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Enabling poor rural people
to overcome poverty

**Governing Council
Thirty-third Session Report
Rome, 17-18 February 2010**

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In 2010 the Governing Council was hosted at IFAD Headquarters for the first time



IFAD Headquarters, venue of the thirty-third session of IFAD's Governing Council



Opening plenary of the thirty-third session of the Governing Council

Chapter 1

Inauguration and proceedings

1. The thirty-third session of the Governing Council of IFAD was held in Rome on 17-18 February 2010. The list of participants is attached as annex I.
2. The Council held a total of three meetings, the summary records of which are contained in chapter 3, part A.

A. Opening of the session

3. The session was opened by the Honourable Fidelia Akuabata Njeze, on behalf of the outgoing Chairperson of the Council, the Governor of IFAD for the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

B. Agenda and documentation

4. The Governing Council adopted the agenda, shown together with the programme of events for the session in annex II. The documents placed before the Council are listed in annex III. The resolutions adopted by the Governing Council appear in annex IV.

C. Election of the Bureau of the Governing Council

5. In accordance with rule 12 of the Rules of Procedure of the Governing Council, an election was held by the Council from among its Governors for a new Bureau, for a term of office of two years, with results as follows:

Chairperson: Her Excellency
Clémentine Ananga Messina
Minister Delegate to the Deputy Prime Minister
and Minister for Agriculture and Rural Development of
the Republic of Cameroon

Vice-Chairpersons: Her Excellency
Gladys Francisca Urbaneja Durán
Ambassador and Permanent Representative of
the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela to
the United Nations agencies in Rome

His Excellency
Jan de Bock
Ambassador and Permanent Representative of
Belgium to the United Nations agencies in Rome

Bureau of the Governing Council



The Honourable Fidelia Akuabata Njeze, on behalf of the outgoing Chairperson of the Council, the Governor of IFAD for the Federal Republic of Nigeria



Her Excellency Clémentine Ananga Messina, Minister Delegate to the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Agriculture and Rural Development of the Republic of Cameroon



Her Excellency Gladys Francisca Urbaneja Durán, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela to the United Nations agencies in Rome



His Excellency Jan de Bock, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Belgium to the United Nations agencies in Rome

D. Inaugural meeting of the session

6. The Honourable Mizengo Peter Pinda, Prime Minister of the United Republic of Tanzania delivered a keynote address on behalf of His Excellency Jakaya Mrisho Kikwete, the President of the United Republic of Tanzania. The full text of the keynote address is reproduced in chapter 4.
7. His Excellency Giorgio Napolitano, President of the Italian Republic delivered a welcoming address. This address is reproduced in full in chapter 4.
8. Her Excellency, Clémentine Ananga Messina, Governor of IFAD for the Republic of Cameroon and Chairperson of the Governing Council Bureau, delivered a statement to the Governing Council. The full text of the Chairperson's statement is reproduced in chapter 4.
9. A message from Mr Ban Ki-moon, Secretary-General of the United Nations, was delivered on his behalf by the Chairperson of the Governing Council, the full text of which is reproduced in chapter 4.

10. Dr Jacques Diouf, Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, delivered a statement. Mr Amir Mahmoud Abdulla, Deputy Executive Director and Chief Operating Officer of the World Food Programme (WFP), delivered a message on behalf of Ms Josette Sheeran, Executive Director of WFP. The full texts of these statements are reproduced in chapter 4.

E. Statement by the President of IFAD

11. The full text of President Nwanze's statement to the Governing Council appears in chapter 4.

F. General statements

12. The general statements delivered by Governors in the plenary session are summarized in the summary records contained in chapter 3, part A; summaries of the five side events are given in chapter 3, part B; and general statements submitted in writing by Member State representatives who did not make oral presentations are reproduced in full in chapter 3, part C. A synthesis of the deliberations at the third global meeting of the Farmers' Forum, held on 15-16 February in conjunction with the Council session, is included in chapter 4.

G. Closure of the session

13. The Chairperson, Her Excellency Clémentine Ananga Messina, summarized the results of the Council's main deliberations and then closed the thirty-third session of the Governing Council. The text of her statement is reproduced in full in chapter 4.

Chapter 2

Decisions of the Governing Council

A. Report on the Eighth Replenishment of IFAD's resources

14. The Governing Council reviewed the progress report on the Eighth Replenishment of IFAD's resources contained in document GC 33/L.2. The Council was informed that, including the pledges received since the date of the report, pledges for the Eighth Replenishment amounted to US\$1.063 billion, or 89 per cent of the replenishment target amount of US\$1.2 billion. It was further noted that instruments of contribution deposited, inclusive of those deposited since the date of the report, amounted to US\$598 million, corresponding to 57 per cent of pledges. Finally, the Council was informed that payments received for the Eighth Replenishment, inclusive of those received since the date of the report, amounted to US\$370 million, equivalent to thirty-five per cent of the pledged total.

B. Audited financial statements for 2008

15. The Governing Council considered and approved the financial statements showing the financial position of IFAD as at 31 December 2008 and the results of its operations for the year ended on that date, as contained in appendices A to J, inclusive, of document GC 33/L.3 and the report of the external auditor thereon.

C. IFAD's 2010 results-based programme of work and administrative and capital budgets, and the Office of Evaluation's three-year (2010-2012) rolling work programme and 2010 resource issues

16. After considering the proposed administrative and capital budgets of IFAD and the administrative budget of IFAD's Office of Evaluation for 2010, as presented in document GC 33/L.4, the Governing Council adopted resolution 157/XXXIII relating thereto on 17 February 2010. The Italian Republic registered its abstention on the approval of the Fund's administrative budget.

D. Revision of IFAD's Lending Policies and Criteria

17. The Governing Council considered document GC 33/L.5 on the revision of IFAD's Lending Policies and Criteria and adopted resolution 158/XXXIII on 17 February 2010, authorizing the Executive Board of IFAD, upon the proposal of the President, to submit to the thirty-fourth session of the Governing Council in 2011 revised Lending Policies and Criteria that shall take into account all developments since the last revision of the Lending Policies and Criteria in 1998 and express concisely and clearly the broad policies and criteria applicable to financing by the Fund.
18. In the interim period, the Governing Council further authorized the Executive Board to create a category of lending terms similar to the hardened terms offered by the International Development Association (IDA) and apply such terms to IFAD loans to countries to which IDA provides hardened terms.

E. Progress report on implementation of the performance-based allocation system

19. The Governing Council considered document GC 33/L.6 which provided a report on the implementation of the performance-based allocation system at IFAD and the 2009 country scores and 2010 annual allocations.

F. Progress report on the Global Mechanism of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification

20. The Governing Council took note of the report contained in document GC 33/L.7 on the Global Mechanism's operational activities in 2009.

G. Other business

21. No matters were raised under this item.

Chapter 3

A. Summary records

(including a summary of general statements delivered by Governors)

- (i) Summary record of the first meeting of the thirty-third session held on Wednesday, 17 February 2010 at 9.30 a.m.

Outgoing Chairperson: Fidelia Akuabata Njeze (Nigeria)

Chairperson: Clémentine Ananga Messina (Cameroon)

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22. **The meeting was called to order at 9.30 a.m.**

OPENING OF THE SESSION (agenda item 1)

23. **Ms NJEZE** (Nigeria), speaking on behalf of the outgoing Chairperson, declared open the thirty-third session and welcomed participants. The session marked a special period in IFAD's history as the Fund strove to increase its programme of work by 50 per cent and help more rural people to overcome poverty. In that regard she was happy to inform the Governing Council that the Eighth Replenishment of IFAD's resources had been declared effective on 1 December 2009. She reaffirmed Nigeria's strong support for the Fund's mission and urged the Governing Council to ensure that the thirty-third session was a successful one.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA (agenda item 2) (GC 33/L.1/Rev.1)

24. **The agenda (GC 33/L.1/Rev.1) was adopted.**

ELECTION OF THE BUREAU OF THE GOVERNING COUNCIL (agenda item 3)

25. **Ms NJEZE** (Nigeria) said that, pursuant to rule 12 of the Rules of Procedure, the Governing Council should elect a Bureau consisting of a Chairperson and two Vice-Chairpersons to serve for a period of two years. She had been informed of the nomination of Ms Clémentine Ananga Messina, Minister Delegate to the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Agriculture and Rural Development of the Republic of Cameroon, for the office of Chairperson.
26. **Ms Clémentine Ananga Messina (Cameroon) was elected Chairperson of the Governing Council by acclamation.**
27. **Ms NJEZE** (Nigeria) said that she had also been informed of the nomination of Ms Gladys Francisca Urbaneja Durán, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela to the United Nations agencies in Rome, and Mr Jan de Bock, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Kingdom of Belgium to the United Nations agencies in Rome, for the offices of Vice-Chairperson.
28. **Ms Gladys Francisca Urbaneja Durán (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela) and Mr Jan de Bock (Belgium) were elected Vice-Chairpersons of the Governing Council by acclamation.**
29. **Ms Ananga Messina (Cameroon) took the Chair.**
30. **The CHAIRPERSON** thanked the Governing Council for the confidence which it had shown in electing her and the other members of the Bureau; they would do their best to discharge the mandate entrusted to them. She also thanked the Italian Government for its hospitality and reaffirmed to the President of IFAD Cameroon's determination to support him in the battle against rural poverty.

INAUGURAL CEREMONY

31. **His Excellency Giorgio Napolitano, President of the Italian Republic, and The Honourable Mizengo Peter Pinda, Prime Minister of the United Republic of Tanzania, were conducted to their seats.**
32. **Mr NWANZE** (President of IFAD) made a statement welcoming the President of the Italian Republic and the Prime Minister of the United Republic of Tanzania, the full text of which is reproduced in chapter 4.

KEYNOTE ADDRESS OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA, DELIVERED ON HIS BEHALF BY THE PRIME MINISTER OF THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA

33. **Mr PINDA** (Prime Minister of the United Republic of Tanzania) delivered a keynote address, the full text of which is reproduced in chapter 4.
34. **The CHAIRPERSON** thanked the Prime Minister for his address and for underlining IFAD's key role in catering for the needs of the most vulnerable, chiefly by funding projects and microcredit in rural areas with a view to achieving the green revolution.

WELCOMING ADDRESS BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE ITALIAN REPUBLIC

35. **Mr NAPOLITANO** (President of the Italian Republic) delivered a welcoming address, the full text of which is reproduced in chapter 4.
36. **The CHAIRPERSON** thanked the President of the Italian Republic for his address, which would fortify IFAD and the Governing Council as they continued their efforts to enable the rural poor to overcome poverty.
37. **His Excellency Giorgio Napolitano, President of the Italian Republic, was conducted from the meeting room.**

STATEMENT BY THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE GOVERNING COUNCIL

38. **The CHAIRPERSON** made an introductory statement, the full text of which is reproduced in chapter 4.

MESSAGE OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE UNITED NATIONS

39. **The CHAIRPERSON** read out the Secretary-General's message, the full text of which is reproduced in chapter 4.

STATEMENT BY THE PRESIDENT OF IFAD (agenda item 4)

40. **Mr NWANZE** (President of IFAD) made a statement, the full text of which is reproduced in chapter 4.
41. **The CHAIRPERSON** thanked the President of IFAD for his statement, which had provided an excellent account of the Fund's activities and identified the guiding principles for its future work. On behalf of the Governing Council, she commended him for his leadership of IFAD and for his vision for its future and thanked the staff for their tireless dedication to the Fund's mission.

STATEMENT BY THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF THE FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS (FAO)

42. **Mr DIOUF** (Director-General of FAO) made a statement, the full text of which is reproduced in chapter 4.
43. **The CHAIRPERSON** thanked the Director-General for his statement. The Governing Council welcomed the close ties between IFAD and FAO, which would grow ever stronger and further enhance the complementarity of the field activities of the two organizations.

MESSAGE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE WORLD FOOD PROGRAMME (WFP), DELIVERED ON HER BEHALF BY THE DEPUTY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AND CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER

44. **Mr ABDULLA** (Deputy Executive Director and Chief Operating Officer of WFP) delivered a message from the Executive Director, the full text of which is reproduced in chapter 4.

45. **The CHAIRPERSON** expressed gratitude for the message of hope conveyed, which moreover reaffirmed the excellent relations between WFP and IFAD, crucial to those who were still in desperate need of food security.
46. **The Honourable Mizengo Peter Pinda, Prime Minister of the United Republic of Tanzania, was conducted from the meeting room.**

REPORT ON THE EIGHTH REPLENISHMENT OF IFAD'S RESOURCES (agenda item 6) (GC 33/L.2)

47. **Ms MABUTAS** (Chief Finance and Administration Officer of IFAD) said that the report on the status of contributions to the Eighth Replenishment of IFAD's resources (GC 33/L.2) showed the position as at 31 December 2009. Since the date of the report, further pledges and payments had been received from Austria, Denmark, Finland, Indonesia, Republic of Korea, Mozambique, Nepal, Paraguay, Peru, Thailand and Sweden. Paraguay's pledge represented a five-fold increase over its previous contribution. Total pledges to the Eighth Replenishment now amounted to US\$1.063 billion, or 89 per cent of the Eighth Replenishment target. Countries which had not yet announced a pledge and countries able to increase their contribution were urged to do so, in order to bring the total amount as close as possible to the target. The Eighth Replenishment had become effective on 1 December 2009. Instruments of contribution deposited now totalled US\$598 million, or 57 per cent of the amount pledged. Member States that had not yet formalized their pledges were requested to take the necessary steps, as were those that had not yet made payments, which currently amounted to 35 per cent of the pledged total.
48. **The Governing Council took note of the report on the Eighth Replenishment of IFAD's resources.**

AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS OF IFAD FOR 2008 (agenda item 7) (GC 33/L.3)

49. **The CHAIRPERSON** recalled that, at its ninety-sixth session, the Executive Board had reviewed the audited financial statements and recommended that they should be submitted to the Governing Council for approval.
50. **Ms MABUTAS** (Chief Finance and Administration Officer of IFAD) said that the audited consolidated financial statements of IFAD as at 31 December 2008 were set out in document GC 33/L.3. In the opinion of the external auditors the financial statements gave a "true and fair view of the consolidated financial position of the ... [Fund] ... and the results of its operations and its cash flows ... in accordance with international financial reporting standards." The statements had also been reviewed by the Audit Committee and endorsed by the Executive Board at its ninety-sixth session in April 2009. The formal approval of the Council was now being sought.
51. **The CHAIRPERSON** invited the Council to approve the financial statements showing the financial position of IFAD as at 31 December 2008 and the results of its operations for the year ended on that date, as contained in appendices A to J of document GC 33/L.3 and the report of the external auditors thereon.
52. **It was so decided.**

IFAD'S CAPITAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE BUDGETS AND THE BUDGET OF THE OFFICE OF EVALUATION FOR 2010 (agenda item 8) (GC 33/L.4)

53. **The CHAIRPERSON** said that at its ninety-eighth session the Executive Board had reviewed the proposed budgets for the Fund and its Office of Evaluation and recommended that they should be put before the Governing Council for its approval.

54. **Ms OMURA** (Vice-President of IFAD) said that document GC 33/L.4 presented IFAD's first programme of work and budget for the Eighth Replenishment period, during which it would substantially increase the size of its portfolio. The budget took a new approach: it was results-based, simplified and transparent; it integrated the Programme Development Financing Facility (PDFF) in the administrative budget; and it represented the first year of a multi-year budget process covering the entire Eighth Replenishment period 2010-2012. In line with the Eighth Replenishment agreement, a programme of loans and grants for 2010 totalling US\$800 million, a 12 per cent increase over the 2009 programme of work, had been approved by the Executive Board.
55. The administrative budget for 2010 laid the foundations for IFAD's impact and effectiveness over the next three years, representing as it did the first instalment for the implementation of the US\$3 billion programme of work for the entire Eighth Replenishment period. The programme was expected to rise by 25 per cent to US\$1 billion for 2011 and by a further 20 per cent to US\$1.2 billion for 2012. The cofinancing multiplier had been raised to a new target of 1.5 for both domestic and international financing activities; it was thus expected that US\$7.5 billion in new resources would be mobilized over the period.
56. It was proposed that the administrative budget combined with the PDFF for 2010 should be increased by 4.4 per cent in real terms to a nominal value of US\$131.99 million, the highest-ever level of commitment by the Member States and of the programme of work. IFAD needed adequate resources and flexibility to meet the many challenges resulting from recent crises and climate change. The increase was substantial, as were the challenges: the new management group counted on the support and confidence of the Member States.
57. Three points needed to be emphasized. First, the entire increase in the administrative budget was designed to strengthen the Fund's operational capacity with regard to support for programme development and implementation, in response to the need expressed by the Member States; the resources were increasingly being managed and spent within the developing countries themselves, as country presence became the driving force of IFAD's work. Second, the real costs of administration had been reduced over the past four years, and further reductions were planned. Third, delegates' comments on staff costs and human resources management had been taken on board, and the topic would be examined very closely as part of the overall human resources reform. In response to the Board's request, an external review of staff costs and benefits was being conducted. The aim was to boost IFAD's efficiency during the Eighth Replenishment period, just as its development effectiveness had been increased during the Seventh Replenishment period, the lessons of which were being carefully reviewed.
58. **Mr LAVIZZARI** (Director, Office of Evaluation of IFAD) said that the Office's second three-year rolling work programme, for 2010-2012, and its budget for 2010 were presented in document GC 33/L.4. There were four main priorities: to conduct selected corporate-level, country programme and project evaluations; to carry out specific evaluation work as required by the Evaluation Policy and the Evaluation Committee; to evaluate outreach and partnerships; and to evaluate the Office's own methodology and effectiveness. The specific activities for the three-year period were listed in annexes XIV and XV. As agreed with the Executive Board, the Office would work on two key corporate-level evaluations in 2010: the Fund's approaches and results in promoting gender equality and women's empowerment; and its private-sector development and partnership strategy. That work was already under way. The Office would also work on eight country programme evaluations, as well as producing various documents required on a standing basis. With regard to the ongoing external peer review, the first draft report of the Peer Review Panel had been discussed by the Evaluation Committee, and the final report was to be considered by the Executive Board in April 2010.

59. The Office's proposed budget for 2010 amounted to US\$6.2 million, a decrease in real terms of about 2.3 per cent over the 2009 budget, representing 0.78 per cent of IFAD's proposed programme of work for 2010, well within the cap of 0.9 per cent decided on by the Executive Board in 2008. The Office planned to work with 19.5 staff members, the same number as in 2009.
60. **Mr AYAZI** (Afghanistan), referring to annex XX on independent evaluations, said that only four of the 97 evaluations conducted in the period 2003-2009 had been thematic evaluations, which were the only kind that might be jointly evaluated by the three Rome-based agencies. How many thematic evaluations were to be conducted in 2010?
61. **Mr ZIA-UR-REHMAN** (Pakistan) said that two very important considerations should be kept in mind in connection with the three-year rolling work programme. First, there must be a coherent and coordinated marketing policy for the member countries, for such a policy had a direct bearing on poverty reduction, especially in a situation where commodity prices had fallen to rock bottom. Second, specific targets must be set for the three-year period with regard to climate change.
62. **Mr LAVIZZARI** (Director, Office of Evaluation of IFAD) said that thematic evaluations as such had been largely superseded by corporate-level evaluations, which in fact usually addressed what were thematic areas. For example, the Office had conducted a corporate-level evaluation of IFAD's rural finance policy – very much a thematic area, as were the topics of gender equality, private-sector operations and partnerships and IFAD's innovation capability, on which evaluations were being carried out. The Office was cooperating with FAO which was also undertaking an evaluation on gender issues.
63. **Ms OMURA** (Vice-President of IFAD) said that the considerations mentioned by the representative of Pakistan were indeed taken very seriously and would be reflected more aggressively in the future strategy.
64. **Ms CAMPA** (Italy) confirmed in response to a question by **the Chairperson** that Italy wished to abstain on the adoption of the administrative budget of IFAD.
65. **The Governing Council adopted resolution 157/XXXIII on the administrative and capital budgets of IFAD and its Office of Evaluation for 2010.**

REVISION OF IFAD'S LENDING POLICIES AND CRITERIA (agenda item 9) (GC 33/L.5)

66. **Mr CLEAVER** (Associate Vice-President, Programmes, Programme Management Department of IFAD) said that the Lending Policies and Criteria constituted one of IFAD's most important documents, but it had not been amended since 1998 and the Executive Board had determined that it needed to be revised in order to address the challenges that the Fund and its partners faced today. Pending the revision, which would be presented to the 2011 session of the Governing Council, approval of the draft resolution contained in document GC 33/L.5 would invest the Executive Board with the authority to create a new lending category similar to the "hardened terms" of the International Development Association, which were in fact highly concessional terms with shorter maturity periods. The reason for the move was that the recent economic upheavals made it difficult for many countries to accept the terms currently offered by IFAD. However, the Executive Board had indicated that it would not use the new authority unless it was satisfied that the new category would not adversely affect the sustainability of the Fund's financing programme.
67. **The Governing Council adopted resolution 158/XXXIII on the revision of the Lending Policies and Criteria.**

PROGRESS REPORT ON IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PERFORMANCE-BASED ALLOCATION SYSTEM (agenda item 10) (GC 33/L.6)

68. **Mr CLEAVER** (Associate Vice-President, Programmes, Programme Management Department of IFAD) said that the performance-based allocation system (PBAS) had continued to be applied in 2009 to all loans and country-specific grants presented to the Executive Board for approval. In terms of the overall programme of work, 96 per cent of the loans and grants provided by IFAD had been allocated according to the PBAS guidelines, while the remaining 4 per cent had been allocated for global and regional grants not governed by the PBAS.
69. The 2009 country scores reflected updated performance data – both portfolio and rural sector performance – for each country, as well as rural population figures and gross per capita national income. The updated data had been reflected in the final 2009 country scores and in the 2010 country allocations.
70. **Mr LAMPERT COSTA** (Brazil) said that the PBAS should not pose any risk to the Fund's financial stability and should strike a proper balance between performance and poverty level. Furthermore, there was a need to increase coordination between resource allocation periods and country programmes in order to improve the matching of financing to investment needs. Brazil was in favour of restarting discussion on the PBAS and its governance structure, including the revitalization and reorganization of an evaluation of the system's achievements and shortcomings.
71. **Mr CLEAVER** (Associate Vice-President, Programmes, Programme Management Department of IFAD) said that adjustments to the PBAS were indeed needed; the PBAS working group would in fact continue to discuss the issue, as noted in paragraph 5 of the progress report (GC 33/L.6). With the help of the Member States the system could certainly be improved. All of the international financial institutions (IFIs) and regional development banks which used performance-based systems met annually to compare notes, thus offering inputs for IFAD's own discussion of the question.
72. **The Governing Council took note of the progress report on implementation of the performance-based allocation system.**

PROGRESS REPORT ON THE GLOBAL MECHANISM OF THE UNITED NATIONS CONVENTION TO COMBAT DESERTIFICATION (agenda item 11) (GC 33/L.7)

73. **The CHAIRPERSON** drew attention to the progress report on the Global Mechanism's activities in 2009 contained in document GC 33/L.7.
74. **The Governing Council took note of the progress report on the Global Mechanism of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa.**

GENERAL STATEMENTS (agenda item 5)

75. **Mr GUÉ** (Haiti) thanked the entire international community and IFAD in particular for their demonstration of solidarity following the devastating earthquake in Haiti, whose effects had compounded those of four cyclones in 2008. Agriculture had not been directly affected but the disaster would have a significant impact on the socio-economic structure of the rural world, since the secondary and tertiary sectors of the national economy had been seriously damaged and the agricultural sector, already the primary source of income in Haiti, would therefore be called upon to contribute even more to the GDP. It was therefore crucial for the international support and investment to be continued and indeed increased. The current crisis

- afforded an opportunity to increase agricultural production, develop product processing and marketing and create jobs in rural areas.
76. The Ministry of Agriculture, in conjunction with FAO, the Inter-American Institution for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) and other partners, had accordingly established a seven-point disaster-response programme for which some US\$700 million would have to be mobilized. The challenges were enormous and far exceeded the capacity of a single country or institution. Haiti therefore called on the Member States of IFAD and the entire international community to undertake a major operation for its agriculture and rural development in order to restore the basic food supply, create jobs and relaunch the national economy.
 77. **Mr ACHOUR** (Tunisia) said that the PBAS had achieved positive results, conducive as it was to more efficient deployment of financial resources while providing the flexibility needed to take into account the development requirements of countries and regions with particular needs. The Fund should, however, increase its use of local expertise. The commendable 12 per cent increase in IFAD loans and grants would enable the Fund to expand its activities and presence in the field. The recent food and financial crises had shown just how marginalized and vulnerable rural inhabitants were. Special attention should therefore be devoted to helping them benefit from the opportunities available within the global economic framework. Another issue was that of climate change and its direct impact on the agricultural sector. The international community was aware of the enormous challenges facing rural areas but should step up its efforts to follow up the implementation of recommendations and action plans adopted in that connection at various high-level meetings.
 78. In Tunisia, the reforms under way had led to the participation of beneficiaries in all development projects, including in the area of agriculture and food security. Measures had furthermore been taken to optimize resources through sound management, with the result that projects were completed on time, achieved results and created additional employment. In the interests of social equity and enabling vulnerable groups to reap the fruits of national development, mechanisms had also been established to provide low-interest loans and appropriate repayment facilities for private projects, as well as follow-up to ensure that funds were used to expand economic activities guaranteeing a sustainable income. IFAD should step up its efforts and coordinate its programmes to meet the challenges faced, inter alia by creating mechanisms to tackle emergency food crises and thus alleviating poverty in the most disadvantaged regions.
 79. **Mr ZHENG** (China) said that the international community must work together to tackle the challenges resulting from the continuing international financial crisis, and IFAD must fully discharge its mandate, in particular by adopting more targeted and effective measures to help developing countries. The Chinese delegation had three proposals to that end.
 80. First, the international community should mobilize more resources to help the developing countries, especially the least developed among them; the IFIs, including IFAD, should increase their investment in agriculture; developed countries should not reduce their international development assistance, and developing countries should themselves step up reform. Second, South-South cooperation and sharing of know-how, a key area of collaboration between the developing countries and IFIs, must be increased: the developing countries had abundant experience of rural poverty reduction; and IFIs could integrate their resource inputs and establish a platform for cooperation. In 2009 China had hosted with IFAD the first South-South cooperation workshop. Third, IFAD should make full use of its comparative advantage and increase its cooperation with other institutions and its own members, having due regard for the recipient countries' ownership. It should place emphasis on reform and innovation in its operations, offering suggestions for

agricultural reform and strengthening policy dialogue with developing country governments, as well as enhancing its institutional efficiency and development effectiveness. China's own experience showed that development was the key to rural poverty reduction; it wished to strengthen its cooperation with IFAD while at the same time sharing its experience with other developing countries and offering them its support.

81. **Ms MTINTSO** (South Africa) expressed condolences to the Government and people of Haiti; South Africa stood ready to assist in the post-disaster reconstruction process and was in favour of efforts aimed at facilitating the cancellation of Haiti's debts, including its debt to IFAD.
82. With reference to the theme of the current session, decisions must indeed be implemented and promises delivered on if the crisis of food insecurity was to be overcome: IFAD must continue to play a decisive role in ensuring that the first Millennium Development Goal (MDG) was achieved, that the US\$20 billion pledge made at the L'Aquila Summit was fulfilled, and that the Five Rome Principles for Sustainable Global Food Security were applied. The Fund deserved commendation for its efforts in the area of gender equality. The majority of the small farmers who provided up to 80 per cent of agricultural production and 70 per cent of rural employment in the developing countries were women. They must be supported through gender-sensitive agricultural and rural development policies, because women constituted a critical element of the answer to the question posed by the President of IFAD: who will feed the world?
83. The Fund must strengthen its already tireless efforts to help Africa, especially the multiple capacity-building support programmes for smallholder farmers. Greater support was needed for country-led initiatives and regional programmes such as the Comprehensive African Agricultural Development Programme (CAADP) in order to achieve sustainable development and a hunger-free continent. South Africa urged Member States and the donor community to strengthen IFAD's mandate through investments supporting ecologically sustainable agriculture and efforts to respond to climate change.
84. **Mr SRIBOONSUE** (Thailand) expressed condolences to the Government and people of Haiti. Thailand had joined in the impressive international response to the disaster by providing 20,000 tons of rice and cash donations from the Government and the people and had set up an inter-agency committee to furnish further assistance. IFAD could clearly play a pivotal role in the recovery efforts.
85. Thailand had paid its contribution to the Eighth Replenishment early, doubling the amount of its previous contribution. Thailand was not a major donor or a regular recipient of IFAD assistance, but its cooperation with the Fund was progressing well. IFAD had recently provided training for a number of Thailand's agricultural officials, with a view to establishing in Thailand a centre of technical expertise for other countries in the region. A partnerships strategy was being formulated in the context of South-South cooperation. Greater investment in agricultural activities in support of government efforts was sought from civil society and private sector partners and IFIs. Agricultural development in neighbouring countries was essential to regional poverty reduction and food security. His Government reaffirmed the commitments made at the World Summit on Food Security and was ready to cooperate with all countries and institutions to translate words into action. The theme of the current session was highly relevant in that regard. Thailand would do its best to feed its own people and to help to feed the rest of the world.
86. **Mr OEHLER** (Austria) said that IFAD was on track to improve its efficiency and meet the challenges of rural development in the light of the discussions on its organizational structure and operational strategy during the Eighth Replenishment exercise. However, the Fund's management must continue the good work by sharpening its profile, as well as improving its efficiency and cost-effectiveness.

