details below.

4. **Panel:**

**Moderator:** Ms Maureen O'Neil, President of the International Development Research Centre (IDRC), Canada

**Panelists**, in alphabetical order:

- Dr Michael Hofmann, Director-General of the Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development of the Federal Republic of Germany
- Mr Martin Khor, Director of the Third World Network (TWN), Malaysia
- Ms Victoria Tauli Corpuz, Executive Director of the TEBTEBBA Foundation (Indigenous Peoples' International Centre for Policy Research and Education), The Philippines

5. The Chairman of the Governing Council and the President of IFAD will also participate in the panel discussions.

6. **Format:** The Council will be provided with a short introduction on the main issues covered by the panel discussion paper (GC 27/L.10). The panelists will then give their own perspectives on those issues, and on the actions they consider critical to help poor rural people improve their livelihoods through increased productivity and effective engagement in market processes.

7. An interactive session of questions and comments will follow the presentations of the panelists. It is hoped that time will permit all delegates wishing to participate to do so. However, if this is not possible, the Fund's Secretariat would welcome any subsequent comments in writing.