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IFAD

INTERNATIONAL FUND FOR AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT

Governing Council – Twenty-Eighth Session

Rome, 16-17 February 2005

ROUND-TABLE DISCUSSIONS

**RURAL POVERTY REDUCTION IS KEY TO ACHIEVING
THE MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS**

1. While there is a global effort to achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), some countries may not be able to reach these goals. This round table will open with a presentation that tracks the progress or lack of progress countries are making and highlights some of the disparities among and within countries. It will also illustrate the rural/urban divide in some developing countries and raise issues for discussion concerning the importance of the rural sector in achieving the MDGs. The presentation itself uses novel data-visualization technology that combines animation and user interaction in a unique way to illustrate facts and allow viewers to grasp a range of statistics and global trends visually.
2. The round table will be chaired by the First Lady of the Republic of Uganda, Mrs Janet Museveni, who is especially committed to poverty reduction and is the founder of the Uganda Women's Effort to Save Orphans, a non-governmental organization that is implementing an IFAD/Belgian Survival Fund-financed programme in Uganda.
3. The presentation will be given by Mr Hans Rosling, Professor of International Health at the Karolinska Institute in Stockholm.
4. The presentation will be followed by a commentary by Mr Klemens van der Sand, Coordinator for the Millennium Development Goals, Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development, Bonn.