With 30 years' experience behind it, IFAD had accumulated a unique body of knowledge on rural development. Given its limited financial capacity, the Fund must leverage its knowledge for maximum development effectiveness, best achieved by means of innovative approaches and projects with the potential to be scaled up and multiplied by IFAD's clients and development partners.

87. The food crisis had made food security a prime development target, and it was commonly agreed that investment in agriculture must be increased if food security, and indeed poverty reduction, were to be achieved. The *World Development Report 2008* had emphasized the need to increase farm productivity in the developing countries in order to meet the relevant MDG targets, and the Global Partnership for Agriculture and Food Security and the L'Aquila Food Security Initiative foresaw an implementation role for IFAD. The Fund clearly had a salient role to play and should make every effort to disseminate its expertise.
88. IFAD could now concentrate on implementing the operational priorities established for the Eighth Replenishment period, delivering results through differentiated country approaches; promoting country ownership, collaborative partnerships – including with the private sector – gender equality and addressing climate change and sustainability. The size of the Eighth Replenishment was sufficient for the Fund to increase the amount of its annual lending and thus make a tangible further contribution to the elimination of rural poverty.
89. **Mr FAUGOO** (Mauritius) said that since climate change, food security and smallholder farming were interlinked, the hunger reduction effort, in which IFAD had an important role to play, should be focused on enabling smallholders to address the problems of climate change more effectively and to produce more to eradicate hunger and poverty. The excellent cooperation between Mauritius and IFAD dated back to 1979: three projects had been funded in the agriculture and fisheries sector, and a new Marine and Agricultural Resources Support Programme was currently being implemented. IFAD was also helping the Government to tackle complex problems in such areas as environmental conservation, marine resources management, livelihoods, development and social welfare.
90. Given the unique features of island ecosystems, Mauritius was facing increasing threats from climate change, especially where food security was concerned. The tuna catch, for example, had fallen by about 40 per cent in 2007 as a result of warmer seawater temperatures. The Government had therefore decided to make substantial investments in the agricultural and fisheries sector through a food security fund equivalent in value to US\$330 million, and a strategic plan for food security in the period 2008-2011 was being carried out. Those moves would help small producers to operate more efficiently and, more importantly, empower them to take their destiny into their own hands as entrepreneurs. The new IFAD programme would complement the government programme. The Government had also made regional cooperation a mainstay of the strategic plan: a regional development company had been set up to promote food security and other development projects. IFAD was invited to take part in that initiative by providing technical assistance and grant funding.
91. **Mr DRESCHER** (Germany) said the L'Aquila Food Security Initiative, the Global Partnership for Agriculture and Food Security established at the World Summit on Food Security, the Declaration adopted by the G-20 in Pittsburgh, and the Global Agriculture and Food Security Programme currently being set up by the World Bank were the building blocks of a new international agricultural architecture to which IFAD would have to adapt if it was to retain its relevance to the empowerment of the rural poor. In fact, the Fund's influence on the shaping of the new international governance arrangements was less than it could and should be. It must spell out its vision of the IFAD role, its strategic focus and its thoughts on the division of labour between the various agencies.

92. The President of IFAD had announced far-reaching organizational changes at the December 2009 session of the Executive Board, and further changes were to follow; a comprehensive conceptual framework for the envisaged new organizational structure should now be presented to the Executive Board. It was also important in that context to press ahead with the human resources reform agenda: a transparent merit-based procedure for the appointment of all senior staff must be a key element of the organizational and human resources reforms.
93. The amount of the Eighth Replenishment reflected the positive assessment of IFAD's work by its membership, including Germany, but the unequal distribution of the burden among the Lists was regrettable. If the additional resources were to produce a significantly bigger development impact, IFAD must adhere strictly to its reform agenda and further increase its development effectiveness, including cost-efficiency, use of resources for operational purposes, and administrative costs must be cut to a minimum.
94. **Mr GOUANDJIK** (Central African Republic) after commending Mr Nwanze's leadership of the Fund, said that, as a result of the representations made to IFAD by his delegation at the thirty-second session of the Governing Council and by his country's Head of State at the World Summit on Food Security, an IFAD fact-finding mission had visited the Central African Republic in December 2009. The mission had subsequently announced the award of assistance in the amount of US\$9 million for the period 2010-2012, for which his Government was most grateful as it sought to emerge from successive political and military crises that had undermined its economy, particularly the agricultural sector.
95. In June 2009 the Central African Republic had qualified for debt relief under the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC) Debt Initiative. The door was now open for negotiations with donors, including IFAD, to inject new life into the country's agriculture and ensure its sustainable food security. It was hoped that IFAD would join other donors in attending the forthcoming round table on food security to be held in his country. The Government was also engaged in the activities of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) to stimulate agricultural growth and productivity in order to eradicate poverty. A national team had been created to attend to matters related to NEPAD and the CAADP. His Government sought the commitment of IFAD and the other organizations of the United Nations system to the implementation of the CAADP. In conclusion, he commended the work being done by the World Bank and IFAD in connection with the funding of a programme for small and medium-sized enterprises in the Central African Republic.
96. **Ms JACOVELLA** (Canada) said that, in the light of the renewed international emphasis on agricultural development, Canada had announced the doubling of its support for the sustainable development of agriculture – a commitment of US\$600 million in new funds over three years, bringing the country's total funding of agriculture to over US\$1.18 billion. Furthermore, Canada's pledge under the Eighth Replenishment represented an increase of 138 per cent – a mark of its support for IFAD and the reform process. Food security would be one of the main priorities of Canada's international assistance, with particular importance accorded to women's role as farmers. IFAD's policy of working directly with small landowners and farmers was in line with that strategy.
97. The Fund's new senior management team had a solid base on which to build, and the reform momentum must be maintained. An enhanced country presence demanded new systems, skills and attitudes. IFAD must accelerate in particular the implementation of its human resources strategy based on the merit principle and high levels of commitment and motivation. Canada looked forward to the recommendations to be produced by the corporate-level evaluation of gender equity and women's empowerment.

98. IFAD must ensure that its programmes were focused on food security systems at the national, regional and international levels. Its efforts to improve coordination and increase joint programming were welcome, as indeed was its commitment to support the recovery effort in Haiti. Agriculture could contribute much more than food and industrial raw materials: it must also provide solutions to many of the development challenges. To that end, Governments must demonstrate the political will to create their own enabling environments. The challenges were enormous, and in tackling them the ultimate beneficiaries – the poor – must be kept constantly in mind. IFAD must continue to be a key player in future global efforts.
99. **Mr RASHED** (Egypt) said that the food crisis had been exacerbated by the crushing financial and economic crisis of 2009, adversely affecting developing countries. The current year had also begun with a humanitarian crisis following the devastating earthquake in Haiti. He expressed solidarity with the Haitian people and Government, as well as full support for IFAD's cooperative efforts with other United Nations agencies to deal with the repercussions on the ground in Haiti and work for its reconstruction and the medium and long-term development of its agricultural sector. Food security was an increasing concern of the international community, as reflected in several important meetings convened on the subject. He expressed the hope that donor countries would fulfil the pledges they had made at those meetings and also provide resources to support the activities of the three Rome-based United Nations agencies, bearing in mind their mandate and expertise in the areas of agricultural development and the fight against hunger.
100. Egypt worked constantly at the local, regional and international levels to combat poverty and hunger. As part of that framework, it had a partnership with IFAD in which it contributed to IFAD's resources and the Fund supported and financed some of the country's agricultural development projects. Indeed, an agreement for a new IFAD project in Egypt had been signed only the day before, for which he expressed his country's gratitude.
101. **Mr OMACH** (Uganda) said that authoritative studies demonstrated that underinvestment in agriculture was largely responsible for the rampant poverty and food insecurity in the developing countries. Unless that problem was addressed with the utmost urgency, poverty and hunger would continue to ravage people's lives, especially in sub-Saharan Africa. Since 1981 IFAD had supported 12 projects in Uganda with loans totalling US\$226 million and grants totalling US\$3.4 million. The most important undertaking was the vegetable oil development project, which was already producing positive economic and social results and was expected to have powerful multiplier effects. Negotiations on extension of the project into a second phase had been completed.
102. The global paradigm shift from agricultural credit to macroeconomic credit was seen by many as the best way to deliver financial services to the rural poor, but microfinance institutions in developing countries were mostly urban based, leaving the rural poor without financing for their activities. Uganda was, therefore, supporting value chain development and agroprocessing by means of savings and loan cooperatives and its Prosperity for All programme. IFAD's support would still be required to help to strengthen those financial services and foster a savings and investment culture. Uganda reaffirmed its support for IFAD and its leadership and welcomed the current reforms, in particular the increased emphasis on direct supervision of activities by IFAD.
103. **Mr DANESTAD** (Sweden), speaking on behalf of the Nordic countries, said that the addition of another woman staff member, Vice-President Omura, to the senior management team was most welcome.
104. While the crisis in Haiti was due to a natural disaster, it should not be forgotten that the Haitians, like other peoples, were also affected by the current fuel and financial problems and by climate change. IFAD's readiness to assist Haiti and to explore

options for further debt relief were commendable, but if it was to play an effective role in addressing the other problems it would have to step up its efforts in the five broad areas of reform mentioned in the Eighth Replenishment report; the Nordic countries attached great importance to those reforms, in particular where human resources management was concerned. They also stressed the importance of mainstreaming gender equity and women's empowerment and looked forward to the findings of the corporate-level evaluation of that topic.

105. IFAD had made continued progress over the past year in addressing the common challenges and was increasingly seen as an important partner by the Member States. But several internal challenges remained. As major donors to and supporters of the Fund, the Nordic countries cared deeply about its mission of overcoming rural poverty and its operational and administrative efficiency: IFAD must meet the highest standards, especially with regard to the reduction of overhead costs, as well as to transparency, supervision and independent evaluation, which constituted the foundation of efficiency, effectiveness and trust.
106. **The meeting rose at 1.40 p.m.**

- (ii) Summary record of the second meeting of the thirty-third session held on Wednesday, 17 February 2010 at 3 p.m.

Chairperson: **Jan De Bock (Belgium)**

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107. **The meeting was called to order at 3.05 p.m.**

PANEL DISCUSSION ON "FROM SUMMIT RESOLUTIONS TO FARMERS' FIELDS: CLIMATE CHANGE, FOOD SECURITY AND SMALLHOLDER AGRICULTURE"

108. **The CHAIRPERSON**, introducing the panel discussion, said that it would provide an opportunity to hear experts discuss ways of implementing political and financial commitments, bolstering farmers' organizations and improving their cooperation with IFAD and other IFIs.
109. **Mr CLANCY** (Moderator) invited the Governing Council to watch a documentary video illustrating the topic "From summit commitments to farmers' fields".
110. **The documentary video was screened.**
111. **Mr CLANCY** (Moderator) said that the discussion would address the question of why so few results had been obtained with regard to food security, despite the many promises made. He then introduced the members of the panel: Ms Haydée Castillo Flores, the coordinator of the Women's Forum for Central American Integration, who works to empower women throughout Central America to promote rural development; Mr Ajay Vashee, a farmer in Zambia and President of the International Federation for Agricultural Producers; the Honourable Mizengo Peter Pinda, Prime Minister of the United Republic of Tanzania, who in addition to his political career, is dedicated to rural development; Dr Nahed Mohammed Taher, the founder and Chief Executive Officer of the Gulf One Investment Bank, she has extensive experience in economics, finance, risk management and private investment; Sir Gordon Conway, Professor of International Development at the Centre for Environmental Policy at Imperial College, London, and a former President of the Rockefeller Foundation; Mr Kevin Cleaver, Associate Vice-President of Programmes at IFAD, previously he was responsible for sustainable development in Europe and Central Asia at the World Bank, and a director of agriculture and rural development.
112. **Mr PINDA**, in response to the question of who was responsible for putting promises into effect on the ground, said that everyone was responsible, but political leaders in particular must ensure that the results trickled down to the rural masses.
113. **Ms CASTILLO FLORES** said that the State was certainly irreplaceable; that being said, the State and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) played complementary roles. Women's movements and indigenous people's and other grass-roots organizations were examples to governments with regard, for instance, to training and access to long-term credit and education. Those groups were working towards empowerment of the people in order to have an impact on public policies.
114. **Mr VASHEE** said that were the farmers asked to apportion the blame for unfulfilled promises they would place the blame on policy-makers, legislators and in general those who made the commitments.
115. **Ms TAHER** said that agriculture had long been subsidized and was not business-oriented. Farmers should blame the private sector, governments and private-public partnerships for the global economic crisis, with the resulting limitation on resources and food scarcity. Farmers should be involved as partners with politicians, with a business orientation to encourage cooperation.
116. **Sir Gordon CONWAY** said that he thought there was political will to fulfil promises, but politicians tended to move from one crisis to another. The political will therefore had to be reinforced. Although politicians were convinced that the food crisis was over, food prices were in fact still rising, and drought conditions were becoming more prevalent. There was a gap between the rhetoric of the G-8, the G-20 and the United Nations and the excellent work being done on the ground,

such as conservation farming and microcredit. Work at the ground level had to be scaled up; that would require greater involvement of the private sector, in partnership with governments, which should provide an enabling environment.

117. **Mr CLANCY** (Moderator) invited the Governing Council to watch a documentary video on the statistical background to food insecurity and poverty.
118. **The documentary video was screened.**
119. **Mr CLEAVER** said that workable solutions were now at hand. Projects, programmes and policies which had increased growth of the agricultural sector in countries such as Brazil, China, the United Republic of Tanzania and Viet Nam were being experimented on relatively low levels of investment. The ingredients for success appeared to be good leadership and policy, which attracted private investment, and substantial, well-placed investment in public infrastructure, research, training and rural finance. The world had neglected agriculture over the past 20 years, taking the complacent attitude that there was enough food for everyone – it was merely inequitably distributed. Now, public and private resources must be applied efficiently to redress the balance and replicate successful experience.
120. **Mr PINDA** said that the leader of a country in which 80 per cent of the population was poor obviously had to have political will, as well as foresight and a commitment to the people. The rise in food prices in 2007-2008 had been predictable in the light of climatic and geographical conditions. His country had been affected less seriously than some others, as many problems related to agriculture had been addressed and there had been enough food for the people.
121. **Ms TAHER** said that over the past two decades, decision-makers and private investors had been driven by greed, destroying forests and farms and replacing them by property development, assuming that there was enough food and water for the population. But neglect of agriculture had led to the current shortages. Water scarcity would face countries with dilemmas such as whether to use water for drinking or for irrigation. Meanwhile, farmers were isolated, unable to participate in decisions about logistics or marketing, whereas companies should work with them to give them a voice.
122. **Mr CLANCY** (Moderator) commented that extensive migration of people from the countryside to the cities over the past 50 years had been partly responsible for neglect of the rural world.
123. **Ms CASTILLO FLORES** said that poor people were often seen as having no rights or capacity, and yet, though they lacked opportunity, they were in fact meeting the challenges facing the world, such as food shortages. International cooperation required transparent public policies and at the same time consistency between words and deeds. The outcome of the recent climate change summit, for example, was short on substance. The market should not be an end in itself, as a way of making money, but should serve as a mechanism for improving living conditions throughout the world. Poverty could not be reduced when priority was given to building airports rather than to ensuring access to water, for instance. There was a need for investment in mechanisms that helped developing countries to become competitive, for a responsible attitude towards countries that required help.
124. **Sir Gordon CONWAY** said that the priorities must be clear but in many countries had been misplaced. Past policies had often been based on ill-founded ideology: Malawi could not be expected to undergo industrial development in the way that Viet Nam had done, as it had not experienced the rapid agricultural revolution of Viet Nam. Agriculture had been neglected not only by donor agencies but also by the governments of developing countries. Priority had to be given to agriculture. He therefore welcomed the proposal of CAADP, that governments spend 10 per cent of their budgets on agriculture.

125. **Mr VASHEE** said that what was important was the way in which priorities were set and implemented. Agricultural growth could be brought about by small-scale farmers, who represented the largest private sector in many developing countries and should be recognized as such. The priority was to build sustainable, resilient small-scale agriculture. The prevalent model was large-scale agriculture, which allowed economies of scale, a means of producing cheap food and competitive producers who shipped it around the world. That model, however, did not take account of links with climate change, food security, poverty and sources of energy.
126. **Mr MOLEBATSI** (Botswana) said that his Government had recently realized that agriculture should be its highest priority and was doing its best to provide seed, fertilizer and equipment in order to boost agricultural activities in rural areas. As Botswana was considered a middle-income country, however, it was not receiving enough assistance from international organizations. The Government spent more than 10 per cent of its GDP on agricultural investment, but the global financial crisis had had a severe effect on its revenue, most of which came from the sale of diamonds.
127. **Mr CLEAVER** said that the demands on IFAD and similar organizations had increased hugely with renewed awareness of the importance of food and agriculture. He appreciated the concerns of Botswana and other countries, but with limited resources priority had to be given to the poorest nations, such as Haiti.
128. **Ms TAHER** said that her viewpoint differed slightly. In terms of investment and in order to attract the private sector, projects should be sector-related. In her country, little attention was paid to agriculture, whereas even a country that consisted largely of desert could become a large producer of dates. Whatever the income of a country, an investment in agriculture that provided a reasonable margin would be viable.
129. **Ms CASTILLO FLORES** said that asymmetries and diversity within regions should also be taken into account in integrating them, at the same time as economic imperatives. In Central America, poverty was found mainly among African Latin American and rural populations. If people and organizations in touch with the countryside made proposals and politicians acted on them, there would be real cooperation in rural development.
130. **Mr DIALLO** (Guinea) said that many donors did not trust receiving countries to manage the resources they obtained properly. IFAD and the Agence Française de Développement (AFD) had begun to tackle that problem. What was needed was more work to create partnerships between farmers in the North and the South, channelling technology to those who needed it. Means should be found, for instance through farmers' organizations, to identify farmers who should benefit from aid. In his country, when loans had been made directly to farmers' organizations, they had been well managed. That experience had been so positive that other countries were emulating it.
131. **Mr PINDA** said it was clear that an organization would not send money to a corrupt government. The onus was therefore on leaders to ensure transparent governance, which they might be prompted to do if an organization like IFAD withheld funding from a country that did not meet the standards of transparency.
132. Government policies should be adapted to people's needs. When governments adopted a top-down approach, considering that they could think for their people, they alienated the rural masses from matters that affected their development. Governments had to accept decentralization of their powers, finances and administrative capability, so that ideas were initiated at a lower level and then moved upwards to be made operational. Such a bottom-up approach would fully involve people in determining their own needs.

133. **Mr MARKU** (Albania) said that the key issue was politicians' willingness to commit themselves in the medium and long term to formulating appropriate policies. Agriculture could not be changed by farmers, with their low bargaining power. They had to be empowered in order to force politicians to move away from short-term vote-winning policies.
134. **Mr CLANCY** (Moderator) invited the Governing Council to watch a documentary video that illustrated the importance of supporting farmers' associations.
135. **The documentary video was screened.**
136. **Mr VASHEE** said that organizing farmers into groups gave them both economic power and a forum in which they could discuss policies that affected them and express their needs. Helping farmers to form economically viable units resulted in economies of scale, brought them closer to the markets and helped them make better quality produce and form the critical mass that attracted the private sector, reducing transaction costs. Markets brought people together, and, once there was a perceived or tangible benefit, further cooperation followed. Although organizing small farmers who were widely dispersed and had different levels of education and understanding was difficult, it could be done and should be facilitated.
137. **Mr PINDA** commented that empowerment had many facets, including the provision of a legal framework. The cooperative movement did just that. In his country, the small cooperative societies that had been formed at village level had had a clear impact. The Government was working to make the cooperative movements strong, effective and useful to farmers. The cooperatives served to set food prices, improve access to facilities such as inputs and furnish assistance in accessing services and information. Most importantly, they broke the farmers' isolation.
138. **Sir Gordon CONWAY** stressed that the great advantage of farmer cooperatives and associations was that they provided a conduit for information and new technology, such as new seeds or fertilizers and the information required for quality control. The introduction of the mobile phone in Africa had made revolutionary changes in communication and made it possible for farmers' associations to reach markets.
139. **Mr MABOUNDOU** (Congo) recalled that, 20 years previously, Africa had been able to feed itself. There had been no catastrophic crises. Subsequent problems had arisen from poor government, poor management and, in particular, inadequate marketing structures. In the past, government enterprises had been responsible for marketing, but IFIs such as the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund had put an end to those state run marketing boards, and nothing had taken their place. As there was no means to market produce, production had fallen.
140. **Mr CLEAVER** agreed that the public enterprises to which the speaker was referring had not been replaced. It was now not a matter of re-establishing those inefficient systems but of replacing them, preferably by private enterprises and cooperatives, which were in fact private enterprises owned by farmers. IFAD had found that groups of farmers often managed public services better than the public enterprises themselves. For example, in irrigation projects, water users' associations managed secondary and tertiary irrigation canals better than government bodies; groups of people, often women's groups, managed rural credit at village level better than government agencies. Cooperatives were not only buying inputs and selling crops but also providing public services, in partnership with private enterprises.
141. **Ms TAHER** suggested that IFAD and other funds specializing in agriculture should ask certain sovereign wealth funds to allocate a portion of their budget to agriculture, but not to manage it. Part of those funds would be distributed as 'sweat equity' to farmers, so that they would be collaborating rather than competing, and their share would increase with better performance. Thus, if farmers reduced costs with better technology, they would achieve greater equity and would no longer be

poor. The aim of private enterprise should be to elevate farmers to middle-income status, so that they became customers and investors and therefore a source of income. Institutional investors, and even charity funds, could also benefit from such an arrangement.

142. **Mr VASHEE** agreed that a transition could have been better managed and that the private sector could perhaps move in. However, in some cases the private sector had taken over local marketing but their investment decisions had been negated by a change in government policies or other factors affecting the stability of those policies. Trade policy such as an export ban, or incoming food aid, for instance, could displace local production. The macroeconomic fundamentals were not correct: it was seen as far cheaper and safer in the short term to invest in financial instruments and government bonds than in agricultural commodities. In order for the private sector to thrive in developing countries and to take over the role of inefficient, badly run state-owned marketing enterprises, there had to be stable, clear policies.
143. **Ms CASTILLO FLORES**, returning to the question of farmers' cooperatives, said that the state should not see farmers' and producers' organizations as rivals but rather as another player that would stimulate the economy and complement the role of the state. Cooperation was essential; unilateral action resulted in loss of perspective. She described a project in Nicaragua, in which IFAD had helped indigenous owners of woods and forests to manage them, resulting in water conservation, fewer forest fires, honey production and microcredit schemes. She reiterated the need for trust between cooperatives and the state. The term "the private sector" could refer to either big business or the social economy sector, and it was important to differentiate between them. A problem arose with the existing and proposed Association Agreements between the European Union and certain Central American countries, which excluded farmers' cooperatives from negotiating trade contracts.
144. **Mr CATARINA MAMANI** (Plurinational State of Bolivia) pointed out that demand for a certain product could dry up after extensive investment by farmers, the private sector and the government, or a cheap substitute might be imported, leading to closure of a cooperative. Farmers had a clear vision. They were not responsible for the financial crisis, the food crisis or climate change; they wanted to live well, in harmony with nature. For professional diplomats, who did not have that clear vision, political will was not enough; they would have to change their vision.
145. **Mr CLANCY** (Moderator) referred panellists to the question of climate change and how to convey the relevant information, observing that certain academics had prepared climate maps that would indicate the correct planting season to farmers around the world, but that information was not disseminated.
146. **Mr CLEAVER** replied that most governments disseminated weather reports to farmers over the radio, but they concerned weather variations, not climate change. As could be seen from the recent Copenhagen experience, effects on agriculture were not central to discussions on climate change, with little money and little attention being given to that aspect of the problem.
147. Regarding the future of official development assistance, despite the current upswing he did not see developed countries continuing to provide substantial public funds for aid to developing countries, and resources and knowledge would have to be mobilized from non-traditional sources, such as through cooperation with the private sector, including sovereign wealth funds and foundations. IFAD might indeed eventually be able to expand its projects by borrowing money to complement the contributions of its Member States rather than continuing to rely on taxpayer money. Likewise, addressing the effects of climate change on agriculture, for which IFAD did not currently have the resources, might also lead it to draw on non-traditional sources.

148. **Sir Gordon CONWAY** said that the potential effects of climate change could be modelled mathematically and the information provided to farmers. That was already being done in Burkina Faso. The more extreme events that would result from climate change could not be predicted. The solution was therefore to build up the resilience of farmers by diversifying their livelihoods and their income. As an example of diversification, he described a farm he had visited in the Sundarbans in India, where the woman grew both rice and vegetables, the husband used his tractor to deliver goods and raised fish, and the son worked as an apprentice in the nearby town.
149. **Mr CLANCY** (Moderator) showed comments that had been posted on Twitter. One question was: What information or communications policy changes can governments make so that smallholder farmers have access to the information they need to thrive?
150. **Mr PINDA** said that the activities of NGOs were encouraged in his country, because most were based in local areas. Once they were empowered, they served as a mouthpiece for farmers and other rural dwellers. Cooperative societies, the Government, the private sector and religious groups could be mobilized to address the problems that were identified: everyone should be involved.
151. **Mr VASHEE** said that any risk to farmers due to climate factors had to be managed. First, the risk should be avoided, by early-warning communication systems and the availability of drought-resistant crops. Secondly, the risk should be managed, and that involved financial instruments, such as insurance, which was not currently available to farmers. Thirdly, if the risk was not avoided, farmers needed help to rebuild their productive capacity. In Australia, for example, farmers had been able to cope with several years of drought, but if a small farmer in a developing country lost his one ox, his only means of survival was lost and he would be unable to rebuild it.
152. **Mr SEN** (National Planning Commission, India) commented that IFAD had previously concentrated its efforts on people, while other organizations addressed production. The emphasis appeared to have shifted, and he wondered whether IFAD had a competitive advantage in making that shift. The suggestion that IFAD would work with for-profit organizations to finance small-scale agriculture would require a new model, and he asked what that model was.
153. **Mr CLEAVER** answered that IFAD was trying to combine its interest in organizations of farmers, fishers, forest dwellers and indigenous peoples with an effort to transform those organizations into small businesses, so that they would no longer be simple recipients of welfare. The projects that worked best were those that were economically sustainable in the long term. Thus, people would be brought out of poverty in a commercially, economically and financially viable way. That implied not just production of agricultural products but perhaps processing those products or supplying inputs.
154. **Mr CLANCY** (Moderator) invited the Governing Council to watch a documentary video illustrating a "success story", which recounted a woman's rise from being a smallholder rice producer to a real-estate entrepreneur through the use of New Rice for Africa (NERICA).
155. **The documentary video was screened.**
156. **Sir Gordon CONWAY**, replying to a question about whether genetically modified foods would have to be accepted if more food was to be produced by smallholders, said that NERICA was not a genetically modified product but rather a tissue culture, a cross between African and Asian rice, which had been developed at the Africa Rice Center by an African scientist, with advice from the Rockefeller Foundation and Chinese scientists. Better plant breeding was needed, with what was known as marker-assisted selection, together with tissue culture methods and genetically

modified crops. The last were needed to increase yields, control pests and diseases and resist drought and heat. Genetically modified crops would not solve all the problems, but they were part of the technological toolkit that was needed to feed the world. People living in the United States ate genetically modified food every day, and genetically modified crops were spreading everywhere. The associated environmental concerns could be addressed.

157. **Ms CASTILLO FLORES** said with reference to the video documentary that it was necessary to invest in women, not because of their multiplier effect, but in their own right. Women carried a message of hope through direct, concrete action. She lived in a rural area on the border with Honduras, where women were beginning to assume productive economic roles, producing food to improve the quality of their families' lives. States and governments should not expect women to speak merely for other women; they spoke for everyone in the community.
158. An issue of concern to women farmers was that virtually 40 per cent of national accounts in banks in Central America were in the hands of women, but most of them were also responsible for raising and caring for children and for elderly people. They therefore had a double burden of work: producing and reproducing. Women should be enabled to do their work, to continue to transform mentalities, policies and the economy. Women in Central America had advised their governments that climate change was not only an environmental issue but was related to women's rights and development: it was a cross-cutting issue. Women should be invested in on their own merit, as a right rather than a favour, and women should bear their responsibilities on the same footing as men.
159. **Ms TAHER** said that investors would back women because they were a good investment. She was against gender bias and agreed with the previous speaker that men and women should collaborate on an equal basis. It was true that women had more patience in waiting for crops to grow and managing small farms. A study by Harvard University and the London School of Economics had shown that 90 per cent of successful small businesses were run by women.
160. **Mr VASHEE** said that, regardless of gender, some government or private organization must be willing to invest in agriculture, having made sure that it was a viable commercial proposition and would result in productivity increases and profits, and allow the market to take it forward. The underlying principle was that market-led agriculture was profitable for smallholder farmers who received some investment as a catalyst.
161. **Mr CLANCY** (Moderator) said that a comment had been posted on Twitter to the effect that access to food and water were fundamental human rights, and they should be protected by bodies such as the United Nations and by rich nations such as the United States. He was unsure, however, whether the United States was ready or able to do that in the current state of affairs. Another comment was that the billions of dollars that had been given in aid did not appear to have had any effect.
162. **Ms TAHER** said that the United States might invest in agriculture if it saw it as a profitable business. Aid should be perceived as a partnership, with a commitment from the receiving party to deliver results.
163. **Mr PINDA** said that the question was not about being policed by big powers, but about working together to deal with the problems that affected the world. Countries that had succeeded in developing should consider themselves responsible for helping those that still lagged behind, but the process should go both ways. Cooperation was needed to decide how problems should be solved.
164. **Mr CLANCY** (Moderator) said that the public tended to confuse food aid with agricultural development and the media had not done its job to correct that view. He found it difficult to convince his producers and editors that global food security

was an important issue. People found it difficult to realize that 18,000 children died each day from the effects of malnutrition.

