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**IFAD**

**INTERNATIONAL FUND FOR AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT**

**Governing Council – Twenty-ninth Session**

Rome, 15-16 February 2006

**PANEL DISCUSSION**

**INNOVATION CHALLENGES FOR THE RURAL POOR**

1. Document GC 29/L.1, dispatched to delegates on 18 January 2006, contains the provisional agenda and programme of events for this session of the Governing Council, wherein it is advised that on the afternoon of Wednesday, 15 February 2006, the Council will hold an interactive dialogue on the theme *Innovation challenges for the rural poor*. The timing for this dialogue has been set at 15.00-17.30 hours.
2. Two background documents as well as an issues paper for the interactive dialogue have been dispatched to delegates.
3. The Governing Council is invited to note the composition of the panel:

**Moderator: Ms Mishal Husain**, British Broadcasting Corporation, Presenter, BBC World

**Panellists** (in alphabetical order):

- **Dr Makanjuola Olaseinde Arigbede**, National Coordinator Union of Small and Medium Scale Farmers of Nigeria
- **Dr Julio Berdegúe**, President of the Latin American Center for Rural Development, research and development network based in Santiago, Chile
- **Prof. Ravi Kanbur**, T. H. Lee Professor of World Affairs, International Professor of Applied Economics and Management, Professor of Economics, Cornell University, United States of America
- **Ms Reema Nanavaty**, Director of Economic and Rural Development, Self Employed Women's Association, India
- **His Excellency Matthew Wyatt**, Ambassador of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to the United Nations Food and Agriculture Agencies in Rome

4. **Format.** The President of IFAD will make a short introduction to the theme of the panel discussion. The moderator will then introduce the panellists who will each give their own perspectives on this theme.

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