165. **Ms TAHER** said that corporate America had failed because it had thought only of itself. It had not looked after the world. Real productive sectors such as agriculture and water were backed by real assets and were therefore a reliable investment.
166. **Ms CASTILLO FLORES** said that people had become accustomed to poverty; they were no longer shocked by the statistics. The market was concerned only with production and not with the villages, the rivers and the people behind the products. On the question of aid, a distinction should be drawn between urgent, immediate and emerging needs, such as in Haiti, and investment to build capacity. People could not be satisfied with food for work. A provision of her country's constitution stated that human beings had a right to income, in order not only to buy food but also for reasons of health, personal satisfaction and education. A new approach was needed to rural and social development, in which people's capacity was built so that they became self-sufficient, both economically and socially, and therefore effective.
167. **Mr MARKU** (Albania) said that donors sometimes made mistakes. In many situations, aid had damaged local production systems. Most projects were short-term ones, which showed their mistrust of local institutions by superseding them. Instead of trying to improve local institutions that were corrupt and had limited capacity, new structures were set up. Then, once the funds had been spent and the project implemented, all that new capacity disappeared. He asked how cooperation between donor projects and local institutions could be improved.
168. **Sir Gordon CONWAY** said that France and the United Kingdom now no longer funded individual projects but instead joined together to fund a country, such as the United Republic of Tanzania. The donors asked for little say in how the funds were spent. As the funding was to the entire country, the Government did not have to manage many different projects or file many different reports. The system did not, however, necessarily benefit agriculture, which was low on the list of priorities. Therefore, perhaps part of each project should emphasize a particular field such as agriculture.
169. **Mr CLANCY** (Moderator) invited the panellists to conclude the discussion on how to translate promises into reality on the ground.
170. **Mr PINDA** reiterated that he disliked the idea of a donor community dictating what kind of project should be carried out in a country. Ownership of a project was essential, as the government of a country knew its problems better than the donors; where a government decided that agriculture was its priority, a good donor would work with it to ensure that that decision was put into effect.
171. **Mr VASHEE** agreed that strategies should be country-led, with full ownership by the stakeholders. In the past, many donors had rejected good ideas and imposed their own on developing countries. Much capacity and many good policies had been eroded. He was optimistic that projects could be led by the countries concerned.
172. **Ms CASTILLO FLORES** said that responsibilities should be assumed and hope should prevail. When engaging in a process of cooperation, thought should be given to the partners in that endeavour, the decision makers, be they government officials and the political parties behind them, or representatives of civil society organizations. The process of cooperation should also be examined, to distinguish between the charismatic face of aid and aid that could truly build capacity and achieve its objective. The ethical dimension of responsibility for hunger must be faced. The Governors should work together with IFAD, the United Nations and civil society to forge a pact for agriculture and for the economic development of small- and medium-size producers. There had been a flurry of activity in response to the economic and financial crises, with major investments in the banking system for

example. Doing the same for agriculture would provide the solutions to many global problems.

173. **Ms TAHER** expressed optimism, saying that she was prepared to go to great lengths to encourage investment in agriculture. She had persuaded countries to invest sovereign wealth funds in water and had managed to have water produced at one quarter of the cost in her country. A project should be both lucrative and socially responsible, creating jobs and solving problems at the same time as attracting investment. Sovereign wealth funds, institutional investors and agricultural specialists such as IFAD must form partnerships with farmers – not competing with, but complementing each other.
174. **Sir Gordon CONWAY** said that he had become more optimistic during the day because he perceived a real commitment to using public-private partnerships to close the gap between those at the bottom and those at the top. IFAD was going in the right direction. He was working with the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, which had begun to commit large amounts of money to agriculture under their programme Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa, with interesting public-private arrangements. They were supporting start-up seed companies and small shops that sold seed and fertilizer in villages. They were also supporting the involvement of an international microfinance bank that was partly owned by Rabobank, a cooperative movement in the Netherlands that provided microcredit to farmers through agro-dealers. Private seed companies were being set up with the help of some public money, radically transforming farmers' lives in the southern highlands of the United Republic of Tanzania. Similar initiatives were needed on a larger scale throughout the world.
175. **Mr CLEAVER** said that the public perception appeared to be that the western world was tired of aid, which he agreed was largely, though not always, ineffective. As he saw it, the aid business was drying up. For every country that put up to 10 per cent of its budget into agriculture, there were three that did not; the airport in the capital city was considered more important than the entire agricultural sector. The western world was heavily subsidizing its farmers, resulting in huge distortions. Nevertheless, more was known about what actually worked and the impacts of climate change. It might be possible to invest funds from the private sector, from charities or from farmers themselves into the agricultural business. He was therefore both optimistic and pessimistic.
176. **Mr CLANCY** (Moderator), drawing the proceedings to a close, thanked all the participants.

SYNTHESIS OF THE DELIBERATIONS OF THE GLOBAL MEETING OF THE FARMERS' FORUM

177. At the invitation of the Chairperson, **Ms Alphonsine NGUBA NGIENGO**, member of the International Coordinating Committee of La Via Campesina and member of the Farmers' Forum Steering Committee, summarized the deliberations of the Farmers' Forum, which was held in Rome on 15 and 16 February 2010 in conjunction with the thirty-third session of the Governing Council. The full text of her statement is reproduced in chapter 4.

GENERAL STATEMENTS (agenda item 5, continued)

178. **Mr AL-HAWSHABI** (Yemen) said that developing countries such as his own were adversely affected by the economic and food crises, climate change and transboundary disease, all of which posed exceptional challenges. Yemen's food security was also threatened by other factors such as a lack of natural resources and water, limited arable land area and population increase. A national programme had been successfully implemented to encourage cereal production by providing farmers with improved seeds, agricultural machinery and soft loans. The hope was

that, in combination with other similar programmes in the areas of rainwater harvesting and animal husbandry, it would achieve food security and narrow the gap between consumption and production. Indeed, food security and poverty reduction were a strategic priority of Yemen's poverty reduction plan, which focused on the sustainable management of natural resources, higher production, improved rural incomes and agricultural investment.

179. At the current session, vitally important discussions were being held on the subject of empowering rural inhabitants to overcome poverty, providing an opportunity to focus on agricultural development, hunger and creation of the right investment climate and employment opportunities. The agricultural sector held much promise in those contexts, which would also reduce rural exodus and in turn the burden on urban facilities. Yemen looked forward to continuing its fruitful partnership with IFAD in the interest of sustainable development.
180. **Mr MONTICELLI** (Italy) said that his country was ready to play its part in supporting the efforts of international organizations to realize the objectives set, a challenge that demanded strong leadership and shared responsibility in the present context of crisis and financial difficulty. At its summit in L'Aquila in 2009, the G-8 had adopted agreements designed to create a global partnership for agriculture and food security, setting in motion an intense process of coordination aimed at putting the resulting commitments into practice through programmes and policies jointly developed with recipient countries. In view of its unique mandate in favour of smallholders and women, whose central role in food security was recognized by the L'Aquila Declaration, IFAD had a very specific responsibility that had indeed been acknowledged during the last replenishment.
181. Given the enormous pressure on public finances, it was vital to make the most of any help offered and give pride of place to innovative interventions based on cooperation between the public and private sectors. Italy had promoted various initiatives with partners and intended to continue its longstanding support for international actions designed to guarantee long-term food security. The volume of resources under the Eighth Replenishment now placed IFAD in a position to increase its programme of work considerably, which would require renewed commitment to the streamlining of its internal management. Lastly, he expressed the solidarity of his people and Government with the people of Haiti, which was particularly heartfelt in the light of their own experience of natural disaster in 2009.
182. **Mr ARVELO CAAMAÑO** (Dominican Republic) speaking of neighbouring Haiti, said that the country was now suffering from the effects of a devastating natural disaster. The Governing Council should look to the future and assess the role that IFAD should play in that country's reconstruction. Extraordinary situations called for extraordinary measures and this was not the time to oblige Haiti to repay its debt. Furthermore, under its mandate, IFAD had a unique responsibility towards Haiti, and what it did there must become a model for its work throughout the world. Haiti needed assistance in creating national capacity, based on human and institutional capacity; it needed a vigorous commitment, generous financing and technical resources from the international community if it was to increase its output, productivity and agricultural competitiveness. In those and other areas IFAD must furnish assistance to Haiti in conjunction with other international agencies and in line with its Government's priorities.
183. The Dominican Republic was host to a million Haitians. Just hours after the disaster had struck, its President had declared the support of the Government and people of the Dominican Republic for the people of Haiti. The Dominican Republic's Minister of Agriculture was in Rome with his Haitian counterpart, working hand in hand to establish coordination and draw up strategic plans. He trusted that IFAD would continue to support Haiti and act as a catalyst for its move towards sustainable development.

184. **Mr NDONG SIMA** (Gabon) said that IFAD's active cooperation with his country, particularly in the area of assistance for small rural producers, was fully in step with a programme for food security and growth being implemented in the context of the overall aim of putting Gabon on track as an emerging economy. Sustained growth was in fact a feature of successful poverty reduction programmes, creating as it did the right conditions for improving incomes and living standards. It was, however, essential to prioritize food security for rural inhabitants by focusing on food production. To that end, particular emphasis was placed on production support structures in agriculture, animal husbandry and fisheries under a newly enacted finance law, as were guidance and support for producers. Moreover, public investment in those sectors had significantly increased in comparison with recent years to some 52 million euros, which amounted to 4 per cent of its total.
185. Gabon looked forward to continued cooperation with IFAD and in particular to the Fund's support for its efforts to increase its food security and boost production in rural areas.
186. **Mr ESPINEL** (Ecuador) offered his country's condolences to Haiti. The President of Ecuador had been a prime mover in the adoption of a resolution by the Union of South American Nations (UNASUR) committing assistance of US\$200 million for the reconstruction of Haiti. The theme of the present session was particularly relevant to the situation in most poor countries, including his own, where small farmers accounted for more than two thirds of the food supply and agriculture produced the greater part of foreign earnings, yet the worst poverty was concentrated in rural areas.
187. Ecuador had recently adopted the first constitution to emanate from a consultation with the people of Ecuador. It established the well-being of the people as a social objective, to be achieved chiefly by means of food sovereignty, which was a far broader concept than food security and implied a guarantee of access to food and the economic means of such access but excluded the notion of dependency on food aid; it also implied the eradication of poverty and a guarantee of gainful employment through access to land. Food security policies must ensure that farmers in poor countries had access to land and the means to exploit it productively.
188. Ecuador was in favour of a new policy of granting loans on the basis of the average per capita income of a country's inhabitants. However, it would be better to measure the average incomes of the population benefiting from the projects in question rather than national averages. IFAD's undertaking to tailor its financing to a country's sovereign decisions was of special importance in the light of the commitments entered into in 2009 at the World Summit on Food Security and the L'Aquila Summit.
189. **Mr FRIEDEN** (Switzerland), noting the devastating impact of food price increases on the world's most vulnerable people, welcomed the increasing awareness among decision makers that smallholders could serve as protagonists in the battle for food security. IFAD must sustain its critical participation in the international coordination efforts in response to the global food security crisis while at the same time preserving its operational identity. He welcomed IFAD's intention to increase its field presence in partner countries.
190. The development purposes of any increase in IFAD's available resources for investment must be clearly defined. Two options should be considered. First, IFAD should engage more in middle-income countries and assume additional risks in so doing only if that furthered rural policies favouring smallholders, pastoralists and landless peasants. Second, IFAD should combine its resources creatively with investors in agriculture worldwide with a view to protecting the interests of the rural poor and improving the income of small producers; that involved testing and developing new business models.

191. In human resource management, a balance must be struck between developing operational capacities and strengthening IFAD's functions, with equal attention to all IFAD staff. Concerning the governing bodies, the new streamlined procedures for project approval were a first important step forward, but more work was needed to strengthen the role of the Executive Board in preparing the Country Strategic Opportunities Programmes. He endorsed the recommendations emerging from the Peer Review of IFAD's Office of Evaluation and Evaluation Function indicating the need to consolidate the independence of IFAD's evaluation function while improving the efficiency of institutional arrangements.
192. **Mr JANABI** (Iraq) said that his country was strengthening its agricultural sector as a matter of priority, given its reliance on agriculture in its efforts to combat poverty and raise living standards. The poverty induced by three decades of disaster and tragedy had been further exacerbated by misguided government policies, war, economic embargo and destruction of the agricultural sector. The situation had much changed in recent years, however; laws had been introduced to promote agricultural investment and the Government had launched an initiative to provide funding for small farmers and agricultural projects through soft loans. The budgets of the relevant ministries had been supplemented in order to speed up implementation of rural development projects.
193. Security and democratization were other areas in which Iraq had recently made significant progress. Its relationship with IFAD was viewed as a milestone. It looked forward to IFAD support for its agricultural development, not least in the areas agreed during the visit to Iraq by the Director of IFAD's Near East and North Africa Division, including Iraq's inclusion in the performance-based allocation system (PBAS) for 2010 to 2012. It believed that a solution was on the horizon concerning the commitments made by its former dictator as part of his propagandist agenda, a legacy in its relationship with the Fund of which Iraq wished to rid itself. IFAD support would be instrumental to the success of Iraq's poverty reduction strategy targeted mainly at rural areas. Indeed, further support and bilateral cooperation would facilitate Iraq's return to the Fund as a donor state.
194. **Ms MUCAVI** (Mozambique) said that her Government would play its role in ensuring the implementation of commitments made at recent international conferences to overcome prevailing hunger and poverty, particularly in developing countries. For its part, Mozambique had adopted its Green Revolution strategy, together with measures designed to increase agricultural output and productivity and generate job opportunities in the rural areas where some 70 per cent of its population lived. It had approved a three-year action plan for food production to eliminate the deficit in the main agricultural products in which it was competitive, taking advantage of its vast agricultural potential. An investment budget had been established for local initiatives country-wide to promote food production, create employment and provide access to finance.
195. IFAD had played an important partnership role in that process, which encompassed many of the areas in which it had a comparative advantage, a task complemented by the coordinated engagement of other United Nations agencies, the aim being to deliver as one towards effective achievement of the country's development goals. Such cooperation with IFAD would undoubtedly be improved by the lessons learned from the constructive recommendations of the Evaluation Committee. Mozambique therefore looked forward to the national round-table workshop and the Evaluation Committee country visit both scheduled to take place in May 2010. It had increased its contribution to the Eighth Replenishment and hoped to see a growth of projects in favour of poor communities in rural areas.
196. **Mr LAMPERT COSTA** (Brazil) said that Brazil had successfully met the challenges of the economic crisis through its adoption of an appropriately focused development strategy, with the incorporation of the family farming sector, which produced 70 per

cent of Brazil's food, into the national economy. Such national strategies were vital to the eradication of hunger and poverty and should include smallholders in the productive process by facilitating their access to credit, insurance and other mechanisms designed to increase their stability, security and income. Brazil stood ready to share and replicate its successful experience in that area with other countries as was already the case in the Common Market of the South (MERCOSUR).

197. IFAD could play a facilitating role in poverty eradication by helping to spread such good practices, as well as promote innovation, know-how transfer and capacity-building. To that end, a stronger field presence was all important. IFAD's relationship with middle-income countries, compatible with its core mandate, should also extend beyond the financial aspect, given their importance in South-South cooperation and knowledge transfer. Brazil wished to see the normalization of IFAD's relations with Cuba. Regarding governance, IFAD should remain in step with the standards of the main IFIs and needed to strengthen its human resources policy in order to increase flexibility, geographical diversification and the efficiency of its administrative and management structure.
198. Concerning the tragedy in Haiti, he urged international solidarity and the use of IFAD's expertise for actions to recover food security, having regard for Haitian sovereignty. Brazil was hosting a meeting of ministers of agriculture of Brazil and African countries in May 2010, and intended to cooperate with African countries on the subject of public policies designed to promote family farming in the interest of poverty reduction.
199. **Mr MBEWE** (Zambia) said that the challenge facing many countries was to translate the outcomes of the recent high-level summit meetings into tangible actions for the well-being of their people. The renewed focus on agricultural development and climate change should induce farmers in developing countries to take advantage of rising prices for agricultural commodities to increase production and productivity, in turn increasing food security and income.
200. IFAD's commendable efforts to tackle poverty-related structural problems in rural areas were all the more welcome in that they specifically targeted women, who were heavily dependent on agriculture for their livelihoods – and whose economic empowerment was a proven key to agricultural development. IFAD's country-specific interventions also increased access to financial services, markets and technology, as well as the sustainable use of natural resources, and should further tackle such issues as climate change, afforestation and use of drought-resistant seeds. Other important areas included pro-poor agricultural research and investment in infrastructure. In addition to increased investment in agriculture for food security and income generation, sector policies should be improved and institutional reforms promoted to stimulate accelerated expansion of the agricultural sector. In Africa, the growing consensus was that investments should also include agribusiness, with a particular emphasis on value addition, and be sourced from the domestic and international private sector. On a concluding note, he expressed gratitude for IFAD's assistance to Zambia, which announced its pledge of US\$86,000 to the Eighth Replenishment.
201. **Mr SIRELKHATIM** (Sudan) expressed gratitude to IFAD for its ongoing support for his country, where it had financed over 16 rural development projects, with particular focus on traditional rainfed agriculture, a sector on which over 70 per cent of its rural inhabitants relied and to which the country's agricultural revival programme also continued to devote attention. IFAD's introduction of microfinancing to the Sudan was another welcome initiative that was now a standard policy for the country's banks. IFAD had worked with the Sudanese Government on the sound management of its natural resources, thus enhancing their sustainability and helping to alleviate the effects of climate change. It had

- likewise worked with the Government for the empowerment of Sudanese women, who now actively participated in all social aspects of life and held senior political and administrative positions.
202. The Sudan had vast agricultural resources, some of which it used to ensure food security and fight hunger at the national level. Global hunger and poverty were steadily increasing, however, and he urged all international agencies to support the Sudan in deploying those resources effectively to help provide food security for the world's hungry. Indeed, the world should act as one in helping countries affected by natural and humanitarian disaster. In that context, he expressed sympathy with the people of Haiti in their efforts to overcome their ordeal of the earthquake. Having emerged from a succession of wars and drought periods, the Sudan also required international solidarity so that it could promote food security, both in the region and worldwide.
203. **Mr BORDA** (Paraguay), after joining previous speakers in expressing solidarity with Haiti, said that the democratic election of a new Government in Paraguay in August 2008 had generated in the people hopes of enhanced social justice and well-being in spite of the need to tackle a legacy of high levels of poverty and inequality and poor economic performance. The economic crisis and a prolonged drought in 2009 had had a severe effect on its largely agricultural population, causing GDP to decline by an estimated 3.8 per cent. Nevertheless, the country's macroeconomic situation was in balance. Paraguay had a great potential for agro-industrial development, but its rapid population growth, undiversified economy and reliance on capital- and land-intensive activities had resulted in the economic exclusion of small farmers. Farms of under 20 hectares, which made up 84 per cent of farm units, occupied only 4 per cent of the land, a situation which generated considerable conflict in the countryside.
204. The new Government's policy of growth with social inclusion would foster jobs creation and greater opportunities for the people hitherto excluded from economic growth, and promoted family agriculture and small and medium-sized enterprises. One of the main pillars of the Economic and Social Plan 2008-2013 was comprehensive agrarian reform and promotion of small farms in order to establish a more balanced agricultural structure, improve international competitiveness and diversify agricultural output. His Government looked forward to continuing support from IFAD and the international community at the present difficult stage of rural development and the fight against extreme rural poverty, and had pledged its contribution to the Eighth Replenishment.
205. **Mr DLAMINI** (Swaziland), having expressed condolences to the Government and people of Haiti, said he was confident that IFAD would continue to focus on the increasing challenges faced by small-scale farmers. The most pressing challenge was climate change, to which poor people were the most vulnerable: the rural poor depended on rainfed agriculture, and the urban poor were affected by increasing food prices resulting from poor harvests. In developing countries, it was becoming more difficult to forecast appropriate planting times, with resulting crop failure. Climate change also created an environment for pests and diseases, but small farmers could not afford proper management, resulting in decreased productivity and subsequent loss of revenue. Farmers had higher risks and lower or negative returns on their investments due to seasonal uncertainty, thus weakening their competitiveness and ability to trade. The combination of those factors had a negative effect on crop production, with resulting decreases in yield at both household and national level. The implication was persistent food insecurity.
206. His Government welcomed IFAD's programmes to support small farmers, which were crucial for helping them face the current challenges. The issue of climate change should also be addressed from the point of view of its impact on the trade competitiveness of small, landlocked developing countries, which were largely

dependent on agriculture. He advocated increased funding for agricultural research and development, to assist countries in obtaining techniques that would help them cope with the impact of climate change. He further invited IFAD to give closer consideration to the plight of small, landlocked developing countries when designing assistance programmes.

207. **Mr PUTRANTO** (Indonesia) said that, despite signs of recovery from the global economic crisis, the increasing price of fuel and the pending impact of climate change had delayed efforts in developing countries such as his own to achieve the MDGs and reduce poverty. Indonesia, though now considered a middle-income country, welcomed IFAD loans focusing on the poorest populations in food-vulnerable regions and other specific target groups. His delegation supported IFAD's plan to revise the lending policy and criteria, specifically in determining lending interest rates. The revision should, however, not only be based on gross national income per capita but also take into account the poverty rate and geographical disparity of countries, in line with its mandate to empower marginalized farmers.
208. IFAD had made significant contributions to revitalizing agriculture in Indonesia through 13 programmes and projects since 1980 totalling US\$333.5 million, with equivalent amounts mobilized in co-funding within the country. The development approach of the projects had become an example for community empowerment and agricultural development and had served as a model for a national programme to that effect. In view of IFAD's growing portfolio and its increased allocation for the Eighth Replenishment, his delegation proposed that IFAD establish a country presence in Indonesia. The Government had recently reformed its national procurement system to bring it into line with international best practice for competitiveness, fairness, transparency and good governance. He therefore encouraged IFAD to harmonize its project procurement policy in Indonesia with that of the Government. He hoped that IFAD would increase the proportion of the Fund's personnel from developing countries, with continued commitment to geographical diversity and gender empowerment.
209. **Mr BIN MOMEN** (Bangladesh) said that world poverty could not be reduced without improvements in smallholder agriculture, and his Government counted on United Nations agencies such as IFAD to continue to focus on the rural poor. The Government had given agriculture the highest priority, and, in spite of the recent food and economic crises, Bangladesh had continued to perform well, with a bumper rice crop in 2009. IFAD was currently supporting projects to introduce new technologies, improve access to markets, develop infrastructure, improve the access of poor people to resources and increase the economic opportunities of women. Those projects contributed to reducing poverty at both the national and the household level.
210. The Bangladesh Government's second poverty reduction strategy emphasized human resource development, infrastructure, governance and agriculture to foster economic growth, and it was optimistic that it would achieve the MDGs of halving extreme poverty and reducing infant and child mortality by 2015. Although the results achieved reflected an improved standard of living for the poor, population growth continued to pose a challenge. Bangladesh being a disaster-prone country that was vulnerable to the effects of climate change, he was encouraged that agencies such as IFAD were taking the issue seriously, with a research project on climate change adaptation in coastal zones and a proposed loan to build flood protection barriers and cyclone shelters in those areas. Bangladesh was an important borrower from IFAD, reflecting a strong, healthy and growing relationship with IFAD, sincere efforts on the part of his Government, well-performing projects and hard work by all stakeholders. He hoped to see IFAD play an even stronger role in the United Nations system under the current leadership.

211. **Mr BARIMANI** (Islamic Republic of Iran), after offering condolences to the Government and people of Haiti, expressed appreciation to IFAD for the work accomplished. His delegation supported the reform of the Committee on World Food Security, which would result in more effective and efficient cooperation among the international agencies concerned. He welcomed the internal reforms that had been announced by the President, including the corporate medium-term plan, the zero-based budget for 2011 and human resource reforms, which would improve the management of funds and make IFAD more efficient in responding to global challenges. He commended the Fund's operational achievements in 2009, with the increase in the programme of work, and looked forward to delivery of the programme over the coming three years. Nevertheless, every effort must be made to confront existing and new challenges.
212. Tangible solutions for combating the effects of climate change and food insecurity called for the active involvement and commitment of all countries. Welcoming the theme of the Governing Council session, he said that linking smallholder farmers to the private sector would be key to building the economies of developing countries, as smallholder farmers were the basis for transforming the agricultural system and bringing wealth and prosperity to rural areas. Development of the agricultural sector required investment and technical assistance, notably in terms of infrastructure, inputs, market linkages, information and capacity-building. The Islamic Republic of Iran provided technical assistance to developing countries through various projects and exchanges of experience in agricultural development, and he expressed his country's readiness to participate in IFAD projects.
213. **Mr ZIA-UR-RAHMAN** (Pakistan) said that, thanks partly to IFAD's efforts, food security and agricultural development had returned the top of the agenda in the search for solutions to today's challenges, resulting in a collective vision for policies and action plans to counter world poverty and hunger. A general consensus had also emerged concerning the need to ensure sustainable agricultural growth through smallholder-led production with safety nets for the poor and vulnerable. Pakistan was committed to focusing all possible efforts and resources on increased food production and access to food for all at affordable prices.
214. Agriculture played a vital role in Pakistan, which had created an enabling environment for farmers to adopt best agricultural practices and promoted profitability, leading to impressive growth and even an exportable surplus. The food security outlook had also improved substantially. Pakistan hoped to sustain those trends and to share its experience with other countries, as required. Plans were under way to mobilize domestic resources and collaborate with international development partners with a view to assisting vulnerable and marginalized households, including through a well-funded income support programme under which cash transfers for women were also authorized. Pakistan looked forward to further cooperation with IFAD, currently a partner in a programme for food security and crop maximization.
215. In conclusion, he said that the PBAS should take into account factors beyond human control that impinged on performance. Looking ahead to the future, IFAD's programme should also include capacity-building on marketability of commodities and raising awareness of climate change.
216. **Mr YADAV** (Nepal) said that agriculture played a crucial role in the socio-economic transformation of countries such as Nepal and that climate change, soaring food prices and food security for poor marginalized farmers were among the agricultural development challenges to be urgently addressed with a view to meeting growing population needs. Household food security and malnutrition also remained major concerns in rural areas; over one billion people were starving, a high proportion of them in South Asia.

217. Ranked sixteenth among countries with serious food security problems, Nepal faced an enormous task in providing food and an adequate and balanced diet for its population. IFAD's role in that context was therefore more crucial and relevant than ever to empowering poor farmers to overcome chronic poverty. To that end, a common, new approach that restored the regeneration capacity of nature and agriculture was essential to enabling poor farmers to seek lasting solutions to cope with and mitigate the impact of climate change and improve food security. Nepal was committed to the undertakings and decisions made at the high-level meetings held on those subjects in 2009 and had taken the lead in formulating a concrete plan and strategy designed to improve the nutrition and food security of its inhabitants. In recent years, IFAD support had helped to improve the livelihoods of its poor and marginalized farmers. Welcoming IFAD's decision to scale up that support and establish a country office in Nepal, he expressed the hope that the office would be upgraded to enhance its capacity for supporting and promoting mutual partnership for the reduction of poverty, hunger and malnutrition.
218. **The meeting rose at 7.15 p.m.**

- (iii) Summary record of the third meeting of the thirty-second session held on Thursday, 18 February 2010, at 9 a.m.

Chairperson: Gladys Francisca Urbaneja Durán
(Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela)

later: Clémentine Ananga Messina
(Cameroon)

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219. The meeting was called to order at 9.10 a.m.

GENERAL STATEMENTS (agenda item 5, continued)

220. **Mr MOUSSA** (Niger) welcomed the emphasis of the current session of the Governing Council on the concerns of smallholder farmers. The agricultural sector in his country was being modernized by the introduction of mechanization, provision of high-quality seed and fertilizer and irrigation. Tractors and other machinery were being made available to farmers at low cost. The provision of fertilizer was based on the strategy adopted at the African Fertilizer Summit held in Abuja in 2006. At a regional level, the Economic Community of West African States would be implementing a strategy to overcome the main problems in the fertilizer market, by improving the business environment and stimulating both demand and availability. The success of the strategy would rely on the effective involvement of Member States, the private sector and technical and financial partners. In Niger, a project had been set up to promote use of inputs by farmers' organizations.
221. Niger had made huge investments in irrigation over the past 10 years, building two dams and 52 "mini" dams, holding about 58 million cubic metres of water, and 69 spate irrigation weirs for groundwater recharge. Thousands of hectares of land had thus been provided with irrigation, resulting in a considerable increase in income, particularly for women, the creation of rural jobs, improved food security and ecological balance. Through those investments, Niger was meeting the African Union goal of allocating at least 10 per cent of its budget to the agricultural sector.
222. **Ms COUSIN** (United States) said that, at a time of renewed global attention to agriculture, IFAD had commendably become more dynamic and effective, by modernizing its operating methods and organizational structures and implementing human resources reform. The Fund faced the significant challenges of widespread hunger and vulnerability to volatile commodity prices, climate change or natural disasters, such as that which had occurred in Haiti. Following recent discussions on how best to ensure food security in Haiti in the medium and long term, countries and organizations had agreed to cooperate in a Haiti-led plan to restore the economy on the basis of improved agriculture. IFAD was ideally suited to lending support to that effort. She called on the Governors to relieve Haiti's debt to IFAD, bearing in mind IFAD's financial requirements and the options available. Her Government intended to work with partners worldwide to relieve Haiti's debts to other IFIs in a manner that provided direct, immediate grant support for Haiti's reconstruction and recovery, and urged others to join in that effort.
223. Her Government considered that food security was a moral imperative calling for a global response. It had committed itself to spending at least US\$3.5 billion over the next three years to support agricultural development, as was reflected in the Government's 2010 budget and 2011 budget request. That commitment, guided also by the five principles agreed upon at the L'Aquila Summit, would be fulfilled partly through the Global Agriculture and Food Security Programme, a multi-donor trust fund to be administered by the World Bank and implemented by IFIs such as IFAD. The fund would provide a flexible source of financing for country-led agricultural development plans, and through coordinated action, provide the reach and resources necessary to reduce the number of food-insecure people in the world. She encouraged Member States to follow her country's example of making a significant contribution to the fund.
224. **Mr PATTANAYAK** (India) expressed heartfelt condolences to the people of Haiti in their moment of crisis. India was proud to be associated with IFAD, to which it was the largest developing country contributor and with which it shared common objectives. He warned that the adverse impacts of the global financial crisis would linger for many years, with severe consequences, particularly among countries in sub-Saharan Africa and other developing countries, for economic growth, investment in education, health and infrastructure, the fight against poverty, and

timely achievement of the MDGs. If there were even a weak recovery, it would be unevenly distributed, with a continuing severe impact on poor and marginalized people. IFAD and other multilateral development banks should attempt to fill the gap to the extent possible.

225. He welcomed the recent visit of the President of IFAD and the Evaluation Committee to India. In the context of the India Country Programme Evaluation, the overall portfolio performance of India had been ranked as the highest in IFAD's history. His country planned to further improve its performance in partnership with IFAD and to prepare a more robust framework for the next country strategic opportunities programme. To date, IFAD projects had successfully addressed some of the most marginalized communities in difficult and remote geographical areas. The Government was now planning one or two large projects requiring sizeable funding rather than small projects with restricted coverage. That strategy, which had been recognized by IFAD as sound, would broaden the impact of the projects and prove their sustainability. His country had pledged US\$25 million to the Eighth Replenishment. Experience gained in managing projects financed by other multilateral agencies having shown that IFAD's local staff in India required capacity-building and greater expertise, IFAD's proposal to establish a country office in India was welcome.
226. **Mr SHIOYA** (Japan), after commending the increased efficiency and effectiveness achieved through results-based management and reform at IFAD, said that the world needed to invest more in promoting agricultural productivity and research. To that end, Japan had first of all increased its contribution to the Eighth Replenishment by 80 per cent, which also stood as testimony to its trust in the direction of IFAD's work. Secondly, it had called for a doubling of rice production in Africa and emphasized assistance for research and development under the Center for Agricultural and Rural Development, as announced at the Fourth Tokyo International Conference on African Development, in which regard it hoped for continued IFAD support. Thirdly, it advocated responsible international investment in agriculture with the overriding objective of creating a "win-win" situation for the recipient countries, local communities and investors. On that score, IFAD should continue to work together with other agencies to formulate agreed principles and translate them into tangible results.
227. IFAD was expected to continue to play an active role in the reformed Committee on World Food Security. In that context, it should seek partnership with other agencies, NGOs and private sector players, particularly in the field, on the basis of its comparative advantage. Japan attached great importance to human security as the basic concept of international cooperation aimed at building self potential. It therefore looked forward to further partnership between IFAD and the Japan International Cooperation Agency.
228. **Mr ALHASSANE** (Mali) expressed his people's solidarity with Haiti. Regarding the theme of the interactive dialogue held during the current session, it very appropriately highlighted the need to resolve the discrepancy between the adoption and the implementation of summit resolutions so clearly manifested in the steady increase in the number of food-insecure persons to one billion in 2009. In order to address that situation, the international community must work together in mobilizing the resources needed to strengthen the capacities of IFAD, FAO and WFP for implementing agricultural programmes in favour of small farmers in particular. It should also secure its own capacities for predicting and containing natural disasters, as well as conflicts that undermined development and the prospects of escape from poverty.
229. Mali aimed to develop a productive and competitive agricultural sector from its smallholder farming base. To that end, it had elaborated a national plan for investment in that sector, focusing inter alia on improved productivity, wider

technology deployment, irrigation and hydro-agricultural planning, environmentally-friendly practices and coherent land-use planning. The plan not only laid the groundwork for more consistent and efficient governance of food security but also constituted a fitting response to the main limitations on agriculture in Mali. He therefore urged international assistance, including from IFAD, for its implementation. Lastly, he welcomed the progress achieved in implementing IFAD's Action Plan and the effectiveness of the performance-based allocation system. He also looked forward to IFAD's continued financing of projects in favour of Mali's rural poor, women and young people.

230. **Mr PARK** (Republic of Korea) said that his country, a founding member of IFAD, would continue its unsparing support for the Fund's mission of eliminating rural poverty and hunger, both of which had been exacerbated by the financial crisis and the ensuing global economic downturn. The food security outlook was also more precarious than ever on account of such new challenges as climate change, deforestation, groundwater depletion and soil loss. A recent sense of urgency had, however, served as a catalyst for strengthening international coordination and governance for food security through the global commitments made to fight hunger and accelerate agricultural development. On that score, the enhanced collaboration among IFAD, FAO and WFP was encouraging in that it would bring their combined strengths to bear. IFAD should, for its part, focus on its core mandate and direct and align its increased resources to priority areas, which demanded more financial efficiency and also human resources reform. It should furthermore fully integrate climate change adaptation and mitigation into its operating model in a robust manner.
231. His country had overcome its own food shortage problems of the 1950s and 1960s by initiating a development plan later supported by the international community, the lesson of which was that international assistance for food security was more successful in combination with a country-led strategy. As part of its effort to share its experience of agricultural development in the interest of improving food security for the poor, it was to co-host a symposium with IFAD in 2010 on food security in small-scale farming countries. The symposium would also address responses to new challenges facing global agriculture, including climate change. Lastly, he said that the Republic of Korea planned to earmark 150,000 tons of rice for the emergency stockpiling system in Asia and had also pledged a twofold increase in its contribution to IFAD's Eighth Replenishment.
232. **Mr DÍAZ MARROQUÍN** (Guatemala) said that Guatemala was at an important stage in its rural development and was developing a strategy to improve the livelihoods of the rural population, including the rationalization of public spending on agriculture. At the United Nations Climate Change Conference in Copenhagen, Guatemala had been declared the world's fourth most vulnerable country in terms of environmental vulnerability. The Government was developing strategies to tackle environmental problems along with those of rural development.
233. Guatemala was grateful to IFAD for its assistance; there were eight projects, with four finalized and two under way; the others were still being studied by the Government. Attention was focused on the country's "dry corridor", where 150,000 families had to be fed. IFAD was doing much to help, and other international organizations were being urged to support the Government's efforts to tackle what was a very difficult situation. The Ministry of Agriculture was seeking to establish radically new approaches to the problems of environmental vulnerability and climate change, with a view to securing sustainable food security. In the area of foreign trade, Guatemala was trying to keep up with the other Central American countries and increase its competitiveness in the context of the North American Free Trade Agreement.

234. **Mr FLUSS** (Israel) conveyed Israel's sympathy to the people and Government of Haiti. His country had sent prompt assistance and was planning a second phase of support. The global financial crisis was a devastating addition to the food, energy and climate change crises. IFAD should join forces with others in facing current challenges and fulfilling its mandate: the increasing coordination among the Rome-based agencies should serve as a model for partnerships with other United Nations bodies, IFIs, governments, the private sector and civil society. IFAD should focus on simple, efficient technologies, policies and good practices to support smallholder farmers, in particular women.
235. As the theme of the session suggested, now was the time to implement international commitments. The means for doing so were at hand. Israel, through its agency for international cooperation, had shared its know-how and experience with developing countries for the past 52 years. Its programmes and partnerships addressed the challenges of food insecurity, climate change, environmental degradation, desertification and lack of water; rural development and capacity-building were high on its agenda. Israel had always invested in agriculture and was working with partners on simple irrigation technologies, strategies and models to help smallholder farmers adapt to climate change, mainly in Africa. In December 2009, the United Nations General Assembly had adopted for the second time an Israeli-initiated resolution on agricultural technology for development, to support research and development for increasing agricultural productivity and food security in poor rural areas, focusing on smallholder farmers and women. His country was proposing to establish and host an international centre of excellence, serving mainly the Middle East and Africa, for capacity-building and training in the mitigation of climate change, including agriculture, water management, desertification and forestation.
236. **Mr FLETCHER** (Grenada) commented that the session was taking place at a time when the world was still recovering from the aftershocks of the triple oil, food and financial crises. His delegation thanked IFAD for providing much needed assistance to the Grenada Rural Enterprise Project, aimed at building social capital and rural infrastructure. The success of the project had laid the basis for a second phase, which his delegation hoped would find favour with the Executive Board. The latest *Annual Report on Results and Impact of IFAD's Operations* and the *Report on IFAD's Development Effectiveness* demonstrated the increasing impact of IFAD-supported agricultural development and rural poverty reduction projects and showed that the Fund's performance was equal to and in many cases greater than that of other organizations. His delegation supported IFAD's move to integrate the administrative budget and Programme Development Financing Facility into one transparent, results-oriented instrument, and the emphasis on greater transparency, an increased country presence and results-based budgeting. The larger volume of the Eighth Replenishment was welcome. Grenada reaffirmed its commitment to work with IFAD.
237. The agricultural sector was the mainstay of Grenada's economy, as the majority of people relied on agriculture for income and food, with about 62 per cent living in rural areas. Recent survey findings showing increased levels of poverty and unemployment reflected the combined effects of the global food crisis, the financial and economic crisis and Hurricane Ivan in 2004 on the economy. Despite those challenges, the Government remained committed to agricultural development as the most important means of improving rural livelihoods. The national agricultural policy on modernizing the agricultural sector included measures to promote food security, improve contract farming and resuscitate the nutmeg industry. The Government of Grenada sought the continuing support of IFAD in helping its poor rural population.
238. Mr BAAH (Ghana) drew attention to IFAD's role in addressing the numerous challenges faced by developing countries, and in particular smallholder farmers, in

- meeting their basic needs. Recent global events had had negative impacts on developing countries, and rural dwellers and smallholder farmers in particular, who had not yet recovered from the shocks of the past two years. The recent earthquake in Haiti had further exposed the fragility of the infrastructure in most developing countries and the weaknesses of their economies. His delegation expressed its deepest condolences to the Government and people of Haiti.
239. Acknowledging the support that IFAD gave to developing countries to improve the livelihoods of rural dwellers, he appealed to IFAD's development partners to increase their support so that IFAD could step up its programme for poverty alleviation. IFAD's commendable action in Ghana over the years had led to the provision of rural infrastructure, credit and financial services, built the capacity of farmer groups and promoted the development of small-scale non-agricultural enterprises for alternative livelihoods. The Government of Ghana supported the establishment of an IFAD office in the country, which would not only enhance the existing relationship between Ghana and the Fund, but would allow more effective collaboration in the fight against poverty and hunger. Ghana was committed to strengthening its relationship with IFAD in support of the Fund's mandate.
240. The meeting was suspended at 10.10 a.m. to allow delegates' participation in the four side events being held simultaneously, and resumed at 12.10 p.m.
241. **Mr MOKOMA** (Lesotho) said that he welcomed the cooperation among the three Rome-based United Nations agencies and their emphasis on the empowerment of smallholders with a view to sustaining successful food production at the global level. Indeed, the importance of support for initiatives that addressed such serious challenges as efficient and sustainable production methods and adaptation to climate change was now well recognized. The effects of climate change were wreaking havoc on Lesotho's already fragile food producing sector. A national adaptation programme of action had therefore been instituted in order to tackle the challenge thus posed to agricultural development as a result of the heightened risk of hunger and poverty, not to mention the obstacle to achievement of the commitments set forth in the World Food Summit Plan of Action of 1996 and of MDG1.
242. The statistics contained in a recent report by the Lesotho Vulnerability Assessment Committee indicated the need for more resources to boost agricultural production and investment in non-farm ventures for the purpose of food security. Although mired in its own financial crisis, Lesotho nevertheless intended to increase investment in its agriculture sector and ultimately to meet its commitments under the Maputo Declaration. It sought to attract competitive investors to that sector through measures that included a review of its land tenure system and trade regime and the adoption of a value chain approach in which the importance of smallholders was recognized. In that context, it welcomed the assistance received from IFAD and others for development and commercialization of the agricultural sector, as well as for the reduction of poverty, malnutrition, hunger and food shortage. He concluded by extending condolences on behalf of his Government to the people and Government of Haiti in their time of tumult.
243. **Ms SQUEFF** (Argentina) expressed condolences to the people and Government of Haiti. Argentina had responded swiftly after the earthquake and would continue to help, as required by the Haitian Government.
244. In recent years Argentina had resumed its progress along a path of growth with equity. The Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries' agro-food plan for 2010-2016 gave due weight to the development of family farms: the Department for Family Farms and Rural Development had been elevated to the rank of Secretariat of State with a budget that had tripled in size in under two years. Collaboration between IFAD and Argentina had been proceeding well, and regionally MERCOSUR had been working to strengthen public policies on family farms.

245. Latin America and the Caribbean had countries with serious problems of food insecurity and countries which wished to resume their relationship with IFAD. The Fund should give greater attention to the region. That did not mean just reviewing the PBAS but recognizing the region's diversity, implementing a policy for middle-income countries, promoting South-South cooperation, enhancing its country presence, and recruiting personnel from the region. Marginalized urban poverty was also caused by rural poverty. IFAD should produce specific programmes to enable migrants to return home with fair prospects of personal and social development.
246. The Farmers' Forum's conclusions and thematic papers should become working documents of the Board and be reflected in the Fund's programmes. The reform of the Committee on World Food Security should be pursued in order to ensure that it produced results. While proven approaches should remain central to IFAD's work, there was always a need to create new tools.
247. Mr CATARINA MAMANI (Plurinational State of Bolivia) affirmed Bolivia's solidarity with Haiti. With other countries of the region it had contributed to the provision of US\$200 million in aid. It was important not to impose aid on Haiti but to respect its Government's national plans.
248. All the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean supported the President of IFAD and his colleagues in their efforts to reform the Fund and provide direct assistance to the poorest countries. They also welcomed the new projects established in their region. A country such as Bolivia, which was in transition, needed to change its ideological vision and learn how to integrate the support of multilateral organizations into its national policies and programmes. The country's official name had been changed to Plurinational State of Bolivia because it was home to some 26 indigenous peoples. The new paradigm, based on self-determination and complementarity, had produced a budget surplus for the first time in 36 years. The aim was to create a fully sovereign country living in harmony with nature and to achieve economic growth, by means inter alia of supporting small farmers. Bolivia had escaped the current world food crisis as a result of its new approach. The Government had also installed a social safety net, including education and food vouchers. It recognized the need to address the fundamental issues. Poor rural people had not caused the food crisis or the financial crisis, and climate change was not their fault. Those problems were in fact often the result of the development model itself.
249. Mr DIDI (Maldives) said that his country and its highly vulnerable rural farming and fishing communities in particular had been adversely affected by the global recession and economic crisis, not to mention the harsh realities of climate change. The Maldives Government had therefore established priorities and programmes to improve the livelihoods of those communities, improve land access and promote private investment with a view to addressing essential needs, empowering fishers and farmers, improving their food security and enhancing access to basic services. IFAD had been a major development partner in those efforts.
250. The theme of the current session was close to the heart of Maldives, one of the world's most environmentally vulnerable countries. Climate change continued to overshadow its development efforts; unusual weather patterns had variously affected both fishing and farming, causing further desolation to farmer families. His Government was highly proactive in bringing such issues to international attention, having initiated major energy efficiency programmes and declared the goal of achieving carbon neutrality by 2020. Collective action, commitment, ingenuity and careful utilization of meagre resources were fundamental to survival. The Maldives development strategy was pro-poor and sought to strengthen the institutional framework for agriculture and fisheries development. In addition to exploring niche markets for added value, it was reviewing and harmonizing legislation and streamlining procedures in order to improve efficiency and transparency. He

thanked IFAD for its commitment, vision and ongoing support of those efforts to enhance food security and alleviate poverty.

251. Mr MARGHI (Morocco) said that the choice of discussion topics for the current session affirmed the importance of the agricultural sector and IFAD's concern to address the challenges produced by the global economic crisis and impacts of climate change. IFAD must accordingly redouble its efforts to intensify coordination and consultation with all international, regional and subregional development partners, as well as strengthen integrated rural development and cooperation programmes. It should also endeavour to pre-empt and manage any potential crises.
252. Morocco had made significant progress towards achieving food security by developing farming productivity, opening up to the global economy and improving rural living standards. Farmers' incomes had also risen as a result of development and scientific research programmes, stronger trade and training measures. Morocco's newly adopted Green Plan was designed to build on those achievements by, inter alia, modernizing farming, ensuring its competitiveness and improving technical, financial and organizational capacities, thereby boosting productivity and in turn promoting poverty eradication and food security. He expressed gratitude to IFAD for its support of the Green Plan, which was fully consistent with IFAD's aims, particularly with regard to poor and economically marginalized mountainous and pastoral regions. Cooperation with IFAD was also ongoing under Morocco's COSOP for 2009 to 2014 and in the context of a memorandum of understanding signed in 2009. Such cooperation for agricultural development was an essential priority in today's global circumstances and was highly appreciated.
253. **Mr FERRERO COSTA** (Peru) said that Peru shared with IFAD a commitment to combating rural poverty. It had been implementing effective policies to reduce extreme poverty in the country's depressed regions and was seeking to secure the social inclusion of all marginalized people.
254. The approval of the PBAS in December 2003 and the criteria followed for resource allocation had made it possible for countries to be allocated resources in line with their specific needs. However, the PBAS needed to be adapted to the new realities: for example, the definition of "rural" should be expanded to cover people who migrated to the towns but engaged in agricultural activities there. Peru therefore supported the work of the working group in analysing new indicators to correct distortions that might occur in PBAS application.
255. IFAD had been working in Peru since 1980 and had granted project loans totalling US\$115 million. It was currently supporting a project to strengthen markets, diversify incomes and improve living conditions, which would benefit 120,000 extremely poor families, and a development project targeted on rural communities and organizations. Under both those projects Peru was regarded as a model recipient country in terms of targeted impact, managerial efficiency, suitability and optimum resource use. In conclusion, Peru affirmed its solidarity with Haiti; it was sure that IFAD would contribute to the reconstruction work.
256. **Mr CHEN CHARPENTIER** (Mexico), speaking on behalf of the Group of Latin American and Caribbean Countries (GRULAC), said that the Group's dialogue with IFAD had strengthened its view of the Fund as a fundamental ally for rural development and as a partner willing to learn about the diversity of local situations from the people who knew them best. The negotiations on the regularization of the situation of Cuba and reactivation of its portfolio offered a good example of that spirit, as did IFAD's response to the disaster in Haiti. GRULAC supported the Fund's proposals and trusted that the Governing Council would do likewise, particularly concerning Haiti's debt to the Fund.

257. The rehabilitation of the farming sector was indeed the sole sustainable means of securing Haiti's recovery. IFAD's commitment to investing resources in 2010 to accelerate the implementation of existing projects was particularly welcome. Donors were invited to cofinance and help implement those projects. Haiti's farming sector could not develop unless the people had access to sources of food and incomes. Collaboration and coordination among United Nations and other agencies was crucial. The extension of the IFAD-FAO programme for the distribution of seeds and tools would be welcome, provided that the Haitian Government requested it. That was the central point: the reconstruction and development plans must be determined by the people and Government of Haiti, and it was the duty of the international community to help ensure that their efforts were successful. The GRULAC countries were availing Haiti of resources, experience and knowledge. In that respect the Dominican Republic deserved special mention, not least for acknowledging that its own development was closely linked to that of Haiti. Consideration must be given to the impact of the rural development projects on both countries.
258. IFAD must be accorded the necessary flexibility to undertake new projects and boost existing ones. The GRULAC countries also considered it essential for project plans to address environmental questions, including the peripheral ecosystems which supported agriculture. They were worried in particular about the drought affecting part of the region: IFAD should use both its own experience and the skills of other international institutions to improve the management of water resources; in the end, local food production was the best means of guaranteeing food security. GRULAC again stressed the need to revise the PBAS. Furthermore, the time had come for the region's technical capabilities to be reflected in the composition of the Fund's staff, chiefly at the middle and senior management levels.
259. **Mr CALVO** (Spain) said that his Government wished to consolidate its excellent relationship with IFAD by signing a strategic agreement of association with the Fund in the context of Spain's Master Plan for 2009-2012, a central element of which was the planning of development cooperation. The new relationship would accord special attention to alignment with the Fund's strategies, improved planning and predictability of Spanish assistance, systems for tracking and evaluating contributions, and a communication strategy which would include accountability and the relationship's visibility. Food security was one of the development priorities of Spain's Presidency of the European Union, and Spain had announced at the recent Madrid High-Level Meeting on Food Security for All a contribution of 1 billion euros over the next five years to combat hunger under the commitment entered into at the L'Aquila Summit. Furthermore, on 12 February 2010 the Government had approved a contribution of 150,000 euros to the Global Donor Platform for Rural Development.
260. Spain added its voice to the expression of condolences to Haiti. Haitians' difficulty in obtaining food called for effective action by the international community. IFAD was to be commended for its prompt response, in particular the dispatch of an FAO-IFAD mission to the Dominican Republic to assess the impact of the earthquake. The Financing Facility for Remittances offered one means of restoring the situation in Haiti to normal; Spain had contributed 2 million euros to the Facility in 2009.
261. Spain shared IFAD's commitment to the attainment of the MDGs as one of the most important means of fighting poverty and underdevelopment. Efforts to achieve sustainable development must be governed by the principle of country ownership and national leadership. Donors and the United Nations development system must adopt a united front, in particular by avoiding duplication and rendering local management more effective; the "Delivering as One" initiative was most important in that regard.

262. **Mr DAUDI** (Malawi) said that his Government had donated 200 tons of rice as a mark of its solidarity with the people of Haiti, to whom he extended deepest condolences.
263. IFAD had provided Malawi with over US\$109 million under nine rural development programmes, resulting in considerable gains in poverty eradication, especially through the small-scale irrigation programmes. Malawi's experience was that poverty and hunger could be eradicated; it had enjoyed food security since 2005, following action by the Government to improve farmers' access to inputs under a farm input subsidy programme. The country's President, recently elected Chairperson of the African Union, had urged African governments to eradicate hunger within five years. IFAD should focus its investment in Africa on the proposal of Malawi's President for a green belt initiative to harness the continent's abundant water resources, and should use targeted input subsidies to help vulnerable farmers. Small farmers in general would benefit from intensified extension and technology development programmes.
264. IFAD was urged to invest in insurance schemes covering damage to crops caused by bad weather as a means of mitigating the effects of climate change. Malawi was itself already pioneering such schemes for a second season. All the African Member States of IFAD were urged to increase their investment in agriculture to above 10 per cent of their national budgets; Malawi's 2010 appropriation for agriculture represented 14 per cent of the national budget.
265. **Mr NIKORA** (Kiribati) said that small and vulnerable countries were recovering only slowly from the global financial crisis, but Kiribati had been able, thanks to IFAD's support, to extend the activities of its centre of excellence and mainstreaming of rural development programmes further out into rural areas. IFAD's development partners were likewise to be thanked for their support. Much more could, however, be done in terms of making a positive impact on the lives of rural dwellers. Kiribati's very existence was under serious threat from rising sea levels and it was constantly urging larger countries to reduce their activities which were causing climate change. The quality of the country's soil made agriculture difficult, and there was a constant risk of causing further damage to its fragile environment by injudicious use of chemical fertilizers and pesticides. Sustainable agriculture based on organic farming and traditional skills was encouraged.
266. The country was heavily dependent on imported food and needed to exploit its fruit and other crops in season, when harvests were abundant. However, the pilot phase of the fruit processing project had ended, and the start of the marketing stage depended on the receipt of further funds and technical assistance. An IFAD team had visited Kiribati in 2009. His Government was hopeful of obtaining the Fund's support for the continuation of the fruit processing project and for a major programme to replant fruit trees and root crops which the Government had endorsed.
267. **Mr MOLEBATSI** (Botswana) said that Botswana had benefited greatly from IFAD's assistance, especially its soft loans for crop production. However, being heavily dependent on earnings from diamond mining, it had been badly affected by the global economic crisis. It needed to tackle the mammoth task of rapidly diversifying its economy, in particular its agricultural base. IFAD and international donors could certainly help in that regard, but Botswana suffered the disadvantage of being classified as a middle-income country despite its urgent need for assistance in combating the effects of the economic crisis.
268. Botswana would be grateful if IFAD could provide assistance in grant rather than loan form, especially in support of the country's National Development Plan 10, which addressed food security and poverty alleviation among other problems. There were certainly developing countries beset with greater difficulties than his own, but it should be remembered that Botswana was a semi-arid country and prone to

drought, erratic rainfall and heat waves, all of which adversely affected its farm output. In conclusion, he reaffirmed Botswana's commitment to empowering the poor and overcoming poverty.

269. **Ms Ananga Messina** (Republic of Cameroon) took the Chair.

CLOSURE OF THE SESSION

270. **The CHAIRPERSON** made a closing statement, the full text of which is reproduced in chapter 4.

271. She declared the thirty-third session of the Governing Council closed.

272. The meeting rose at 1.50 p.m.

Chapter 3

B. Side event discussions

273. As a follow-up to a high-level Governing Council panel discussion on "From summit resolutions to farmers' fields: climate change, food security and smallholder agriculture", four thematic side events were held to provide an opportunity for multistakeholder dialogue. They were also intended to be a source of new ideas and proposals for IFAD.
274. A common thread to these side events were the issues and options for replicating and scaling up project level achievements or policy gains, taking into account opportunities and challenges.
275. Issues to be considered included: (a) "drivers", such as innovative ideas, vision and leadership, champions and catalysts, incentives and accountability; and (b) "space to grow", for example in the context of fiscal and financial resources, policies and institutions, partnerships and learning.
276. The four side events held were:
- (a) Side event 1 – Natural resource management in sub-Saharan Africa: successes, challenges and future directions;
 - (b) Side event 2 – The role of smallholder agriculture and family farming in Asia and Latin America and options for South-South cooperation;
 - (c) Side event 3 – Adapting management of water resources to climate change in the Near East, North Africa and Central and Eastern Europe; and
 - (d) Side event 4 – The Rural Poverty Report 2010 – highlights and feedback on work in progress.
277. Furthermore, in response to the earthquake in Haiti, a side event was held entitled "Update on IFAD's response to the Haiti earthquake and coordinated efforts for rehabilitation of agricultural areas".

Natural resource management in sub-Saharan Africa: successes, challenges and future directions

Gestion des ressources naturelles en Afrique subsaharienne: succès, enjeux et perspectives



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Mr Alex Puissant,
TV journalist and independent
conference moderator



The Honourable
Stephen Masato Wasira,
Minister for Agriculture,
Food Security and
Cooperatives, United
Republic of Tanzania



His Excellency Laurent
Sédogo, Minister of
Agriculture, Water
and Fisheries,
Burkina Faso



Dr Youba Sokona,
Executive Secretary,
Sahara and Sahel
Observatory (OSS)



Mr Philip Kiriro,
President, Eastern Africa
Farmers' Federation



Ms Mary Allen Ballo,
Executive Secretary,
Sahel Eco (NGO
based in Mali)



Dr Chris Reij,
Senior Adviser, Natural
resource management,
Vrije Universiteit
Amsterdam

Side event 1: Natural resource management in sub-Saharan Africa: successes, challenges and future directions

278. There is a close link between environmental degradation and rural poverty. Desertification, water pollution, environmentally related conflicts, climate change and loss of biodiversity all present major challenges, especially to poor rural people, many of whom depend on natural resources for their livelihoods. Land degradation and dwindling water resources have resulted in Africa's soils being the most depleted in the world. In parts of the continent, extreme population pressure and poor land management practices have led to permanent loss of soil fertility.
279. In sub-Saharan Africa, IFAD supports responsible agricultural growth balanced with enhanced livelihood opportunities. It does this by supporting sustainable natural resource management and collective action for environmental sustainability. IFAD's experience shows that secure access to natural resources, especially land and water, and the technologies to exploit them in an effective and sustainable manner, coupled with strong policies and institutional frameworks, are essential to poverty reduction.
280. Several IFAD-supported projects have been successful in scaling up good practices and recovering marginal land and ecosystems. These include rangeland management in Eritrea and Rwanda, improved land husbandry and crop production in Ethiopia, and soil fertility management and improvement in The Gambia and Malawi. Other successful examples include the traditional soil conservation practice of managing rainfall in the Niger (known as *tassa*), the use of planting pits in Burkina Faso, and the use of anti-erosion measures and rehabilitation of natural tree plantations in Senegal.
281. The joint panel discussion organized by IFAD's Western and Central Africa Division and Eastern and Southern Africa Division provided an opportunity to showcase what works and why, allowing for an exchange of views on the way ahead for future IFAD activity.
282. The issues that guided the side event discussions were:
- (a) How much progress has Africa made with respect to natural resource management?
 - (b) The central role of secure land tenure in natural resource management;
 - (c) The complexity of natural resource management; and
 - (d) The need for alternative sources of energy to be part of the response.
283. The outcomes of the deliberations were:
- (a) Widespread recognition that responsible stewardship of natural resources is a pre-condition for increased agricultural productivity and farmer revenue;
 - (b) Solutions are multiple and complex. They are within the grasp of stakeholders but need to be deployed in a concerted and coordinated manner. Improving the natural resource base requires a long-term commitment by all concerned;
 - (c) There is much more success in Africa than is known to the public and there is a need to identify, analyse and scale up what has worked;
 - (d) The root causes of poverty need to be addressed, if success in sustaining our natural resource base is to be achieved;
 - (e) We have come far but there is still far to go. Success can be achieved with concerted help from our partners;
 - (f) Farmers are investing in sustainable land management. They need to be listened to and supported by sound policies.

- (g) We are facing a complex problem and it is essential that we build up our institutional governance systems.
- (h) Farmer education is the key to managing natural resources and achieving food security.

Smallholder farming: the key to food security

Agricultura en pequeña escala: la clave para la seguridad alimentaria



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oportunidad de salir de la pobreza

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Ms Josefina Stubbs,
Director, Latin America
and the Caribbean
Division, IFAD



Mr Thomas Elhaut,
Director, Asia and
the Pacific Division,
IFAD



Her Excellency Thenjiwe
Ethel Mtintso,
Ambassador of the
Republic of South Africa
to Italy



Mr Zheng Xiaosong,
Director-General,
International Department,
Ministry of Finance, China,
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Mr Laudemir Müller,
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Minister of Agrarian
Development,
Chief of International
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Professor Abhijit Sen,
Member, Planning
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Mr Ganesh Thapa,
Regional Economist, Asia
and the Pacific Division,
IFAD



Ms Susana Marquez,
Ministry of
Agriculture, Livestock
and Fisheries,
Argentina



Mr Carlos Mermot,
Operations Manager, IFAD
REAF regional programme

Side event 2 – The role of smallholder agriculture and family farming in Asia and Latin America and options for South-South cooperation

284. About 87 per cent of the world's small farms are in the Asia and the Pacific region. In Latin America, small-scale (or family) farms produce most of the staple foods. The contribution of such farms to national food security is crucial (at least 70 per cent in Brazil, for example). But these economies are rapidly changing, affecting the livelihoods of smallholders and the people they are trying to feed.
285. Rapid economic and income growth, urbanization and globalization are leading to a significant shift in diets. The 2007/2008 rise in food prices was accompanied by a rapid expansion of land concentration and agro-industrial production in several countries in the region. This had direct consequences for land availability for small-scale farmers and the long-term sustainability of land use for agriculture. It has also led to increased migration to urban slums, and the expansion of agriculture into forest reserves. While some smallholders were able to benefit from new market opportunities, institutional innovations and higher food prices, many remain deprived of access to markets and find it difficult to adapt to new challenges.
286. There is growing recognition that any initiative that aims to successfully tackle the food security crisis must make long-term support to smallholder agriculture a central element. This means working together to enhance agricultural production and productivity, and enabling smallholders to benefit from new opportunities while adapting to climate change and price volatility through differentiated public policies. Given that small-scale agriculture can play a key role in feeding the world in a sustainable way, there is a need for investments in improved technologies, applied research targeting this agricultural subsector, technical services, and specific capacity-building to improve the quality and productivity of small-scale agriculture while preserving the environment.
287. The joint event organized by IFAD's Asia and the Pacific Division and Latin America and the Caribbean Division provided a platform for discussing experiences with smallholder agriculture and family farming; the nature and structure of public policies and programmes, and how IFAD can better promote and support them; opportunities and challenges for scaling up what works; and options for cooperation between the two regions, and also with Africa.
288. The issues that guided the side event discussions were:
- (a) The current economic and food security context, including:
 - (i) Different measures being taken in countries to improve agricultural productivity, modernize and commercialize agriculture and increase its competitiveness and value added;
 - (ii) The move in attention from low-value agriculture for local markets to high-value agriculture for national and world markets, and the difficulties entailed;
 - (iii) Rapid socio-economic transformation of agriculture, especially in middle-income countries with migration and growing inequality;
 - (iv) The importance of food security, energy security and poverty reduction; and
 - (v) The risks and vulnerability to climate change faced by smallholder farmers.
 - (b) Specificities of smallholder and family farms in Asia and Latin America.
289. The discussion identified a number of opportunities and challenges, as well as enabling measures such as:

- (a) Setting smallholder and family farming as political priorities, with appropriate policies and increased resources directed to agriculture;
 - (b) Implementing rural employment guarantee schemes;
 - (c) Reviewing rural tax regimes;
 - (d) Creating a conducive economic environment with market reforms to facilitate trade;
 - (e) Investing in public goods to develop technologies that can increase the potential production of smallholders;
 - (f) Improving infrastructure;
 - (g) Emphasizing education and social development in rural areas;
 - (h) Developing policies to create equal opportunities for women;
 - (i) Ensuring financial services where the financial sector fails; and
 - (j) Promoting institutional innovation and contract enforcement, employment/income generation, structural modifications, differentiated policies and bringing IT to rural areas.
290. On the question of South-South cooperation, the discussion stressed the importance of forging regional cooperation based on trust and ensuring the sustainability of the processes on which cooperation is based.
291. With regard to IFAD instruments, the discussion recommended that IFAD:
- (a) Undertake to look at instruments other than loans to develop a model for smallholder and family farming;
 - (b) Help develop policies/approaches that will encourage the private sector to invest in agriculture;
 - (c) Launch the idea of organizing South-south learning events related to smallholder agriculture and its rapid transformation, in order to enhance South-South cooperation on these strategic issues, and invite countries to co-host these events; and
 - (d) Facilitate a policy dialogue on how different countries design their policies.
292. In conclusion, the following actions were recommended in the short term:
- (a) Participate in Conference on the Dynamics of Rural Transformation in Emerging Economies, 14-16 April 2010, in India;
 - (b) Hold event to present and discuss case studies on family agriculture for Brazil, China, India and South Africa, in Brazil in September 2010; and
 - (c) Organize a session on South-South cooperation during the Annual Performance Review Workshop of the Asia and the Pacific Division, 1-5 November 2010.

Adapting management of water resources to climate change in the Near East, North Africa and Central and Eastern Europe

تكييف إدارة الموارد المائية مع التغير المناخي في الشرق الأدنى وشمال إفريقيا وأوروبا الوسطى والشرقية



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Mr Nadim Khouri,
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Side event 3 – Adapting management of water resources to climate change in the Near East, North Africa and Central and Eastern Europe

293. The Near East and North Africa, and the Central and Eastern Europe and Commonwealth of Independent States regions are facing ever harsher climatic conditions and weather extremes – from severe drought to devastating flash floods – with an expected loss of lowlands to rising sea levels as a result of global warming. Agriculture and food production are among the worst affected sectors.
294. In the two regions, IFAD endeavours to help small-scale farmers and poor rural communities develop their own adaptation strategies and capacities to reduce the impact of changing climatic conditions on their livelihoods. With its integrated approach to natural resource management, IFAD implements water-related interventions that are often linked to the management and governance of initiatives aimed at building up or restoring the natural asset base. Therefore, its investment in agricultural water management that is adapted to climate change focuses on financing smallholder irrigation. This includes a large variety of activities related to soil and water conservation, watershed management, rainwater harvesting, water for livestock, inland fisheries and aquaculture activities. As a result, IFAD has accumulated experience and has significant expertise in developing innovative farming activities to help poor rural communities adapt to climate change. These have the potential to be scaled up.
295. This side event, organized by the Near East and North Africa Division, brought together a panel of experts to lead a discussion on these issues with Governors and delegates from the two regions, representatives of partner institutions and NGOs, farmers' organizations and mass media reporters. It provided an opportunity to illustrate the effects of climate change on natural resources, the agrifood sector and the economies of the two regions. Selected country cases were provided as examples of IFAD's efforts to enhance its engagement in country-led processes, building on project-level policy gains and field achievements, with a view to scaling them up. Issues related to the development of enabling policy frameworks for accelerated adaptation strategies at the country and regional levels were tackled.
296. This side event also provided an opportunity for an exchange of views on what the relevant declarations of the L'Aquila, Rome and Copenhagen summits mean for the two regions. In this context, IFAD's experiences, achievements and lessons learned were reviewed, together with its country-level engagement, which is characterized by a country programme approach involving project design, supervision and implementation support, policy dialogue and knowledge management.
297. The discussions focused on water management, water scarcity and climate change, and highlighted the need for effective adaptation strategies and interventions. In particular, the following points were emphasized:
- (a) Currently available technologies are not always adequate to address climate change problems; new technologies are needed. Adaptation is the key to responding to climate change. However, it must be noted that adaptation solutions based on experience may not be effective against the new challenges posed by climate change.
 - (b) Water dams are probably an ineffective response; they could make poor people even poorer. Dams are already creating problems in water sharing among riparian countries. However, there are other options available, such as solar energy, which can produce cheaper electricity and help support rural livelihoods.

- (c) It is important to build on indigenous knowledge and experience in coping with water scarcity, for example by studying how traditional water harvesting techniques can be modified and applied to resolve current problems.
- (d) It is not economically feasible to use desalinated water for irrigation. This could be addressed in two complementary ways: use of solar energy to reduce the cost of desalination, and more research to develop salt-tolerant crop varieties.
- (e) Careful spatial planning is needed for adaptation and mitigation measures in areas affected by rising sea water levels.
- (f) It is essential to make farmers aware of the effects of climate change. Equally important is investment in scientific research to find new processes and solutions to cope with climate change.
- (g) There are problems associated with water allocation among different uses; priority should be given to human consumption.
- (h) Technologies are already available for increasing food production despite climate change. The following elements are needed:
 - (i) More effective dissemination of the technologies to farmers, and more public and private investment;
 - (ii) More rational policies for water pricing and valuation;
 - (iii) Better basin-level management to share water more equitably among riparian countries; and
 - (iv) Efficient and equitable cost-recovery systems for water use, and adoption of a holistic approach to address water problems.
- (i) As water is a collective property, technology alone is not sufficient. An enabling policy environment is equally important. This is particularly true for dealing with the problem of non-sustainable use of shallow groundwater.
- (j) Climate change can be addressed, and food security enhanced, by combining mitigation, adaptation and production systems resilience, with priority in developing countries given to the latter two. Conservation agriculture (zero tillage) is an important option in this regard.
- (k) Marginal water sources can be used, after proper treatment and full attention to health and environmental implications, to increase the total water budget.

298. Key recommendations emerging from the deliberations were:

- (a) Support innovative approaches to reduce the vulnerability of poor rural communities to climate change.
- (b) Better link research and development investments and policies on climate change, rural development, agriculture and food security.
- (c) Enhance the productive and adaptive capacities of rural communities to climate change by enhancing their access to risk-reducing technologies, supported by enabling policies. Safety net measures must be widely promoted by development investments and government policies: they are more cost-effective and sustainable for enhancing livelihood resilience (against drought and other weather risks) than relief and emergency programmes.
- (d) Climate change adaptation and mitigation measures must be included in government development plans and poverty reduction strategies.
- (e) The donor community (and IFAD) should assist developing countries and partner organizations in mobilizing additional resources for adaptation and mitigation measures.

- (f) Water-related interventions should focus on managing water demand and increasing on-farm water use efficiency. Also, climate change adaptation measures should be integrated into water policy reforms.
- (g) Promote the use of supplemental irrigation and water harvesting and the adoption of improved irrigation technologies in rainfed agriculture. Equally important is the safe use of marginal water resources.
- (h) Promote integrated and participatory approaches to natural resource management. One example is to involve (and gradually delegate responsibility to) water users' associations in managing water schemes.
- (i) Develop and promote policy and institutional options to enhance the adoption of improved water technologies and the sustainable use of water resources.
- (j) Many natural resource management interventions are location-specific. This limitation can be overcome by linking research to development projects.
- (k) Increase research investments to develop improved water management practices that are robust enough to help rural communities cope with climate change.
- (l) Enhance human capacity to manage water and land resources more efficiently, with a focus on water use efficiency, drought management, supplemental irrigation and water harvesting techniques.
- (m) Build strategic partnerships and promote regional and international cooperation to jointly address water scarcity and ensure adequate access to water resources.
- (n) Monitor the smaller-scale impact of climate change on food security, natural resources and rural livelihoods, and build related knowledge management systems.

The Rural Poverty Report 2010 – highlights and feedback on work in progress



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Mr Henock Kifle,
Chief Development Strategist,
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Mr Edward Heinemann,
Team Leader,
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Mr Andrew Shepherd,
Lead Writer,
Rural Poverty Report

Side event 4 – The Rural Poverty Report 2010 – highlights and feedback on work in progress

299. The flagship Rural Poverty Report will look at rural poverty today and present a vision of the future, in the search for solutions that will enable rural people to overcome poverty in a rapidly changing world. This side event provided a unique opportunity for policymakers and senior officials from IFAD Member States, as well as representatives of NGOs and farmers' organizations, to engage in dialogue on the shape and content of the report.
300. Rural people face different problems and opportunities in different parts of the world. They have varied livelihoods, as producers of food and other agricultural products; as pastoralists, fishers, hunter-gatherers; and as labourers and microentrepreneurs. Women, men and youth confront different realities, while indigenous peoples and ethnic minorities frequently face particular and unique challenges. So what does the future look like for all of these people? Will climate variability, declining access to land and water, exclusion from global markets and low rural wages result in growing poverty and hunger? Or will we see increased investment in the rural areas and enabling policies leading to more sustainable land management, increased agricultural productivity, stronger rural organizations, and a growing rural economy in which the poor share the benefits? What needs to be done to make the second of these two outcomes a reality?
301. Following a presentation on the first draft of the report, participants had the opportunity to comment on the ideas discussed in the report and to highlight issues critical to their work in agricultural and rural development and rural poverty reduction that they believe should be addressed by the report.
302. Some information on the preparation of the report was provided: the publication began in mid-2007 and work continued throughout 2008. In early 2009, a number of stock-taking exercises were held, during which it was decided that the central story needed rethinking, and that additional research in key areas was required, along with greater consultation with the development community. These decisions stemmed from a number of factors:
- (a) The food, fuel and financial crises had undermined many of the assumptions on which the chapters had been written.
 - (b) There was a rapidly growing understanding of climate change and its implications, which was changing how the problems faced by poor rural people were perceived.
 - (c) In the past year, a substantial number of authoritative books had been written on agricultural and rural development, and therefore it was important to contribute to this body of work with a publication that would add value.

The main issues emerging from the discussion related to:

- (d) **Smallholder agriculture.** The issue of smallholder agriculture has traditionally been central to IFAD. However in recent times it is not always clear whether IFAD simply targets smallholder farmers (because they are poor/for rural poverty reduction) or rather actively promotes and advocates for smallholder agriculture. Does the report address the viability of smallholder agriculture? In general, IFAD has little solid data and analysis on which to base sound statements on this issue. Although generic statements are often made about the productivity of small farms, etc., in reality there is a lack of solid research on this. Does the report fill this gap?
- (e) **Value chains.** Value chains are very important to reduce rural poverty. The report needs to explore in detail the workings of the value chains in which poor rural people/small farmers participate and identify very clearly their weak points. Often there are gaps in these chains that the state has to fill,

otherwise interventions (including by donors) on other aspects of the chains cannot yield positive results.

- (f) **Education and training.** The issue of education and training is rightly emphasized in the report. However, it is important to consider/specify what kinds of training and education, i.e. focusing on education that is relevant to agriculture and to the concrete needs of farmers, that does not exclude the poor and does not result in youth leaving the rural areas.
- (g) **Cooperatives.** The issue of cooperative organization of poor rural people is a particularly serious omission. Cooperatives are the easiest way for people to organize and gain access to education and extension. As such, they need to be addressed squarely in the report. Similarly, small farmers must be presented as actors who can take responsibility for rural development – whether by organizing into cooperatives or otherwise.
- (h) **Success stories.** The report addresses an overwhelming range of issues. For practical use in policymaking, readers should be given examples of success stories to learn from, cases of positive initiatives, especially when successfully scaled up, to capitalize and build upon. These could be presented as regional annexes, as a source of guidance for policymakers.
- (i) **The theoretical perspective of rural poverty and hunger.** The report may help fill a gap among the three Rome-based agencies in terms of their ability to step back from their work to take a "theoretical" look at the issues of rural poverty and hunger. Doing so may stir up controversy or even raise questions about the relevance of their mandate or the value of their work. However, such a perspective is important, no matter what controversies ensue. The Rome-based agencies need to be able to capture the same attention that other agencies achieve with their annual development reports.
- (j) **Linking the issues.** The report links issues usually dealt with separately. Such linkages – both intellectual and practical – are important, especially to enable us to determine what may be a good working model to connect the needed actions on all the issues, working from the grass roots up and vice versa.
- (k) **Locating IFAD in the historical and current context.** The report needs to take into account how IFAD has changed since 2007 and what has happened in the field in recent years. Farmers' voices and those of their organizations are crucial for this, and they need to feature in the report. Similarly, the report should be framed by an examination of the role IFAD has played in global debates on food security, poverty, etc. in the past three years and what the report's findings will mean for IFAD in the future.
- (l) **Role of the Executive Board.** The Executive Board should be involved in the finalization/early presentation of the report. This would entail an informal seminar on the report.
- (m) **Publicity.** In addition to the book, user-friendly products are important. These could take the form of policy briefs on specific issues that policymakers can easily use, including research findings, and also clear indications as to the action needed on a given issue.

Side event on Haiti: IFAD's post-earthquake response and rehabilitation efforts for rural development and agriculture

303. This IFAD hosted side event brought together representatives of governments and development partners. Its purpose was to assess the situation and consider the immediate support needed to rehabilitate and enhance agriculture, as well as IFAD's short- and medium-term response.
304. The earthquake of 12 January 2010 caused immense loss of life and damage to infrastructure. Rehabilitation and reconstruction pose a major challenge and will involve:
- (a) Reconstructing livelihoods and rehabilitating food production capacity;
 - (b) Enhancing food security and employment, by increasing cultivation of basic food products and generating thousands of new jobs; and
 - (c) Achieving the right balance between short-term needs and longer-term development objectives, including providing emergency aid in a way that does not distort the already vulnerable rural markets.
305. The side event considered the Government of Haiti's special programme for support to food production and reintegration of displaced persons, which concentrates on:
- (a) Rehabilitation and reconstruction of productive assets;
 - (b) Strengthening of agricultural productive capacity by improving the related policy and institutional environment;
 - (c) Enhanced value addition to agricultural products and access to markets; and
 - (d) Sustainable natural resource management.
306. IFAD's proposed response was well received and included:
- (a) Implementing a large grant programme worth US\$3.2 million, designed to support post-earthquake rehabilitation, food security and employment generation; 12,000 households (60,000 people) will directly benefit;
 - (b) Continuing the 2008 post-food crisis programme for the distribution of seeds and agricultural tools in collaboration with FAO. In all, 15,000 rural households – representing about 75,000 people – will be supplied with essential seeds and tools for the March and June planting seasons;
 - (c) Accelerating the ongoing project implementation activities. In so doing, estimated investments for the year should reach US\$12.5 million;
 - (d) Financing options. Financing 100 per cent of expenditures to meet development objectives and relieve pressure on counterpart funding; providing debt relief; and mobilizing additional resources for the recovery of the food production capacity of the country; and
 - (e) Working with others, supporting coordinated actions.

Chapter 3

C. Other general statements

Statement of the Minister for Agriculture and Rural Development of Algeria

I am honoured to be here with you today to take part in the thirty-third session of IFAD's Governing Council, focusing on the theme of "Climate change, food security and smallholder agriculture".

First of all, allow me to express deep appreciation to Mr Kanayo F. Nwanze for all his worthy endeavours since he was elected President of IFAD.

This session follows on the fifteenth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, held in December 2009 in Copenhagen. The Climate Change Conference came about as the culmination of a long process of negotiations on improving international cooperation to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. Financing from the developed countries is urgently needed to support mitigation measures and adaptation to climate change on the part of the less developed countries.

I am also pleased to inform you that, at the ninth session of the Conference of the Parties on the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), held in Buenos Aires in September 2009, Algeria was elected to chair the African Group for the next two years. The regional chair's mandate is to ensure coordination among member countries and facilitate consensus around the major items on meeting agendas.

In this context, a plan of action will be proposed to the member countries to put in place the regional coordination mechanism and promote a dynamic alignment of national and subregional action plans with the UNCCD 10-year strategic plan. These activities are intended to address the most relevant issues facing the African region, while enabling my own country to play a role in carrying forward key issues and achieving consensus among the members.

Similarly, the agenda of the 10th session of the Conference of the Parties to the UNCCD calls for evaluating the status of implementation of the 10-year strategic plan and framework to enhance the implementation of the Convention.

Combating desertification has become crucial in the wake of unequivocal expert findings on climate change, which will further exacerbate the process. If nothing is done to check this threat that imperils countries with semi-arid and arid climates, desertification will accelerate the degradation of natural resources and aggravate poverty and hunger.

Algeria commends the selection of climate change, and specifically that of food security, as a theme for these deliberations. This admirable initiative takes place in a context in which food needs are increasing while investment remains insufficient to narrow the existing disparities in agricultural and rural development. In view of the serious impact on all countries, this situation gives cause for alarm. Each and every one of us must take urgent steps to overcome the many challenges involved. This kind of food crisis poses a serious threat to food security and, accordingly, global equilibrium.

IFAD, with its experience in combating poverty and hunger, is the ideal partner to support the countries in their efforts to develop agriculture, livestock and fisheries.

On this felicitous occasion, I should like to share with you a new dynamic undertaken by the authorities in my own country to develop agriculture and promote activities in the rural world. A national conference was held in February 2009 under the chairmanship of our President and head of state to validate the agricultural and rural economic renewal policy for the period 2009-2014.

This policy, under the heading of "renewing the agricultural economy", has provided for mechanisms to develop agricultural subsectors, particularly for high-consumption

products, and to strengthen productive capital (land and water), consolidate support for farmers and herders, formalize rural mutual credit and set up a farm products regulation system.

Under the heading of "rural renewal", initiatives aim essentially to improve living conditions and incomes for rural households. Such initiatives call for revitalizing rural territories through integrated rural development proximity projects, to improve food security for rural people. This approach, which is increasingly common, is based on the direct involvement of rural people through aggregating themes such as the modernization of villages and traditional ksours, economic diversification, preserving natural resources and recovering the rural heritage, in both its tangible and intangible forms.

Rural actions undertaken in 2009 included setting up 10,000 family livestock breeding units to benefit rural households, comprising sheep, cattle, goats, and small-scale beekeeping and poultry operations. Family orchards have also been created, and food staple cropping has been diversified into cereals and market gardening products.

Mobilizing water resources by tapping springs and drilling wells was another important step in improving farm production. A special fund for small-scale farmers and herders was also set up to support family farming and improve household incomes.

In addition to sector budgets, there are other funding sources working to support integrated rural development proximity projects to combat desertification, develop pastoralism and protect steppe rangelands and the Fund for Rural Development and Land Development through Leasehold.

After a year of implementing proximity projects, rural householders have taken ownership of this new approach. Nevertheless, it needs reinforcement within an intersectoral framework if we are to meet the high expectations of those living in rural areas.

In conclusion, I am convinced that our deliberations at this session will lead to the results hoped for by all. As I reiterate my country's position to strengthen IFAD in its noble mission of supporting the countries, I remain convinced that this institution's efforts – together with those of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the World Food Programme (WFP) – will have a decided impact on agricultural and rural development and on improving food security.

Statement of the Governor for Equatorial Guinea

On behalf of the Government of the Republic of Equatorial Guinea, I am honoured to take part in this thirty-third session of IFAD's Governing Council. Allow me, first of all, to convey our heartfelt appreciation for the warm welcome we have received in this historic city of Rome. And our warmest congratulations go to IFAD's President, Kanayo F. Nwanze, for the excellent and responsible leadership he has shown at the helm of this prestigious international organization.

This thirty-third session of IFAD's Governing Council comes at a time of enormous challenges to the world food situation. Among the contributing factors are higher prices for agricultural inputs, an acute economic and financial crisis worldwide and global climate change – all adversely affecting our farmers' efforts to produce food and overcome hunger and poverty in rural areas, misery and malnutrition in the world as a whole.

Our Government values the efforts made by IFAD and the other Rome-based agencies of the United Nations to seek ways of developing agriculture and combating world poverty. In this context, we are determined to maintain and further strengthen our longstanding cooperation with IFAD. During the 1980s our country benefited from IFAD support in the form of three agricultural projects, which had positive results despite the difficulties encountered in the course of implementation.

As a sign of the political will underpinning such cooperation, the Government has paid off all its debts to IFAD, including a few payments previously omitted in error that were transferred on 15 February.

From colonial times through independence, agriculture in Equatorial Guinea consisted of a system of monocropping based on coffee, cacao and palm oil.

The practice of monocropping persisted throughout the first 11 years of the country's first independent government, and food production was confined to subsistence family farming. Following the changes that took place on 3 August 1979, it became clear that the monocropping system did not lend itself to developing agriculture, improving the quality of life for people in the countryside, increasing production or making the country self-sufficient in food production, since 90 per cent of food products were being imported. The new Government therefore designed a plan to diversify food crops under a short-, medium- and long-term programme.

Within the context of this programme, priority was given to organizing farmers into small production cooperatives, to enable them to benefit from material and economic support from the Government and technical assistance to eliminate the practice of individual farming to which they were accustomed. The Government provided farm equipment and granted loans in support of these small production cooperatives, which were set up countrywide. But effective support in the form of international cooperation is needed if we are to achieve our goal.

We share with all of you the sense that the path ahead is long and strewn with obstacles and hardship. As such, only a concerted, integrated effort will overcome the great challenge of ensuring food for all that now faces this globalized world of ours.

We believe that the industrialized countries should adopt mechanisms to curb the adverse effects of climate change on the globe, and support international organizations working to support rural development and agriculture and the conservation of nature.

In conclusion, the Government of Equatorial Guinea expresses its wish that IFAD approve and implement the package of priority projects in the agriculture sector provided to the IFAD mission that visited our country in September 2008.

Statement of the representative for the Lao People's Democratic Republic

It was a great pleasure and honour to attend today, on behalf of the Government of the Lao People's Democratic Republic, the thirty-third session of the Governing Council of IFAD. I would like to join the other distinguished delegations in presenting my congratulations to the elected chairperson and vice-chairs of this year's session and take this opportunity to sincerely thank IFAD's organizing committee for the excellent arrangements made for the meeting and for the warm hospitality extended to our delegation.

As we all know, the United Nations Millennium Development Goals call for us to eradicate extreme poverty and hunger and to ensure environmental stability. Two of the most recent challenges to achieving these goals are related to food security and climate change. Both challenges require urgent, innovative and holistic responses.

In the Lao People's Democratic Republic, the agriculture and natural resource management sectors still play a leading role in the general economic development and in the well-being of all people in the country and, in particular, in achieving the Government's targets for food production and poverty reduction. Tackling hunger in the Lao People's Democratic Republic requires strong coordination, collaboration and cooperation among all stakeholders. Consequently, the Government has instituted in the past few years a number of institutional arrangements to allow for more harmonized and synergized development efforts among the different parties. As for fine-tuning coordination with our development partners, we have set eight sector working groups which serve as platforms to allow for collective engagement in the formulation of development strategies, shaping of investment programmes and the implementation and regular monitoring of these programmes.

With regard to climate change, the Lao People's Democratic Republic is preparing to take part in a number of initiatives related to addressing climate change and work towards required adaptation and mitigation measures. Reduced agricultural productivity still remains a particular concern. As rain patterns change, the country has faced and will continue to be faced by unparalleled agricultural challenges. The environment and natural resources are the foundation of livelihoods for most people in the Lao People's Democratic Republic, as well as the foundation of its development strategy. The Lao forests continue to be the main livelihood safety net for poor people, especially with regard to shelter, fuel, food and a guaranteed source of income. Over 80 per cent of the population is engaged in agriculture, forest collection and fisheries and is thus directly dependent on the natural resource base.

Given this situation, the effects of climate change are likely to have a drastic impact on the people of the Lao People's Democratic Republic and it is important to note that in the past decade the country has already experienced floods and droughts; these are becoming more severe and are causing damage on a wider scale. The Lao People's Democratic Republic is at present a pilot country to test a number of new initiatives to address climate change. These programmes are not only collaborative programmes with our development partners; similar initiatives are also being pursued with the private sector. We are ready to make use of our forests and other natural resources to contribute to building resilience to climate change not only for the country's benefit but more importantly for regional environmental stability, especially when taking into account that the Lao People's Democratic Republic contributes about one third of total inflows to the Mekong River.

The Lao People's Democratic Republic's economic growth was 6.4 per cent in 2009 and is projected at about 7 per cent for the coming years. A lot of this growth is associated with increased foreign direct investment in the hydropower and mining sectors, and non-resource sectors like agriculture and tourism. Also, the country had a GDP per capita in financial year 2008-2009 of US\$906, a low inflation rate, total investment reaching an average of 28.8 per cent of GDP per year and a poverty reduction rate of 26 per cent. Even though agriculture was impacted by the global economic downturn – especially in

the supply of key imported inputs required for agriculture – and encountered relatively severe natural disasters in 2008 and in 2009 (which damaged a large number of irrigation schemes and destroyed an agriculture area of approximately 42,000 hectares), agriculture and fisheries production was still able to record satisfactory performance in the last few years. This is, to a great extent, because of gradually increasing and well-programmed investments in the agriculture and rural development sector. It is estimated that total rice production will reach 3.2 million metric tons in 2009 and over 3.3 million tons in 2010, thereby meeting the target set for these years of 450 to 500 kg per capita. Unfortunately these targets will not be met in most of the uplands of the country where traditional shifting cultivation is still practised and generates insufficient rice output.

That is the reason for which reliance on forest products is so important for the uplands' poor. However, it is important to note also that basically, at the national level, the country continues to meet its rice requirements and is self-sufficient. The main lesson learned from this series of events is the need to think of adaptive strategies that will help farmers to adjust to unpredictable weather, fluctuating production and markets.

We have set ourselves a challenge within the Lao People's Democratic Republic to improve both investments in the sector and how we invest in smallholder production. Investing in farmers means more than connecting them to markets, it means making sure they have secure land tenure, making sure they have fair contracts, making sure they have access to information, and improving the reach of services for health, education and extension. Strategic thinking is needed to identify measures to restructure the rural economy, to link farmers to markets, to strengthen farmer organizations and rural institutions, to address new challenges such as climate change and, of course, to build our Ministry's own institutional capacity to ensure that these transformations can take place.

While many people have benefited from investments in agriculture and natural resource development, there have been concerns about social and environmental impacts. These concerns became stronger as commodity prices fell and food prices rose, thereby showing that regional and global integration could bring costs and vulnerabilities as well as benefits. We all agree that the gravity of the current food crisis is the result of 20 years of under-investment in agriculture and neglect of the sector. This issue was again raised and discussed in great length during last year's special World Summit on Food Security in FAO. May I take this opportunity to call on IFAD and all our development partners to do their utmost to increase aid and investments in the agriculture sector. The number of hungry people has increased at an alarming rate and it is indeed imperative for us to double our efforts in achieving food security, as set in the Millennium Development Goals. There are still possibilities to do so given the many development models that exist in developing countries for increasing food productivity and, most importantly, conservation agriculture (which has also gained momentum in developing countries). What is needed is increased investment to expand on such land-based technologies.

Major goals in agriculture sector development relate to food security, developing rural smallholder agribusinesses and the links to regional economic integration and more harmonized collective actions to address climate change within the frame of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN); ASEAN+3; Greater Mekong Subregion cooperation and other economic cooperation groups. The Government is currently updating its strategy and sees the following challenges to food security: making agriculture resilient to climate change and fluctuating markets. This would mean sufficient quantities of food for a nutritious and healthy national diet, utilization of food for nutritional well-being and access to food at all time. Moreover, the Government's focus on diversified agriculture to meet nutritional and economic needs and on mixed farming systems minimizes the risks posed by natural disasters, price volatility, market failure and monocropping and also promotes "smart agriculture" which strikes a balance between food security and market orientation. IFAD has been a key partner in helping the Lao Government to rewrite our mid- and long-term strategy and investment

programme up until 2020, when the Lao People's Democratic Republic hopes to graduate from the Group of Least Developed Countries. This is a policy target that we are determined to attain. We hope that IFAD and other development partners will continue to assist us in our endeavour to reach the ambitious Millennium Development Goals.

In the past, IFAD's ongoing support to the Lao People's Democratic Republic has been mainly channelled to poorer provinces in a decentralized manner. More recently, IFAD has focused its support on the agriculture and natural resources sector and has been working in partnership with the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry. The initiation of the Asian Development Bank-IFAD sector project in five southern provinces in 2009, to address issues of land use and management, increase private-sector investment in agriculture and address related environmental issues is testament of a more sectoral approach, based on partnership with other development partners, to support the Government's objectives in the sector. Currently, IFAD is supporting the development of the agriculture and rural development strategy for the country's socio-economic development plan (2011-2015), which will serve as a key pillar for the objectives of sustainable economic development and poverty reduction.

Finally, I would like to thank IFAD for convening this important annual meeting and I hope that all of us will work together to come up with a implementable and actionable agenda for the coming years which focuses on addressing the challenges of achieving food security and adapting to climate change and turning them into opportunities for future generations.

Statement of the Governor for the Syrian Arab Republic

I am pleased to participate with you in the thirty-third session of the Governing Council of IFAD. I would like first to extend greetings and appreciation to Mr Kanayo Nwanze, President of the Fund, and to all his staff for their constructive and sincere efforts to promote the work of the Fund and achieve its development goals.

The Fund has made major efforts in previous decades to achieve its development goals in the economic and social spheres. It has worked with determination and perseverance, motivated by a strong will to overcome the difficulties and obstacles. It has surmounted these difficulties and obstacles, thereby establishing the validity of its methodology and the practicality of its work in implementing development programmes. These programmes are all dedicated to combating poverty and hunger, especially in the poorest rural areas in developing countries. They have done much to ease the burden of some of the population in these countries, and their imprint is clear in the development projects that have been implemented in the Syrian Arab Republic.

This meeting comes amid a series of global crises and problems. It follows many international conferences and summits convened to discuss and find effective solutions to these crises, which range from climate change to the global food crisis, in which approximately 105 million people suffer from hunger and more than a billion are malnourished. The Copenhagen Summit treated the problem of climate change and drought, which affects most countries of the world, especially food producers. The outcomes of the summit disappointed many in the world, especially inasmuch as climate change endangers the environment and development in general and has exacerbated the global food crisis. The Group of Eight Summit also focused on climate change, in addition to the financial and economic crisis and its impact on social stability in the countries of the world.

Hence, we recognize the importance and role of IFAD and other relevant international organizations in dealing with such crises and mitigating their negative effects on developing countries. This requires harmonizing and intensifying dedicated international efforts to develop effective, workable solutions to these problems.

The Syrian Arab Republic has moved in recent years toward comprehensive development, including the development of rural communities, as well as overall human development.

The Government of the Syrian Arab Republic has scored significant achievements in agriculture through its economic reform programme and adoption of a collaborative approach, whereby all sectors of society participate in the development process. All of this has helped ensure food security and improve our people's standard of living. The Syrian Arab Republic's cooperation with IFAD and other Arab and international funding institutions and funds has played a major role in this regard. Many projects have been implemented successfully in different areas in the Syrian Arab Republic, such as the Idleb Rural Development Project, the Jebel al Hoss Agricultural Development Project, integrated development in the Badia Rangelands Development Project, the Coastal/Midlands Agricultural Development Project. All of these projects have clearly helped develop the targeted communities and regions. They serve as a testimony to IFAD and other international institutions working in the Syrian Arab Republic. Moreover, they are a source of pride and esteem for us, for they have created jobs and new income sources that have improved the social and economic status of the rural populations and beneficiaries by optimizing the use natural resources. They have also increased the volume and quality of agricultural production in the areas they cover by strengthening agricultural extension services and land reclamation operations that have added large, new areas of arable land. Given that rural communities play a key role in economic and social life, women have been the focus of a large share of development efforts. These efforts have sought to create an appropriate climate favourable to the development of tools and to form specialized agencies to help support rural women based on our belief in the importance of women's role within the rural community. This concern is embodied in

the fact that the development and advancement of rural women has been a component in the projects that are implemented. This has helped spread education, literacy, and computer use. It has also helped invigorate the learning environment for rural women and harness resources for the advancement of rural women, in step with this era of construction.

The current situation in Palestine, particularly in the Gaza Strip, is an unprecedented human tragedy. This tragedy stems from the continuing blockade imposed by Israel, which, undeterred, has practiced all forms of terrorism, from killing and destruction to judaization, settlement, the uprooting of trees, and the bulldozing of agricultural land in plain sight of the entire world. These practices oblige the international community to fulfil its obligations towards this oppressed people. For there can be no development under occupation in the absence of security, stability, and an end to the intransigence of Israel, which constantly violates the most basic rules of human rights in all the occupied Arab territories, including the Golan Heights. These developments should impel the international community to take serious steps to meet the obligations and commitments it made in the summits held to address the problems facing the world. Moreover, they create additional, urgent responsibilities that require the relevant international organizations to act to provide for the growing food and humanitarian needs.

In conclusion, I would like to express our thanks and appreciation to the Italian Government, which hosts the headquarters of many international organizations concerned with addressing the problems and crises of the world. We value their encouraging efforts in hosting these meetings, which we hope will have a significant impact in mitigating the effects of these crises on the peoples of the world.

Allow me to express the hopes of the Syrian Arab Republic for the day when hunger and deprivation will be eliminated from a world in which all peoples of the world will enjoy development and prosperity.

Statement of the representative for Turkey

We all note that hunger is on the rise, and the economic crisis makes the challenges even more difficult, especially for the poor. In this harsh environment, we believe that the role of IFAD to overcoming rural poverty is more relevant and important than ever.

It is evident that present food security challenges are the result of neglect of agricultural investments and support. It is clear that the key element of long-term and sustainable solutions in alleviating hunger is achieving rural development. Thus, IFAD plays a key role in ensuring global food security, especially in developing countries.

We acknowledge IFAD's recent efforts to extend its work programme through the Eighth Replenishment to tackle the challenges that the rural poor are facing today. We can see that IFAD has greatly improved its effectiveness in project design and implementation, and in financial and institutional management practices and that it has established multilateral partnerships with relevant organizations.

In the last year, we have observed IFAD's vigorous efforts to advocate for the importance of rural development and to put it high on the global agenda and political platform. We are also pleased to see IFAD's efforts to work together with other organizations based in Rome and elsewhere.

We believe that through the continuing reform process, IFAD will further enhance its efficiency in improving the livelihoods of the rural poor and in alleviating poverty. We are pleased to witness the skilled leadership of the President and the support of the membership to further strengthen IFAD's capacity in this regard. Turkey will continue supporting the trusted work of IFAD.

Chapter 4 Statements and special addresses



His Excellency Giorgio Napolitano,
President of the Italian Republic



The Honourable Mizengo Peter Pinda,
Prime Minister of the United Republic of Tanzania



Dr Jacques Diouf,
Director-General of the
Food and Agriculture Organization
of the United Nations



Mr Amir Mahmoud Abdulla,
Deputy Executive Director and
Chief Operating Officer of the
World Food Programme



Mr Kanayo F. Nwanze,
President of the International
Fund for Agricultural Development



Mr Kanayo F. Nwanze, President of IFAD,
greet His Excellency Giorgio Napolitano,
President of the Italian Republic



Mr Kanayo F. Nwanze, President of IFAD,
greet the Honourable Mizengo Peter Pinda,
Prime Minister of the United Republic of Tanzania

Welcoming statement by the President of the International Fund for Agricultural Development, Mr Kanayo F. Nwanze, on the occasion of the visit of His Excellency Giorgio Napolitano, President of the Italian Republic and the Honourable Mizengo Peter Pinda, Prime Minister of the United Republic of Tanzania

President Napolitano,

I have the pleasure of welcoming you to the thirty-third session of the Governing Council of IFAD. Allow me, on behalf of all the Member States of IFAD, to express our sincere appreciation to you for having agreed to inaugurate today's session.

IFAD very much appreciated Italy's commitment to maintaining agriculture at the core of the international agenda during the 2009 Presidency of the Group of Eight (G-8), which culminated in the historical inclusive summit in L'Aquila. We urgently need to increase and strengthen our support of the world's smallholders – a challenge that calls for concerted efforts by the international community. It is our hope that the L'Aquila Food Security Initiative will indeed enable us to better do so. We are confident that Italy, by hosting the three food and agriculture agencies of the United Nations, will continue to play a decisive political role towards the successful implementation of the initiative in support of rural development in poor countries. May I once again express our gratitude for your presence here today.

Let me also thank you, Honourable Minister Tremonti, for having honoured us with your presence today. The strong links between IFAD and your Administration have ensured Italy's position as the second largest contributor to our Eighth Replenishment and, thanks to your chairmanship of the G-7 finance ministers' meeting, the financial implications of the need to support agricultural investment was brought to your colleagues' attention.

As this is the first Governing Council held in IFAD's new headquarters building, I would like to take this opportunity on behalf of all of us, IFAD staff and IFAD Members, to extend through you our sincerest thanks and appreciation for your country's support in making all of this possible.

Honourable Prime Minister Pinda,

Allow me firstly to thank you for joining us here today and for bringing to us the message from His Excellency Jakaya Mrisho Kikwete. I would also like to welcome the Honourable Stephen Masato Wasira, Minister for Agriculture, Food Security and Cooperatives of the United Republic of Tanzania; the Honourable Burhan Saadart Haji, Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Environment of Zanzibar; and the Honourable Seif Ali Idd, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs of the United Republic of Tanzania, who are representing your Government. Let me thank you all for the strong commitment you have shown in enabling the close collaboration that IFAD enjoys with your country. The United Republic of Tanzania is one of the front-runners in our Country Presence strategy. Our country programme manager has been posted to Dar es Salaam since October 2008, IFAD's first outpost in the region.

The United Republic of Tanzania is the only country in Africa, and perhaps in the world, that within a span of 40 years has gone through such rapid and radical transitions. Worthy of note is your country's launch last year of the framework for an agricultural revolution – Kilimo Kwanza (agriculture first) – which accords the agricultural sector priority status on the development agenda over the coming decade.

The United Republic of Tanzania's initiative to host the next World Economic Forum in Africa has the potential to convene African leaders to learn from your experience. This initiative will also develop greater commitment to owning the leadership processes and championing the change that is still needed to prioritize agricultural growth as a critical ingredient to poverty reduction across the continent.

Allow me to conclude by reiterating to each one of you the appreciation of the Fund's Governors for the honour of your presence today. We very much look forward to your statements.

Message of His Excellency Jakaya Mrisho Kikwete, President of the United Republic of Tanzania, delivered on his behalf by the Honourable Mizengo Peter Pinda, Prime Minister of the United Republic of Tanzania, on the occasion of the thirty-third session of IFAD's Governing Council

I feel greatly honoured and privileged to be invited to speak on this auspicious occasion of the thirty-third session of the Governing Council of the International Fund for Agricultural Development. His Excellency Jakaya Mrisho Kikwete, the President of the United Republic of Tanzania, was to participate personally but due to other pressing commitments he was unable to do so at the last minute. However, due to the importance of this meeting, he chose me to come and speak on his behalf.

President Kikwete sends his greetings and commends the IFAD Secretariat for organizing the thirty-third session. He wishes this meeting great success.

At the outset, may I take this opportunity to congratulate Dr Kanayo Nwanze for being elected by acclamation as the fifth President of IFAD by all Member States and I wish him success as he embarks on discharging his responsibilities in the four-year term.

This session is taking place at a time when the world is recovering from the aftershocks of recent global turmoil rooted in serious food and financial crises, coupled with high fuel prices. It has recently been revealed that the number of undernourished people in the world due to crises is now around one billion. The increased number of hungry indicates that strategies that were designed to contribute to the achievement of the global and national goals of reducing hunger, including the first Millennium Development Goal, have not yielded the expected results.

The United Republic of Tanzania reaffirms its continued commitment to work with IFAD to overcome the challenges facing agricultural development especially in developing countries. Since its formation in 1977, IFAD has striven hard to meet its objectives of ensuring that poor rural people have better access to and the skills and organization they need to take advantage of: natural resources, especially land and water; improved agricultural technologies and effective production services. Also there is a need for a broad range of financial services, and transparent and competitive markets for agricultural inputs and produce. The opportunities for rural off-farm employment and enterprise development, as well as local and national policy and programming processes need also to be emphasized.

The agricultural sector will continue to be the mainstay of most of the developing economies, particularly those of Africa, where the majority of the people still depend on agriculture as a source of livelihood. In most African countries, agriculture is the main source not only of food, as in all countries worldwide, but also a major source of income. This implies that, if we are to bring about sustainable agricultural development, the economic potential in the agricultural sector must be fully exploited. Since the majority of the people who undertake farming activities in Africa are smallholder farmers, special attention in terms of support and facilitation needs to be accorded to them if they are to contribute to the green revolution that we envisage in many developing countries, particularly in Africa.

I know that the underlying IFAD objective is the belief that rural poor people must be empowered to lead their own development; and to develop and strengthen their own organizations in order to advance their own interests and dismantle the obstacles that prevent them from creating better lives. Rural people need to have a say in the decisions and policies that affect their lives and to strengthen their bargaining power in the marketplace. This belief is noble and existing experience on the ground has shown that IFAD is fully committed to meeting its mandate as enshrined in its objectives. Through loans and grant support, IFAD has worked with our governments to develop and finance various programmes and projects that have enabled poor people to overcome poverty by themselves.

In the United Republic of Tanzania, for example, IFAD's support has been directed to many agricultural and rural programmes and projects. It suffices to mention three of these programmes.

The first is the **Agricultural Services Support Programme** whose objective is to improve agricultural productivity. This programme has made possible the formation of several farmers' and livestock keepers' groups, which receive training through farmer field schools in different production technologies. This approach is beneficial as it has proved practical, easily replicable and sustainable.

The second programme is the **Agricultural Marketing Systems Development Programme** which is geared to improving the structure, conduct and performance of agricultural marketing systems. The programme has had achievements in improving marketing systems and, in so doing, has assured rural poor people of good prices for their produce. The warehouse receipt systems has benefited small farmers by facilitating storage of their produce during the harvest period when prices are low and selling their produce when demand for food is high, and prices are also high. This is indeed an excellent innovation and beneficiaries have commended it.

The third programme is the **Rural Financial Services Programme**, which aims at enhancing the capacity of the rural poor to mobilize savings and to invest in income-generating activities. This programme has also achieved tremendous success by mobilizing rural communities to organize themselves and form savings and credit cooperatives (SACCOs). In June 2009, for example, 276 SACCOs – with a total of 110,679 members, 43 per cent of whom were women – were supported by this programme.

There are many other practical, good examples of projects and programmes that are supported by IFAD and that can be enumerated in other countries. I would like, at this point, to commend the IFAD Executive Board and, in particular, the Governing Council, which guides the IFAD policy for fighting rural poverty and ensures that agricultural development is given due attention at all levels, including the disadvantaged poor people residing in rural areas. Good fieldwork must be scaled up and engagement in sector-wide agricultural programmes should be given due attention and consideration.

IFAD's support adds to our own efforts to deal with the challenges of revolutionizing agriculture and assure food security. Among others, major challenges that face agriculture in Africa include: inadequate access to agricultural technology, inadequate infrastructure, low productivity due to inadequate use of agricultural inputs, poor marketing systems, inadequate value addition, lack of financial services, weak producer organizations, climate change and poor water management practices.

Inadequate access to agricultural technology has made it difficult for agricultural productivity to improve. Access to modern technology therefore is critical for finding solutions that will help farmers improve productivity. These solutions would include best agricultural practices, as well as access to quality seeds, fertilizer and crop protection.

Inadequate infrastructure represents a great constraint on the movement of agricultural inputs and produce. The most critical area affecting rural farmers is the poor rural infrastructure networks linking the farmers to the marketplace. These networks also need to facilitate the movement of goods from rural areas to market centres.

Markets in Africa can be volatile and inaccessible to most smallholder farmers, as they lack business skills and information about where to get the best price. As a result, most small farmers are exploited by unscrupulous traders who offer very low prices. Thankfully, initiatives such as the warehouse receipt systems are trying to free farmers of exploitation by greedy traders.

At the international level, highly subsidized agriculture in developed countries renders products from unsupported and underfunded agriculture in developing countries uncompetitive. Unfortunately, the subsidy issue is one of the major issues that has

delayed the conclusion of the negotiations of the Doha Development Round. Thus, subsidies to agriculture are part of the underlying cause of rapidly rising food prices and the destruction of small-scale farming in developing countries, particularly in Africa.

Lack of financial services to boost the capital and investment of smallholder farmers is another major constraint on improving agriculture in Africa. In addition to the view that agriculture is a risky sector, lending to small farmers is not considered by many commercial banks. Although smallholder farmers are trying to organize themselves to form savings and credit societies, they have weak organizational skills.

Lack of financial resources on a larger scale at the national level has also made it difficult to develop alternative sources of water for agricultural irrigation. As a result, over 90 per cent of farmers in Africa depend on rainfed agriculture, which is unpredictable and affects the reliability of yields and quality of crops. While 70 per cent of the world's water use is for agriculture, Africa uses only 4 per cent of available water reserves for irrigation, compared with Asia which utilizes 17 per cent. Only 7 per cent of arable land is irrigated in Africa compared with 38 per cent in Asia and 12 per cent in Latin America. In the United Republic of Tanzania only 1 per cent of arable land is irrigated.

Climatic changes in recent decades and especially the greater propensity for erratic rainfall and drought in tropical areas have affected agricultural production. Climate change compromises the productivity of the low-technology agriculture on which the livelihoods of the majority of Africans, especially women, depend. Climate events in the form of floods and drought, or earthquakes – as experienced recently in Haiti – affect crop yields and compromise food security in poor developing countries.

Let me conclude by saying that we have challenges to face in agriculture but at the same time we have solutions. We have the resources, technologies and expertise required. We have institutions to generate the needed technologies; we have institutions such as IFAD, FAO and WFP to support the application of these technologies and we have had several summits to elaborate on the agricultural challenges and the support needed. We have had billions of dollars pledged to investment in agriculture. However, these funds have not been forthcoming. We need to work together in good faith with all partners to help turn around agriculture and bring a green revolution to Africa. IFAD has shown the way. We expect them to continue making their presence felt and we expect other development partners and stakeholders to join us in our efforts to develop agriculture. In Africa, we have committed to allocating 10 per cent of annual budgets to agriculture. For those who have pledged to honour, we urge them to do so, since today we have the political will and well-designed programmes to engage in agriculture and give it the importance it deserves. If we are to save the lives of future generations, particularly those depending on agriculture for their livelihoods, the time to act is now.

Keynote address by His Excellency Giorgio Napolitano, President of the Italian Republic

Mr President,
Mr Prime Minister of the United Republic of Tanzania,
Mr Minister of Economy and Finance,
Madam Chair of the Governing Council,
Honourable Ministers and Governors,
Distinguished delegates,
Ladies and gentlemen.

I was delighted to receive, and accept, the invitation to take part in this thirty-third session of IFAD's Governing Council – the first to be housed at the new headquarters building and the first also to be held under President Nwanze's leadership.

In welcoming you to Rome, may I also express the hope that your deliberations in this Governing Council translate into meaningful decisions that will serve to guide the Fund's activities, within available resources and in line with the priorities set by the global agenda.

Today we find ourselves at a crucial time for IFAD, and more generally for all the Rome-based United Nations agencies. On the one hand, IFAD is being asked to pay renewed attention to rural development – its main objective since it was founded – while on the other, it faces pressing issues such as the effects of climate change on agriculture and the problem of food security.

We cannot rule out the possibility that food emergencies will resurface in the future. New stresses on agricultural prices are by no means a distant possibility in the current global economy. Under such a scenario, the United Nations agencies and multilateral organizations will need to rise to the occasion in order to meet the expectations and trust of their constituencies. Consolidating their prestige will largely rest upon their responsiveness and interventions.

On the occasion of the G-8 Summit held at L'Aquila, participants at the highest levels expressed deep concern over the increasing levels of malnutrition and food crisis, particularly in Africa. They resolved to take joint action, based on shared principles, to achieve a sustainable level of food security.

IFAD has been an active and consistent leader in such efforts, supporting first and foremost the small-scale producers – many of them women – who are too often penalized, by the rules governing access to global markets for their products, by unequal resource distribution, by lack of access to the most advanced production techniques, by poverty and by adverse climate conditions.

IFAD's financial resources received a significant boost from the recent replenishment exercise, which confirmed the increasingly important role of agricultural development. The replenishment also represented a clear recognition of the success of the Fund's reforms, and demonstrated the full trust placed by member countries in its instruments and capacity.

But more is needed. An effective global strategy calls for a joint effort to enhance efficiency and maximize results. It is to be hoped that all three Rome-based agriculture agencies – which Italy has the honour of hosting and to which it is firmly committed – are able to build upon their complementary mandates to intervene in a coordinated manner.

I should like to conclude these remarks by underscoring that in the face of challenges imposed by globalized markets and the difficulty of overcoming the world crisis, we must seek a shared governance model based on the values of solidarity, inclusiveness, environmental sustainability in development policies and increasing consideration of less developed countries.

I am convinced that IFAD and its sister United Nations agencies operating in Rome are fully cognizant of these objectives and will act accordingly. May your deliberations in pursuance of this institution's high mandate meet with every success.

Statement by the Chairperson of the Governing Council on the occasion of the inaugural ceremony

We are just five years away from 2015, the cut-off date for achieving the Millennium Development Goals; 2010 is therefore a pivotal year for the international community's efforts in this regard.

Globally, there are 500 million small farming operations that provide livelihoods for some two billion people, a third of the world's population. Increasing productivity is vital if they are to meet not only their own food and nutritional needs, but also those of the millions of people who depend on them.

We are all aware that in order to achieve the Millennium Development Goals we must promote agriculture and rural development at several levels simultaneously. We must also keep our promises – in terms of public development aid as well as national spending. Finally, we must redouble our efforts to improve aid effectiveness through harmonization with national priorities.

The global food and financial crisis that broke out just over two years ago is the spectre that haunts us all – one that has highlighted the vulnerability of rural people, particularly in developing countries. The international community rallied to address the harmful effects of the crisis. Several high-level meetings were held, resulting in commitments on the issues of agriculture and rural development: in particular, the High-Level Conference on World Food Security, the World Summit on Food Security, the G-8 and G-20 Summits and the fifteenth session of the Conference of Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change held in Copenhagen.

Despite the efforts mobilized, the risk of famine remains for many people, and will be exacerbated by the effects of climate change on agriculture. It is vital that we find appropriate solutions to this threat to humanity. Such solutions must not be confined to resolutions taken at high-level meetings like this one. They must make a difference in the everyday lives of farmers, and that is the central theme of today's session.

Modernizing small farms by facilitating access to appropriate technology will contribute to meeting the ever-increasing global demand for food and farm products. However, over the longer term, small-scale agriculture needs to evolve into medium-sized and large farming operations, while addressing any natural resource management issues this may cause. Regardless of the kind of operation, however, the challenges of agriculture and rural development can only be met by putting in place adapted financing mechanisms. Public funding, whether in the form of domestic or external resources, has been shown to be insufficient to meet the capital requirements of agriculture.

I should like to convey our appreciation to our development partners, some of whom are present here at IFAD today, for their efforts thus far in the crusade against hunger. Commendable initiatives have also taken place in the area of rural microfinance. However, they remain insufficient in terms of both the financial services and products offered and full coverage of the needs of rural people.

I know you join me in recognizing the formidable challenges facing agricultural development. In the absence of traditional commercial banks in an already high-risk sector, it is crucial that we set up specialized financing facilities. This calls for the expertise of an international agency within the United Nations system, such as IFAD, which specializes in financing for the agricultural sector. That is why, in the course of this thirty-third session of IFAD's Governing Council, each of us, in our capacity as Governors, will have to address these issues in the specific context of our Fund. We must ensure that IFAD has access to the resources and instruments it needs to successfully accomplish its mission.

I count on your support and collaboration in making this thirty-third session of the Governing Council a productive and successful one.

Message of His Excellency Ban Ki-moon, Secretary-General of the United Nations

I send warm greetings to the thirty-third session of the Governing Council of IFAD and to all those who are so integrally involved in putting smallholders and rural producers at the centre of efforts to overcome global hunger and poverty.

Despite the hardships of the global recession, last year saw an upturn in investment in agriculture, along with promises from world leaders of large additional increases over the next three years. Eight African countries have reached or exceeded the Maputo Declaration target by allocating 10 per cent or more of their national budgets for agriculture. The growing international recognition of the role of agriculture and rural development in poverty reduction is helping to build the Global Partnership for Agriculture, Food Security and Nutrition. I was pleased to join delegates at last year's World Summit on Food Security in Rome, where the five principles of this evolving partnership, as well as a revitalized Committee on Food Security, were established. It is no coincidence that the first of the Rome principles – emphasizing the centrality of country-led approaches – is also how IFAD seeks to work.

With more than 1 billion people now suffering from hunger – the highest number in human history – there is simply no time to lose. The food emergency in the Horn of Africa, the plight of the population of Haiti and the early warnings coming from other parts of the world remind us that our actions for food security must be both comprehensive and sustained. We must also better address the interconnections between climate change and agriculture. And we need to continue creating diverse and innovative partnerships that can help people and communities achieve greater productivity, nutritional health and self-reliance. In this respect we must give pre-eminence to the interests of women, who juggle their time between food production, processing, marketing, child care and balancing the household budget.

When world leaders gather in New York in September for the summit on the Millennium Development Goals, I will urge them to focus on strategic actions that promise the most impact. I will count on IFAD and its partners to shine a global spotlight on the strategic potential of investing in smallholder farming systems as a contribution to sustainable development. Please accept my best wishes for a productive session.

Statement by the President of the International Fund for Agricultural Development, Mr Kanayo F. Nwanze

On behalf of the Management and staff of IFAD, it is my honour and pleasure to welcome you all to Rome, to our headquarters, and to the thirty-third session of the Governing Council.

First, allow me to reiterate my gratitude to His Excellency President Napolitano of the Italian Republic and the Honourable Mizengo Peter Pinda, Prime Minister of the United Republic of Tanzania, for honouring us with their presence today. This is a clear demonstration of support for IFAD and of confidence in our work, which we appreciate greatly.

I also am very happy to have with us today our close friends and partners from the Rome-based United Nations agencies – the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the World Food Programme (WFP). Dr Jacques Diouf, Director-General of FAO will address the Council and Mr Amir Mahmoud Abdulla, Deputy Executive Director and Chief Operating Officer of WFP, will deliver a message on behalf of Ms Josette Sheeran, the Executive Director. Your presence here today is a symbol of the strong ties among our agencies.

We are also pleased to have with us a number of special guests who will take part in our plenary panel discussion this afternoon. In addition to the Honourable Mizengo Peter Pinda, I would like to welcome Ms Haydée Castillo, Professor Sir Gordon Conway, Dr Nahed Mohammed Taher, Mr Ajay Vashee and CNN's Jim Clancy, who will be moderating the panel. We thank you for making time in your busy schedules to be here with us today and we look forward to your interventions and contributions.

As you know, this is the first Governing Council to be held on the premises of IFAD. We are delighted that you will be sharing our new headquarters with us – if only for a few days.

IFAD and Haiti

Madam Chairperson,
Distinguished delegates,

Before I present my report on our achievements in 2009, our plans for 2010, and our vision on the way forward for IFAD, permit me to say a few words about Haiti.

What the people of Haiti have suffered has shocked us all. The number of people who have died is now estimated at over a quarter of a million. The scale of the devastation to the infrastructure, productive capacity and to the lives of the people of this poor nation is simply beyond belief.

The international community must stand as one with the people of Haiti and give them the support they so desperately need to recover from this calamity. Here in Rome, just last Friday, the three Rome-based agencies formed a task force to deliver coordinated assistance to the country. We praise the efforts of the Governments of Haiti, Brazil and the United States of America in convening the meeting that allowed us to launch this initiative.

For our part, we are taking a number of urgent steps to give Haiti our maximum support. Following a fact-finding mission, we have identified four areas for action.

- (a) First, we are stepping up work under ongoing projects in Haiti's rural areas, focusing on food production and activities to generate income and employment.
- (b) Second, in collaboration with FAO, we have extended our 2008 post-food crisis programme for the distribution of seeds and farming tools, thereby preparing about 15,000 rural households for the planting season that begins now in March.
- (c) Third, we have given a grant of US\$3.2 million to fund post-earthquake rehabilitation, strengthen food security and create jobs. Support will be targeted at

the areas most severely affected by the earthquake and by the flow of urban migrants to rural areas.

- (d) And fourth, we are hosting a side event today, during the Governing Council, to explore with our Members modalities for managing Haiti's debt to IFAD. This is currently estimated at US\$58 million and is expected to reach US\$78 million over the life of active loans.

IFAD's operational achievements in 2009

Madam Chairperson,
Distinguished delegates,

A year ago, you honoured me with your trust and confidence by electing me as the fifth President of IFAD. In accepting this appointment, I pledged to you that I would be a tireless advocate of poor rural people and that I would do everything in my power to make agriculture and food security the central concern of governments around the world.

I also pledged to continue to build on IFAD's reform agenda to ensure that our institution becomes more efficient, effective and agile.

I am pleased to report to you today that we are making significant progress on all these fronts. Permit me to highlight the main achievements.

In the past year, we have striven to put the challenge of rural development on the global agenda. I am gratified that, in the context of these efforts, we were also able to raise IFAD's profile as a key player in global food security issues.

We stepped up our communications efforts, attracting the attention of both national and international media – print, radio and television and today, IFAD is much better known even here in Rome than ever before.

And we have gone further:

- (a) With the strong support of the Italian G-8 Presidency, IFAD took part in important G-8 meetings in 2009, culminating in the G-8 Summit in L'Aquila where, as you know, the L'Aquila Food Security Initiative was adopted.
- (b) We supported the FAO World Summit on Food Security in November last year and financed the participation of civil society organizations so that smallholders could contribute to the debate.
- (c) We sponsored the Agriculture and Rural Development Day at the fifteenth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change in Copenhagen. The event focused on the vital role that smallholders must play in climate change adaptation and mitigation.
- (d) We also took advantage of IFAD's participation in various conferences and symposia to highlight the key role that smallholders play in strengthening global food security. At the regional meetings of the World Economic Forum at the Dead Sea in Jordan and in Cape Town, South Africa, and then in Davos earlier this year – where IFAD was represented for the first time – I stressed that agriculture must be seen as a "business", whatever its size. I repeated this message only a few days ago at the Jeddah Economic Forum. And I stressed that both public and private-sector initiatives and support must be anchored in this context.
- (e) Lastly, I was privileged to visit a number of your countries in the course of 2009 and to interact with national leaders and national and international media on the challenge of rural development. I was pleased to see first-hand the development work that we finance – from support to family farms in Brazil, to land and water conservation in Jordan, to post-conflict rehabilitation in Côte d'Ivoire, support to women's groups in India, and active engagement in post-earthquake rehabilitation in China.

- (f) From the leaders of the developing world, particularly in Africa, I have called for commitment and action: for political engagement at the highest level; for investment of political will; and for demonstrated financial commitment, however small. From the leaders of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) countries, I have called for accountability in commitments and respect for the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness and the Accra Agenda for Action. And from the leaders of the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) countries, I have called for greater engagement in the efforts to build global food security. We shall be tireless in our efforts.
- (g) On my visits to your countries and in the discussions I have had at all levels, it was gratifying for me to note how much IFAD's work is appreciated. I would like to assure you that we will continue to listen to and learn from our clients and beneficiaries, as the knowledge that we gain is a fundamental strength of our corporate culture.

In terms of our overall lending and grant operations, I am pleased to report that with the Executive Board's approval of loans and grants totalling over US\$700 million in 2009, we have successfully completed our commitments under IFAD VII.

I take this opportunity to thank the Executive Board, Management and staff, for their hard work in delivering the ambitious 2009 programme of work, which grew by a significant 19 per cent over the previous year.

In addition to expanding our programme of work:

- (a) We continued **to raise the quality of the projects we fund** through our quality enhancement and quality assurance processes, while maintaining their essential character as operations owned by our Member States and developed and implemented with our assistance.
- (b) We have continued **to innovate** – an increasing number of projects are adopting a value chain approach both to increase their impact and to ensure their sustainability over time.
- (c) **Women** remain a primary target of our country programmes and projects and I have gladly accepted last October the MDG3 Gender Torch from Minister Ulla Tornaes, of Denmark and committed to do something extra. Internally, at IFAD, gender equality at the workplace is not just words – 75 per cent of recently recruited professional staff in the Office of the President and the Vice-President are women, three out of four, including the Vice-President and the Director of the Office.
- (d) We have put in place **a new operating model**, with IFAD taking direct responsibility for the supervision of the projects we finance and providing project implementation support. We are already seeing that this allows us not only to strengthen project management, but also to enhance our development effectiveness.
- (e) An important development in this respect is the expansion of **our country presence**. In 2009, the number of country offices reached 27, covering 31 countries. These offices strengthen our support to project implementation and deepen our policy dialogue with the countries where we work. With the kind support of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), I am pleased to report that we have now put in place the required administrative framework to proceed with further expansion.
- (f) We have **strengthened our partnerships** with both bilateral and multilateral institutions, enabling us to leverage our resources through co-financing arrangements, which reached over US\$300 million in 2009. Just this weekend in Jeddah, I signed a US\$1.5 billion framework agreement with the Islamic Development Bank to enable us to jointly finance programmes and projects in countries where we both have operations.

- (g) We have also worked hard to strengthen our partnerships with our two sister agencies in Rome – **FAO and WFP**. In 2009, the Italian G-8 Presidency provided the three Rome-based agencies with a powerful political platform from which to put agriculture and smallholders back on the global agenda, together with the central role we play in Rome as the global hub for food, agriculture and nutrition. The heads and senior management of the three institutions now hold regular meetings. As a result, we have moved ahead with joint programme and project planning and implementation. And we are in the process of implementing a pilot US\$100 million joint procurement plan. In addition, we have increased collaboration between the FAO Investment Centre and IFAD.
- (h) And finally, I am pleased to report that we have continued the **prudent management of IFAD's financial resources** with good results. In 2009, our investment portfolio had a rate of return of 4.4 per cent, well above its policy target return of 3.5 per cent, despite the financial crisis and the turmoil in the capital markets.

IFAD reforms in 2009

Madam Chairperson,
Distinguished delegates,

While giving top priority to the operations we support in our Member States, we have not neglected the importance of pursuing IFAD's own internal reform agenda.

We have taken the following measures:

- (a) We have reconfigured IFAD's Management and the reporting arrangements, to strengthen and streamline our decision-making processes, and to make them more transparent, within a clear accountability framework.
- (b) We have established the Executive Management Committee (EMC), chaired by myself and consisting of IFAD's most senior management staff, and we have also established the Operations Management Committee (OMC), chaired by the Vice-President and responsible for coordinating and taking decisions on routine operational matters.
- (c) In this connection, it is my pleasure to introduce to you the new Vice-President of IFAD, Ms Yukiko Omura, a native of Japan, who has extensive experience in international management and finance. Most recently, she was Executive Vice-President of the Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency (MIGA) of the World Bank.
- (d) Based on my own experience for two years as Vice-President of IFAD, Ms Omura will have clear corporate responsibilities and line functions. I have asked her to assume a leadership role for human resources management, strategic planning and budgeting, resource mobilization and the development of our new strategic framework. In addition, Ms Omura and I will champion the reform agenda of IFAD.
- (e) As part of the reconfiguration, we have also established the Office of the Chief Development Strategist. This will give IFAD the analytical capacity to engage in the global debate on rural development and to take leadership in this area. This office will also ensure that the programmes and projects we support are informed by state-of-the-art thinking. Pending the recruitment of the long-term Chief Development Strategist, I have asked Mr Henock Kifle, the former Chief Economist of the African Development Bank, to help us establish the office by assuming the post for one year.
- (f) I would like to mention two other key initiatives in our reform agenda: first, we are preparing, for the first time in the history of IFAD, a Corporate Medium-Term Plan that will coincide with the IFAD VIII period, together with a zero-based budget for 2011 – in which budget lines are reviewed anew instead of relating them to previous

allocations. This is another first for IFAD. The plan and the budget will ensure that our resources are clearly aligned with our strategic objectives.

- (g) Second, we continue to work on reforming our human resources management system. We are revising our staff rules; we have started to prepare a strategic workforce plan in conjunction with the medium-term plan; and we will soon launch a comprehensive review of the salaries and benefits system to assess the costs and the benefits of staying within the United Nations system, guided by the International Civil Service Commission (ICSC).

IFAD plans for 2010

Madam Chairperson,
Distinguished delegates,

Let me now turn to our plans for 2010. As you are all aware, 2010 is the first year of implementation of the Eighth Replenishment of IFAD. In this regard, I am pleased to announce that the Eighth Replenishment became effective on 1 December 2009. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank Member States for their pledges and to urge those countries that have yet to announce their contribution to do so as soon as possible.

Over the next three years – during the course of IFAD VIII – we expect to deliver a programme of work of some US\$3 billion, 50 per cent more than that delivered during IFAD VII. During 2010, we must lay solid organizational foundations to support the delivery of this significantly larger programme of work. I am confident that we will be able to do so.

Critically, we must ensure that IFAD's human and financial resources are deployed strategically in support of the objectives of the Eighth Replenishment. The medium-term plan that we are preparing, the strategic workforce plan, the zero-based budget for 2011 and the human resources reform are all key instruments that will enable IFAD to achieve a higher level of efficiency and effectiveness, ensuring the full delivery of IFAD VIII.

Along with our own expanded programme of work, we are also working closely with our partners to implement the L'Aquila Food Security Initiative. In this connection, we look forward to working with the World Bank and FAO in making the Global Agriculture and Food Security Programme (GAFSP) fully operational.

In 2010 we will continue to implement our new operating model and we expect to effectively take over full responsibility for the supervision and portfolio support services for about 90 per cent of the projects we support. We will also continue to expand our country presence and expect to have a total of 30 country offices by the end of 2010. Twelve of our country programme managers will also be outposted.

Under the leadership of the Vice-President Yukiko Omura, we will also develop a comprehensive resource mobilization strategy that identifies creative and innovative ways to address IFAD's needs over the long term. The strategy will be shared with the Executive Board at the same time as we present our new strategy for engagement with middle-income countries.

Also in 2010, we will continue to strengthen our engagement in international debates and policy dialogue on rural poverty. An important milestone in this regard will be the publication of the Rural Poverty Report.

And finally in 2010, I would like to assure you that we will push through our human resources reform agenda to ensure that we deploy our most important resource – our staff – strategically and in an optimal way.

Developing our vision for the future

Madam Chairperson,
Distinguished delegates,

By the end of 2010, Management will present a new strategic framework for IFAD to guide our work during 2011-2013. With the launch of IFAD VIII this year, it is an opportune time to examine what has worked, and what has not, and to determine how best to approach the many challenges faced by rural smallholders and, by extension, IFAD, as we move into the second decade of the new century.

It is also an opportune time to re-examine the approach we have adopted in the last few years in many of our newer projects – that of value chains – to learn key lessons and to assess its potential role for our future support.

As I have argued in various forums, I believe our new strategic framework should be underpinned by a view of farming – whatever its size and whatever its scale – **as a business** with clear business linkages along the value chain from production to processing, marketing, and ultimately to consumption. This view implies encouraging entrepreneurs – both small and large-scale – to invest in the entire rural economy and forge strong economic relations between the rural and urban economies.

Creating a vibrant rural economy and reducing poverty therefore depends on creating the right business environment. Successful policies will encourage both the public and private sectors to promote technological innovation, they will strengthen investment in infrastructure, including competitive local markets, encourage the production of goods and services needed by the rural economy, as well as the goods produced within it. And successful policies will ensure that the necessary financial services are accessible to poor rural people. This is the only way that we can develop thriving and sustainable rural economies.

Our vision must also encompass a thorough understanding of the demography of rural populations in developing countries, where over 60 per cent of the people are between the ages of 15 and 25, and half of them, obviously, are young women and girls. Our vision must aim at making farming profitable so that young men and women in rural areas do not turn away from it, and so that women farmers in particular make a decent and profitable living for themselves and their families.

With a projected world population of 7.5 billion in 2030 and 9.1 billion in 2050, who will feed the world if we do not support a radical paradigm shift that seeks to make agriculture and farming profitable and attractive businesses? Clearly such a shift requires us to focus our energy increasingly on young farmers and entrepreneurs and on women who work in agriculture, markets and services. We must encourage them to develop their entrepreneurial spirit and give them the support they need so that they can indeed become the business leaders of tomorrow.

The challenges for the future

Madam Chairperson,
Distinguished delegates,

As we lay the groundwork for IFAD VIII and seek to make IFAD a bigger player in addressing food security issues, we are aware that we face a number of challenges.

The food crisis of 2007, 2008 and 2009, although somewhat abated in recent months, is nonetheless a reminder of the fragile underpinnings of global food security. It is indeed possible that the crisis could surface once again.

The challenge of climate change will continue to be with us, a constant reminder that we must find new and creative ways both to mitigate it and to help smallholders adapt to changing conditions.

With a growing world population, and the resulting increase in the demand for food, there will undoubtedly be greater pressure on land and water resources. As land-poor countries increase their investments in land-rich countries, we will need to create and implement in cooperation with our partners – the World Bank, FAO and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) – a framework for responsible agricultural investment. Such investment must result in a win-win outcome for all.

Internally, we will continue to face the challenge of strengthening IFAD by deepening our reform agenda to enable us to carry out our mandate fully, effectively and efficiently.

Resources will undoubtedly be a constraint, and we will need to constantly challenge ourselves to think of creative ways to mobilize fresh resources from various sources. We will also need to develop new financial instruments that better meet the diverse and evolving needs of our Member States.

And we will need to develop new partnerships to ensure that the innovative and effective projects that we have developed in many of our Member States are taken up and expanded so that they reach a much wider group of beneficiaries.

I am confident that, with your support, we will overcome these challenges. We will build on our achievements to ensure that IFAD continues to be an institution that you – the Member States – can be proud of and can count on to help develop dynamic rural economies that enable poor rural men and women around the world to drop the shackles of poverty and become active players in vibrant rural communities.

I thank you for your attention.

Statement by Dr Jacques Diouf, Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)

It is a pleasure and an honour for me to be here, with you today, to address your prestigious Governing Council. I should like to thank IFAD President Mr Kanayo Nwanze for his kind invitation and to express my best wishes for a successful thirty-third session of your Council.

I should also like to state how pleased I am, that relations between IFAD and FAO, have continued to strengthen, under the presidency of Mr Nwanze. FAO is delighted with its excellent collaboration with IFAD, in seeking to eliminate poverty and hunger in the world.

During the past three years, hunger has increased everywhere in the world on account of soaring food prices. The situation has been exacerbated by the financial and economic crisis that has hit the world. In 2009, the number of chronically hungry people increased by 105 million from the previous year to reach one billion, that is one in six human beings.

There are currently 31 countries in a state of serious food crisis requiring emergency aid, of whom 20 are in Africa.

The sheer dimension of this food insecurity crisis is the result of the low priority that has been given to agriculture in economic development policies. The share of agriculture (including forestry and fisheries) in official development assistance (ODA) has dropped from 19 per cent in 1980 to about 5 per cent today. That has translated in underinvestment in agriculture over the past three decades.

The lasting solution to this problem is boosting agricultural production and productivity in low-income food-deficit countries, where 90 per cent of the world's hungry live.

Developing countries are home to about 500 million agricultural smallholdings supporting around two billion people. These countries need to improve their infrastructure and modernize their factors of agricultural production. On average, their agriculture accounts for 10 per cent of GDP and 50 per cent of employment. It could still do more if modernized.

To feed the planet's 9.1 billion inhabitants in 2050, food production must rise by 70 per cent in the world and double in the developing countries.

To eradicate hunger and malnutrition in the world, agriculture in the developing countries need US\$44 billion per year of ODA to invest in infrastructure, modern inputs and technologies.

Agriculture must also face the challenge of climate change. Without considering their function as carbon sinks, agriculture and forests account for 31 per cent of greenhouse gas emissions, but we also know that 80 per cent of these emissions can be reduced. This can come for 90 per cent from enhancing their function as carbon sinks and, for the remainder 10 per cent, from lowering emissions. Technically, we know how to do it.

Several countries of Africa, Latin America and Asia have succeeded to substantially reduce the prevalence of hunger and the number of undernourished people. Even some countries that were importers of agricultural commodities have become net exporters in just a few years. This shows again that we know what to do to defeat hunger.

The time for talk has long past, and the moment has come for resolute action.

The World Summit on Food Security was organized from 16 to 18 November last year by FAO, in collaboration with IFAD and WFP. It led to several major commitments towards: better governance of world food security; greater investment in agriculture and rural development; a redoubling of effort to halve hunger by 2015 and to eradicate it as early as possible; and, finally, a strategy of adaptation and mitigation of the impacts of climate change.

At its 36th session, held from 18 to 23 November 2009, the FAO Conference approved a profound reform of the Committee on World Food Security (CFS) to strengthen it considerably, as a global platform, for the coordination of expertise and action in the fight against hunger.

Another encouraging sign was the Food Security Initiative of the G-8 Meeting in L'Aquila, in which the Heads of the Rome-based agencies participated personally. For the first time, this initiative emphasized the need for medium- and long-term agricultural development for the benefit of small farmers in the developing countries. The G-8 commitment, to mobilize US\$20 billion over three years for this effect, is a step in the right direction, provided that it is implemented effectively and rapidly.

In addition to assistance provided in the framework of national and regional food security programmes, and to emergency projects following natural disasters, FAO launched, in December 2007, the Initiative on Soaring Food Prices to facilitate access by small farmers to indispensable inputs. This initiative, which experienced great success, has been well received and allowed to mobilize US\$420 million and to implement projects in the different regions of the world. A total of US\$301.6 million has been provided by the European Union under its "food facility" programme. I wish to thank again the Union.

IFAD and FAO are working closely together to improve the living conditions of small farmers in the developing countries, and to ensure sustainable agricultural development. Our cooperation is based on our respective comparative advantages and on our complementarities.

IFAD and FAO are currently working with WFP in the framework of a Tripartite Task Force for the preparation of a medium- and long-term plan of action and the implementation of projects in the field. We are thus providing coordinated support to the Government of Haiti in its effort to revive the agricultural and rural sector in the aftermath of the earthquake that struck the country last month. The immediate priority is preparation for the upcoming spring planting season, which starts in March and accounts for more than 60 per cent of domestic food production. With logistical support from WFP in the field, we have begun the distribution of seeds, fertilizer and tools. This will enable the beneficiary families to proceed with the sowing of crops, which, after only three months, will provide their communities with food for a long period, together with employment and income.

The Rome-based hub of United Nations agencies, mandated with agricultural development and fighting world hunger, has never been so united and determined. We are aware of the magnitude of the task before us, but we are also confident because we know what needs to be done. And if the necessary financial resources, as promised, are effectively made available, then we will win the great global battle against poverty and hunger.

Message of Ms Josette Sheeran, Executive Director of the World Food Programme (WFP), delivered on her behalf by Mr Amir Mahmoud Abdulla, Deputy Executive Director and Chief Operating Officer of WFP

On behalf of the Executive Director, Josette Sheeran, we are very grateful to President Nwanze for the invitation to address the council today. You convene at a critical moment in human history with regard to food security. With Haiti on our minds and many other crises throughout the world, we have much to do. But I am more hopeful than ever before that we can defeat hunger. That hope stems from three key reasons.

The first is that all of you here have put hunger at the top of the global agenda. With the focus on food security at the G-8, G-20, the recent World Summit on Food Security and, even more recently, at the convening of the African Union, everyone has decided that now is the time to take action and now is the time to turn the tide against hunger.

The second reason is that we are working together as never before. Country-led food security strategies mean that all parties must work together – host nations and donors, international organizations, NGOs, civil society and the private sector – everyone must support nations as they strive to feed their people and as their people strive to feed themselves.

In this regard, IFAD, FAO and WFP are really working together, with each institution emphasizing its own comparative advantage, but recognizing that the sum of the whole is much greater than a simple addition of the individual parts. You have heard both President Nwanze and Director-General Diouf talk of the task force on Haiti that they – together with Executive Director Sheeran – have formed. In fact, I can report that we had a very successful meeting yesterday, which has stressed a focus on – as Director-General Diouf has mentioned – getting something done over the next six weeks to ensure that we do not miss that important planting season, while at the same time being ready for the longer-term strategy.

Let me return to that hope. The third reason for that hope is that something all of you in this room have known for many, many years is now coming sharply into focus in the world and on the global agenda: the true power and importance of the smallholder farmer.

Today, more than one billion hungry people, nearly one in six people, waking up each morning do not know whether they will have enough to eat that day. Many of these hungry people are farmers, working on small plots of land in rural Asia, Africa and Central America. In fact, about 500 million smallholder farms in the developing world support about 2 billion people, that is one third of the world's population. And eight hundred million of the people who earn less than a dollar a day, those in extreme poverty, farm. They farm about one acre of land, often in several scattered plots and, sadly, these farmers – the majority of them women – too often need food assistance themselves. They depend upon tired soil, unpredictable weather and unaffordable inputs to get yields that rarely even feed their own families.

So, as has been mentioned already today, it is clear that the world must produce more food to feed more people. But it is also increasingly recognized that any truly effective and sustainable food security plan must emphasize the empowerment of smallholder farmers. To unleash the power of the smallholder, we must invest in training and skills development. This in turn will lead to access to quality seeds, healthy soil, appropriate fertilizers, and water and crop management systems. Finally, we must ensure that smallholder farmers have access to markets.

Many of you already know that, in September 2008, WFP launched a new programme called Purchase for Progress, or P4P, to help smallholder farmers in developing countries. This provides training to impart skills to improve product quality and packaging and, most importantly, to connect them to markets. We hope that by the end of 2013, at least 500,000 smallholder farmers in about 21 countries will have increased their agricultural

production and earnings through the P4P programme. It is within programmes such as the P4P that our work with FAO and IFAD is best exemplified.

In addition, WFP strives to make sure that our purchasing power can help developing nations. Last year, WFP purchased over US\$1 billion or 80 per cent of our food commodities from developing countries. You may be surprised by where we purchase our food. Last year, our number one supplier was Pakistan. Among the top 10 were South Africa, Uganda and Ethiopia.

In this fight against hunger, the role of women is particularly evident. Women produce more than 50 per cent of the total food grown worldwide, including up to 40 per cent of food in South America, 60 per cent in Asia and a staggering 80 per cent in Africa. But the woman farmer needs the support and partnership of her nation and of the world. Hungry women, particularly rural women, are not a problem to be fixed. At World Food Day last year, Egypt's first lady, Mrs Mubarak, pointed out that they are an "integral part of the solution." When you empower smallholder farmers, you empower women to be part of the hunger solution.

In the United Republic of Tanzania, WFP is committed to supporting the *Kilimo Kwanza* initiative (Agriculture First – towards a green revolution). We do this through local procurement and, importantly, by supporting the establishment of a warehouse receipt system where smallholder farmers are able to deposit their commodities in a certified warehouse in return for a receipt that they can then exchange for cash at a local financial institution. Efforts such as these, where we have again worked with IFAD and FAO, have multiplier effects for farmers, communities and regions. They increase food security, and they build a foundation of prosperity from the ground up, rather than trying to impose one from the top down.

There are many other examples across Africa, but beyond Africa as well. In many countries, such as El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and Afghanistan, we work to support the establishment of networks of farmer organizations. Again, we do that work jointly with FAO and IFAD.

But let me end by returning to Africa. Malawi's President Mutharika, in his African Union inaugural address last month, reminded us that food security can be achieved in our lifetime, and he laid down a challenge. That challenge is for Africa to feed Africans. He said that it was his hope that in five years, no children would be going to bed hungry in Africa, and none would die from malnourishment.

That was a very bold statement, but one that can be achieved – and one that must be achieved – if we are to realize the first and most fundamental of the Millennium Development Goals.

Synthesis of Deliberations of the third meeting of the Farmers' Forum

Your Excellencies, Distinguished Governors of IFAD, Mr President, Ladies and Gentlemen

We the participants in the Farmers' Forum, representing millions of small- and medium-scale family farmers, pastoralists and artisanal fishers, worked over the last four days for the third meeting of the Farmers' Forum at IFAD and agree on the following synthesis of our deliberations.

Since the Farmers' Forum last convened two years ago, the world has experienced multiple crises, exacerbated by the global recession and climate change. More people are poor and hungry. We mark the words of the President of IFAD at the opening of our Forum, who said that these crises "alerted the world to the importance of developing agriculture as a source of economic growth and political stability.... investment in rural development and serious attention to the role of poor rural women and men in agricultural growth, and particularly the role that smallholders play across the world, must be central to government policies and their development agendas." We acknowledge the significance of family agriculture in the world and we uphold the campaign for the UN Declaration of the International Year of Family Farming.

We are witnessing all over the world an increasing competition for land and water, with rising land concentration and large-scale land acquisition by transnational corporations and local elites. These practices result in exclusion of people from land and water resources, the fundamental resources on which we rely as food producers. This includes our fishery resources, which are being increasingly depleted as artisanal fisheries remain severely underfunded. It is important to continue promoting the engagement of farmers' organizations for the development of the Voluntary Guidelines on Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land and Other Natural Resources as a follow-up to the ICARRD Conference.

We want agriculture to be controlled by us, the very people who cultivate the land and are feeding the world. There is no effective response to the challenges of food security for all, eradication of extreme poverty and mitigation of climate change without more and better investment in our farms and rural communities and more supportive policies for rural development.

Country leadership and ownership of development policies have been recognized by the international community as a fundamental principle. But country ownership in agricultural and rural development must go beyond ownership by our governments and administration. Therefore as legitimate and autonomous membership-based producers' organizations we claim our duty and rights to be part of the design, implementation and evaluation of these rural development policies and programmes that are benefiting not only our rural communities, but our urban fellow citizens who rely on the food we produce.

Partnership between IFAD and Farmers' Organizations in Country Programmes.

We note and highly appreciate the real progress in the consultation and partnership between IFAD, governments and our organizations since the creation of the Farmers' Forum, and in particular over the last two years.

We agree with the President of IFAD's emphasis that IFAD's partnerships with the farmers' organizations have improved IFAD's own understanding of rural poverty, that they have enabled IFAD to ensure a greater focus on the smaller and poorer farmers, and that they have also benefited from the local and indigenous knowledge and experience, which in turn have resulted in better projects and more sustainable benefits

to smallholders. At the same time, we recognize that we need to do *more and better* to deepen this partnership.

In order to seize all of the opportunities offered by a more inclusive participation of rural producers, we need time and resources to consult. We provide the following recommendations to IFAD:

- Extend the partnership to all countries where IFAD is operating, taking into account the diversity of the organizations of poor rural people.
- Systematically include at least one national apex organization in the IFAD Country Programme Management Team in order to contribute to the steering of the IFAD country programme (COSOP formulation, project and programme design and implementation, policy dialogue and other initiatives).
- Create a flexible, demand-led facility within IFAD's budget for facilitating the participation of farmers' organizations in the COSOP and the project cycle.
- Develop operational guidelines to support the systematic engagement of farmers' organizations at country level; in particular in the monitoring and implementation of IFAD programmes.
- Ensure that the already strong practice of consultation with farmers' organizations is systematized; in this regard, IFAD and regional/international farmers' organizations could maintain a roster of organizations that should be systematically invited when IFAD is about to embark on project design.
- Take stock of important lessons from programmes with farmers' organizations, with a view to replication and upscaling, and to promote south-south exchanges and knowledge among the farmers. (In this regard, we recommend exploring the possibility replicating the programme 'Learning Routes', which was successfully implemented in Latin America.)

Monitoring and evaluation. It is recommended that M&E systems for projects be systematically open to farmers' organizations, as a way for them to be able to influence projects as well as for them to have access to key information. The involvement of farmers' organizations in the Country Programme Management Team will be the entry point to collectively monitor the outcomes and impacts of IFAD country programmes and to assess the quality of the involvement of farmers' organizations.

Direct support to farmers' organizations. We noted and appreciate the increasing direct support that IFAD has been providing to our organizations over the years through grant funding for capacity-building programmes. We agree with IFAD that direct support to our organizations should be channelled primarily through our regional networks and federations for the sake of economies of scale and efficiency. However, direct support to national or local organizations should remain an option.

As support is expanded, IFAD also expects that farmers' organizations conduct their own M&E of the benefits and impacts of such support for IFAD's target group that accrue within their own organizations, particularly in terms of economic empowerment. In addition, there should be a more systematic approach to identifying synergies between direct support to farmers' organizations for capacity building and their capacity to benefit from the larger projects supported by IFAD and governments. Synergies need to be identified between these two processes.

Farmers' Forum Process. We reiterate our request that the Farmers' Forum be an on-going, bottom-up process of consultation, inclusive of the diversity of our organizations and respectful of our autonomy.

In this regard we recommend that each regional division of IFAD develop and implement its own plans for dialogue and consultation at country and regional levels in partnership with the members of the Steering Committee of the Forum, with the objective of organizing regional or sub-regional meetings of the Farmers' Forum in at least five regions/sub-regions over the next two years, with contributions from farmers' organizations. Regional division plans should be developed over the next months and submitted to the Steering Committee of the Farmers' Forum for comments and validation. It is suggested that, at the regional level, the consultation be systematically linked to existing opportunities directly linked to IFAD operations in its five regions. For example:

- For Latin America and the Caribbean, a dedicated session be organized each year in the context of regional integration processes, including DR CAFTA and REAF MERCOSUR.
- In the other IFAD regional divisions, national farmers' organizations be invited to attend the annual Regional Implementation Workshop and that an additional day be added to the agenda to take stock and define ways of accelerating the partnership, at the national level, between IFAD, farmers' organizations and national governments.

It is also recommended that IFAD develop a dialogue with the NEPAD Secretariat with the aim of establishing a CAADP focal point to accelerate the partnership with farmers' organizations.

Women in Agriculture and Farmers' Organizations¹

We, women farmers, fishers and pastoralists, call attention once again to the glaring disproportion between women's roles in all aspects of agriculture across the developing world and the limited recognition, rights, resources and services provided to us. We also raise an alarm over the effect that climate change and the financial crisis are having on us women as they result in increased poverty and food scarcity. Because of poverty and lack of services in rural areas, our sons and daughters do not wish to be farmers and continue to migrate to urban areas. This raises a critical question: How can the profitability and sustainability of farming be secured so as to ensure a future for the next generation of women and men farmers?

Effective and representative producer organizations can provide a powerful instrument to make rural women's voices heard, so that we can have a greater influence over decisions that affect our lives and livelihoods. But as of yet, our voices have been heard too rarely in our organizations.

The economic empowerment of women and their increased knowledge and skills are essential preconditions to improve our status and livelihoods, and for us to be able to assume effective roles in producer organizations. We therefore urge IFAD and other donors to bring new and significant resources to support the economic empowerment of women farmers. We need these resources to strengthen our knowledge, skills and leadership in order to produce and process food more effectively and sustainably, for our families and also for the markets. We urge IFAD and other donors to direct resources to women's structures in farmers' organizations and to require quotas that are respected.

We also specifically call upon IFAD to:

- continue and increase efforts to enable women to increase their access to and control over productive assets including land and water;

¹ This statement was prepared during the Special Session of the Farmers' Forum: Preparatory workshop on promoting women's leadership in farmers' and rural producers' organizations

- support the development and provision of financial services suitable to agriculture, and to enable women's incomes to grow;
- in addition to mainstreaming gender equality concerns throughout projects and programmes, wherever feasible earmark funds for women in IFAD-funded programmes as an affirmative action measure – for example under community development funds, and in training;
- use grant funding for women's capacity building – including child care facilities where needed – when it is not possible to finance such activities through a loan;
- where IFAD funded programmes support access to land and other kinds of property, seek to negotiate for joint titling, supported with legal advisory services to enable women to defend their rights;
- in the context of a much-needed focus on rural youth, give attention to the specific situation and needs of young women.

In the context of IFAD's engagement with farmers' organizations we recommend that IFAD:

- open spaces for women farmer leaders to participate in country and global policy processes, and also in IFAD country strategy consultations;
- in the design of the projects and programmes that work with farmers' organizations, establish quotas for women (where possible, not less than 30 per cent, with a view to reaching 50 per cent over time), provide incentives for producer organizations to achieve the targets, and monitor their implementation;
- invest more grant resources in increasing capacity of farmers' organizations to address gender issues and empower women, and to strengthen women's leadership – where possible channelling funds directly to women's structures within organizations;
- involve women leaders of farmers' organizations in the supervision and monitoring of development programmes.

Finally, we note with satisfaction that the 30 per cent quota of women participants recommended at the last meeting of the Farmers' Forum has been exceeded this year. We urge that the current proportion of 40 per cent be maintained in subsequent meetings, with a view to increasing further over time.

Investing in Young Farmers

We all share a recognition of the urgent need to address young farmers. Our family agriculture needs to be remunerative and give dignity. Young women and men farmers' access to production assets – land, credit, training – has to be ensured.

In this regard, we recommend that IFAD:

- Map young farmer and rural youth organizations and their networks (national and regional).
- Hold a Farmers' Forum event similar to the one held for women this year, and ensure more representation of young people in subsequent Farmers' Forums.
- Designate within IFAD a focal point for youth.
- Hold a global workshop on youth involvement in Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development during this year (UN Year of Youth).
- Mainstream youth in all IFAD policies and programmes, with a gender balance and an emphasis on developing capacity-building and enhancement programmes for rural youth to engage in sustainable food production and agriculture and rural employment.
- Launch pilot projects supporting rural youth.
- Organize youth exchanges for experience-sharing on best practices and learning.

Once again we sincerely thank IFAD for having responded positively to our request for establishing the Farmers' Forum as a unique platform for inclusive dialogue on rural development and for giving us the opportunity to address its Governing Council.

I thank you for your attention.

Statement by the Chairperson, Her Excellency Clémentine Ananga Messina, closing the thirty-third session of the Governing Council

Mr President,
Distinguished Governors and delegates,
Ladies and gentlemen,

The thirty-third session of the Governing Council is now drawing to a close. This session marks a turning point in the history of the Fund as the first to be held at the headquarters building. In this regard, I should like once again to convey our appreciation to the Italian Republic for its support to our institution. This meeting also marks the beginning of the Eighth Replenishment period, during which IFAD will endeavour to expand the scope of its actions on behalf of rural poor women and men.

At the opening ceremony we had the honour and the privilege of welcoming His Excellency Giorgio Napolitano, President of the Italian Republic. In his address to the Governing Council, President Napolitano confirmed Italy's commitment towards our organization – not only as the host country but also as one of the most fervent defenders of international aid for sustainable development. The Council welcomed these assurances of Italy's unfailing generosity and support.

The Governing Council was also honoured with the presence of the Honourable Mizengo Peter Pinda, Prime Minister of the United Republic of Tanzania. In reading the statement from His Excellency President Jakaya Mrisho Kikwete, he highlighted the importance of IFAD's mission to help rural poor people deal with the many difficulties they face. He also underscored the role that developing countries themselves must play in this worldwide endeavour. The United Republic of Tanzania recently demonstrated the African continent's ability to chart a course of reform, growth and development. Focusing on the need to combat poverty under a concerted approach to ensure sustainable development constitutes an appeal to all of us to respond with all our knowledge, experience and financial resources.

The Secretary-General of the United Nations, in his message, reiterated IFAD's importance as a member of the United Nations family and underscored the position of agriculture at the heart of global concerns. He also reminded us that if we are to overcome the many obstacles to poverty reduction and sustainable development it is essential to forge diversified, innovative partnerships and take integrated and sustained action.

President Nwanze's words to the Council were compelling: the current realities facing rural poor people make IFAD's role and mission more relevant than ever before. This truth is evidenced not only by the unprecedented level of last year's replenishment but also by the Fund's increasing involvement in major events on the global agenda. I am sure that, following President Nwanze's example, everyone here today will join me in urging the international community to continue supporting IFAD and its efforts to help rural poor people and smallholders free themselves from poverty.

The addresses by Mr Jacques Diouf, Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, and Mr Amir Mahmoud Abdulla, Deputy Executive Director and Chief Operating Officer of the World Food Programme, also focused on partnership and cooperation. The presence of these high-ranking officials underscore the increasingly close relations among the Rome-based organizations, whereby we work together in a concerted and coordinated way to lay the foundations for a global partnership on agriculture, food security and nutrition.

The Governors have spoken with one voice, transcending their geographical and cultural differences, in expressing support for IFAD's mission. Together they have endorsed the Fund's current initiatives to enhance efficiency, innovation and effectiveness; and encouraged even greater participation in global initiatives to combat poverty.

The recent catastrophe in Haiti is still very much on our minds, and the Governing Council has expressed its full support for the Haitian people and for the initiatives IFAD has undertaken on behalf of our fellow Member State.

Distinguished Governors,

The Governing Council has reviewed the report on the Eighth Replenishment of IFAD's resources. The unprecedented target and pledges received thus far, and the recent declaration of effectiveness, are proof positive that agricultural development today stands at the forefront of international priorities. They are also an eloquent reminder of the importance assigned by the Member States to IFAD's mission and to allocating resources to significantly strengthen its role.

As recommended by the Executive Board, the Governing Council approved IFAD's audited financial statements for 2008 and programme of work and administrative and capital budgets for 2010, prepared for the first time on a results basis. The Council approved the administrative budget for 2010 inclusive of Programme Development Financing Facility (PDFF) expenditure in the amount of US\$131.99 million, and the capital budget for 2010 in the amount of US\$3.53 million. In addition, the Council approved the Office of Evaluation's administrative budget for 2010 in the amount of US\$6.2 million. The summary records of this session will place on record the Italian Republic's abstention in regard to the administrative budget.

In adopting the resolution on the revision of IFAD's Lending Policies and Criteria, the Governing Council, at the President's proposal, decided to request the Executive Board to present the revised version to the Council at its thirty-fourth session to be held in 2011. Pending its adoption by the Council, the Board will be authorized to create a new lending category on terms similar to the "hardened terms" of the International Development Association (IDA), and to apply such terms to the same countries to which they are applied by IDA.

Finally, the Governing Council reviewed the progress report on implementation of the performance-based allocation system and the progress report on the Global Mechanism of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification.

Meeting participants welcomed the summary presentation on the deliberations of the third global meeting of the Farmers' Forum, held in conjunction with this Governing Council session. The Forum underscored the need for continued support for the world's small-scale farmers, and recognized IFAD's role as an important and dynamic partner.

We will remember this Governing Council session for the new opportunities for dialogue it has offered us. The interactive discussion in plenary session, which was particularly lively and compelling, and the parallel events on regional themes, as well as the 2010 edition of the Rural Poverty Report, gave the Member States many opportunities not only to discuss issues facing rural poor people all over the world, but also to exchange views and make a contribution to overcoming the practical difficulties facing our organization.

At this session of the Governing Council, IFAD has demonstrated its responsiveness by organizing a parallel event on the situation in Haiti. This important event provided a wealth of information on the current status of IFAD's actions to address the devastation and suffering caused by the earthquake in Haiti. Moreover, in providing an account of concerted efforts to rebuild agricultural areas, it reminded each of us of our obligation to assist this stricken country. During the parallel event, the participants indicated their willingness to support IFAD in forgiving Haiti's debt. We are told that providing such debt relief will neither tax IFAD's financial capacity nor affect the availability of resources to finance the projects and programmes of other Member States. The participants expressed the wish that all Members should join IFAD in supporting this initiative.

I should like to thank each and every one of you, as well as my colleagues on the Bureau. I am confident that they share my appreciation for the trust you have shown in electing me to chair the Governing Council. Thanks are also due to the IFAD staff who

have shown extraordinary skill in planning and organizing this meeting. A special mention goes out, as always, to the interpreters, technicians and messengers. Their efficiency, meticulous arrangements and professionalism have contributed to the success of this session.

Ladies and gentlemen,

Much has been done but, as always, much remains to be done. During each of our discussions and in each of our decisions, we have kept in mind the difficult lives of poor rural people and the conviction that we can make a difference. I am confident that all the Governors join me in expressing our trust in President Nwanze and his team and reiterating that – to overcome the challenges faced by close to one billion people in the world – they can count on the support of all the Member States. IFAD's strength lies in its Members, their commitment and their ability to transcend geographic and cultural boundaries to bring together donors and beneficiaries within the organization's decision-making bodies and processes. Poverty and hunger know no frontiers or limits – nor do we, the Member States, in supporting IFAD and its mission.

I hereby adjourn this thirty-third session of the Governing Council.

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Enabling poor rural people
to overcome poverty

Delegations at the thirty-third session of the Governing Council

Délégations à la trente-troisième session du Conseil des gouverneurs

Delegaciones en el 33º período de sesiones del Consejo de Gobernadores

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Asesor	Agustín ZIMMERMANN Secretario Representante Permanente Alterno de la República Argentina ante el FIDA Roma

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Gouverneur

Jan DE BOCK
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Représentant permanent de la
Belgique auprès des Organisations
des Nations Unies
Rome

BELGIUM (cont'd)

Gouverneur suppléant

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Représentant permanent adjoint de
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des Nations Unies
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des Nations Unies
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BELIZE

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BENIN

Gouverneur

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Ministre de l'agriculture,
de l'élevage et de la pêche
Cotonou

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Ambassadeur du Bénin
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Gouverneur suppléant

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Cotonou

BENIN (cont'd)

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 Directeur de la Programmation
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 Ministère de l'agriculture,
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 Cotonou

BHUTAN

Governor Sherub GYALTSHEN
 Secretary
 Ministry of Agriculture
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Alternate Governor Tenzin CHOPHEL
 Chief Planning Officer
 Ministry of Agriculture
 Thimphu

Adviser Nidup PELJOR
 Deputy Chief Planning Officer
 Ministry of Agriculture
 Thimphu

BOLIVIA (PLURINATIONAL STATE OF)

Gobernador Esteban Elmer CATARINA MAMANI
 Embajador
 Representante Permanente del
 Estado Plurinacional de Bolivia
 ante el FIDA
 Roma

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 Representante Permanente Alterno
 del Estado Plurinacional de Bolivia
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 Roma

BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

Governor Branko KESIĆ
 Ambassador
 Permanent Representative of
 Bosnia and Herzegovina to
 the United Nations Food and
 Agriculture Agencies
 Rome

BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA (cont'd)

Alternate Governor	Vesna NJEGIĆ Minister Counsellor Alternate Permanent Representative of Bosnia and Herzegovina to the United Nations Food and Agriculture Agencies Rome
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BOTSWANA

Governor	Oreeditse MOLEBATSI Assistant Minister for Agriculture Gaborone
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BRAZIL

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Adviser Francesco PIERRI
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BURKINA FASO

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BURUNDI

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CAMEROON

Gouverneur Clémentine ANANGA MESSINA
Ministre déléguée auprès du
Vice-Premier Ministre et
Ministre de l'agriculture et
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Yaoundé

CAMEROON (cont'd)

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Gouverneur suppléant	Maria Goretti SANTOS LIMA Conseiller Représentant permanent adjoint de la République du Cap-Vert auprès des organisations spécialisées des Nations Unies Rome
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CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

Gouverneur	Fidèle GOUANDJIKA Ministre du développement rural et de l'agriculture Bangui
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CHAD

Gouverneur	Me Mbaïlaou Naïmbaye LOSSIMIAN Ministre de l'agriculture N'Djaména
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Gouverneur suppléant	Hassanty Oumar CHAÏB Secrétaire général Ministère de l'agriculture N'Djaména
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Conseiller	Djitaingar DJIBANGAR Directeur général de la production agricole Ministère de l'agriculture N'Djaména
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CHILE

Gobernador

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Representante Permanente de
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ante el FIDA
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Representante Permanente Alterno
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ante el FIDA
Roma

Sergio INSUNZA BECKER
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CHINA

Alternate Governor

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 Agriculture Agencies
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COLOMBIA

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CONGO

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COSTA RICA

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CÔTE D'IVOIRE

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CUBA

Gobernador Suplente

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CYPRUS

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Alternate Governor

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DEMOCRATIC PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF KOREA

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DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

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DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO (cont'd)

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DENMARK

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DJIBOUTI

Gouverneur

Abdoulkader Kamil MOHAMED
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 Chargé des ressources
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 Djibouti

Gouverneur suppléant

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 Conseiller technique du Ministre de l'agriculture,
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 hydrauliques
 Djibouti

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

Gobernador

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ante el FIDA
Roma

Virginia SERULLE
Consejera
Representante Permanente Alternativa
de la República Dominicana
ante el FIDA
Roma

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ante el FIDA
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ECUADOR

Gobernador

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Quito

Gobernador Suplente

Ramón ESPINEL
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Acuicultura y Pesca
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Embajada de la República
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Betty AGUIRRE
Asesora del Ministro de Agricultura,
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ECUADOR (cont'd)

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Tercer Secretario
Representante Permanente Alterno
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ante el FIDA
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David VACA
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EGYPT

Alternate Governor

Ashraf RASHED
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EL SALVADOR

Gobernador	José Roberto ANDINO SALAZAR Embajador Representante Permanente de la República de El Salvador ante el FIDA Roma
Gobernador Suplente	María Eulalia JIMÉNEZ ZEPEDA Ministro Consejero Representante Permanente Adjunto de la República de El Salvador ante el FIDA Roma

EQUATORIAL GUINEA

Gobernador	Diosdado Sergio OSA MONGOMO Vice Ministro de Agricultura y Bosques Malabo
Gobernador Suplente	Crisantos OBAMA ONDO Representante Permanente de la República de Guinea Ecuatorial ante los Organismos de las Naciones Unidas Roma
Asesor	Martin MIKO Director de Gabinete del Ministro de Agricultura y Bosques Malabo
Asesor	Tito MITOGO NZAMIO Técnico Ministerio de Agricultura y Bosques Malabo
Asesor	Mateo NSOGO NGUERE MICUE Coordinador Ministerio de Agricultura y Bosques Malabo

ERITREA

Governor	Arefaine BERHE Minister for Agriculture Asmara
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ERITREA (cont'd)

Alternate Governor

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Permanent Representative
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Rome

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ETHIOPIA

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FIJI

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FINLAND

Alternate Governor

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FINLAND (cont'd)

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FRANCE

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Représentation permanente
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Direction générale du Trésor et de
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GABON

Gouverneur

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Libreville

Gouverneur suppléant

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et du développement rural
Libreville

GAMBIA (THE)

Governor

Momodou Seedy KAH
Deputy Minister for Agriculture
Banjul

GAMBIA (THE) (cont'd)

Alternate Governor

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GEORGIA

Alternate Governor

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GERMANY

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GHANA

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GREECE

Alternate Governor

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GRENADA

Governor

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GUATEMALA

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GUINEA

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IRAN (ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF)

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IRAQ

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IRELAND

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Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Jerusalem

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Directorate General for International
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JAPAN

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Rome

Toshitaka NAKANO
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JORDAN

Governor	Radi AL-TARAWNEH Secretary-General Ministry of Agriculture Amman
Alternate Governor	Malek BRIZAT Director for Arab and Islamic Relations Ministry of Planning and International Co-operation Amman
Adviser	Ibrahim Abu ATILEH Agriculture Counsellor Deputy Permanent Representative of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan to IFAD Rome
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KAZAKHSTAN

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	Aigul BOKAYEVA First Secretary Alternate Permanent Representative of the Republic of Kazakhstan to IFAD Rome
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KENYA

Governor	William SAMOEI RUTO Minister for Agriculture Nairobi
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KENYA (cont'd)

Alternate Governor

Ann Belinda NYIKULI
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Permanent Representative of
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KIRIBATI

Governor

Amberoti NIKORA
Minister for Environment, Lands
and Agricultural Development
Tarawa

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LAO PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC

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 Vice-Minister for Finance
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Monthathip CHANPHENXAY
 Director-General
 Agricultural Department
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 Vientiane

Thipphakone CHANTHAVONGSA
 Director-General
 External Finance Department
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Theutthoune SOUKALOUN
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LEBANON

Gouverneur

Gloria ABOUZEID
 Présidente du Comité exécutif
 Plan vert
 Beyrouth

Mohammad EL-KHANSA
 Conseiller du Ministre de l'agriculture
 Beyrouth

Hussein NASRALLAH
 Directeur des Etudes et de la Coordination
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LESOTHO

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 and Food Security
 Maseru

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 Ministry of Agriculture
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 Maseru

Adviser

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Adviser

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General People's Committee for Foreign Liaison
and International Co-operation
Tripoli

Hussin Belgacem KALIFA
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LUXEMBOURG

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LUXEMBOURG (cont'd)

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MADAGASCAR

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Antananarivo

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Ministère de l'agriculture
Antananarivo

Monsieur MONJA
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MALAWI

Governor

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Principal Secretary
Ministry of Agriculture
and Food Security
Lilongwe

Alternate Governor

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Controller of Agricultural Services
Ministry of Agriculture
and Food Security
Lilongwe

Adviser

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Ministry of Agriculture
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MALAYSIA

Alternate Governor	Ramli NAAM Ambassador Permanent Representative of Malaysia to the United Nations Food and Agriculture Agencies Rome
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MALDIVES

Governor	Ibrahim DIDI Minister for Fisheries and Agriculture Malé
Adviser	Aminath SHAFIA Minister of State for Fisheries and Agriculture Malé

MALI

Gouverneur	Aghatam Ag ALHASSANE Ministre de l'agriculture Bamako
Gouverneur suppléant	Gaoussou DRABO Ambassadeur Représentant permanent de la République du Mali auprès du FIDA Rome

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Diallo Aïssata TRAORÉ
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MALTA

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Alternate Governor

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 Alternate Permanent Representative
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 Rome

Roberto PACE
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MAURITANIA

Gouverneur suppléant

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 économique et social
 Ministère des affaires économiques
 et du développement
 Nouakchott

MAURITIUS

Governor

Satya Veyash FAUGOO
 Minister for Agro Industry,
 Food Production and Security
 Port Louis

Alternate Governor

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MEXICO

Gobernador

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 Representante Permanente de
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Gobernador Suplente

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Cecile DE MAULEÓN
 Asesora
 Embajada de los Estados
 Unidos Mexicanos
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MOROCCO

Gouverneur

Moha MARGHI
 Secrétaire général
 Ministère de l'agriculture et
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 Rabat

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 Représentant permanent adjoint
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Jaouad ZHAR
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 Ministère de l'économie et
 des finances
 Rabat

MOZAMBIQUE

Governor

Carla Elisa MUCAVI
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 the United Nations Food and
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NEPAL

Governor	Mrigendra Kumar Singh YADAV Minister for Agriculture and Cooperatives Kathmandu
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NETHERLANDS

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NIGER

Gouverneur	Mahaman MOUSSA Ministre du développement agricole Niamey
Gouverneur suppléant	Mireille Fatouma AUSSEIL Ambassadeur Représentant permanent de la République du Niger auprès du FIDA Rome
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NIGERIA

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	Wada TAWAR UMBI Chairman Senate Committee on Agriculture Abuja
	Sani AHMAD RUFA'I Member Senate Committee on Agriculture Abuja
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OMAN

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Representante Permanente Alterno
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PARAGUAY

Gobernador

Dionisio BORDA
Ministro de Hacienda
Asunción

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Ministerio de Hacienda
Asunción

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Roma

PERU

Gobernador

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el FIDA
Roma

Gobernador Suplente

Manuel Antonio ÁLVAREZ ESPINAL
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Representante Permanente Alterno
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ante el FIDA
Roma

PHILIPPINES

Governor	Noel D. DE LUNA Agricultural Attaché Deputy Permanent Representative of the Republic of the Philippines to IFAD Rome
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PORTUGAL

Governor	José António de Sousa CANHA Director for Agriculture and Fisheries Lisboa e Vale de Tejo Region Ministry of Agriculture, Rural Development and Fisheries Lisbon
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QATAR

Governor	Abdullah bin Mubarak BIN AABOUD AL-MIDHADHI Minister for Environment Doha
Alternate Governor	Soltan Saad S.K. AL-MORAIKHI Ambassador Permanent Representative of the State of Qatar to the United Nations Agencies Rome
	Fahad Mohammad AL-ATTIYA President Qatar National Food Security Programme Doha
	Masoud Jarallah AL MERRY Director Genetic Technical Resources Doha
	Abdulla Jassim M. AL-MAADADI Counsellor Alternate Permanent Representative of the State of Qatar to the United Nations Agencies Rome
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QATAR (cont'd)

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REPUBLIC OF KOREA

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Gwacheon

REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA

Governor
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Chişinău

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ROMANIA

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RWANDA

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Kigali

SAUDI ARABIA

Governor	Fahad Bin Abdulrahman BALGHUNAIM Minister for Agriculture Riyadh
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Alternate Governor	Sulaiman AL-TURKI Deputy Minister for Economic Affairs Ministry of Finance Riyadh
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SAUDI ARABIA (cont'd)

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SENEGAL

Gouverneur

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Ndiobo DIENE
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 Ministère de l'agriculture
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SIERRA LEONE

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SOMALIA

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SOUTH AFRICA

Governor

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SPAIN

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SRI LANKA

Governor

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 Democratic Socialist Republic
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 Rome

Alternate Governor

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 Alternate Permanent Representative
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 of Sri Lanka to IFAD
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SUDAN

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 Permanent Representative of the
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 Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry
 Khartoum

Mohamed Ahmed ALFADIL
 Ministry of Finance and National Economy
 Khartoum

SURINAME

Jagdies BHANSING
 Permanent Secretary
 Ministry of Agriculture, Animal
 Husbandry and Fisheries
 Paramaribo

Dew JADDOE
 Deputy Director
 Ministry of Agriculture, Animal
 Husbandry and Fisheries
 Paramaribo

SWAZILAND

Governor

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 Minister for Agriculture
 Mbabane

Thembayena Annastasia DLAMINI
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 Permanent Representative of
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 to IFAD
 Chambesy

Alternate Governor

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 Ministry of Agriculture
 Mbabane

Adviser

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 Ministry of Agriculture
 Mbabane

Adviser

Sibusiso MSIBI
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 Permanent Mission of the
 Kingdom of Swaziland
 Chambesy

SWEDEN

Alternate Governor

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 Multilateral Development Banks
 Department for Multilateral
 Development Co-operation
 Ministry of Foreign Affairs
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Adviser	Björn GUSTAVSSON IFAD Desk Officer Department for Multilateral Development Co-operation Ministry of Foreign Affairs Stockholm
Adviser	Margaretha ARNESSON-CIOTTI Programme Officer Royal Swedish Embassy Rome

SWITZERLAND

Gouverneur	Jörg FRIEDEN Vice-Directeur et Chef du Coopération globale Direction du développement et de la coopération Département fédéral des affaires étrangères Berne
Conseiller	Alexandre GHÉLEW Conseiller Chargé de programme Section Programme global Sécurité alimentaire Direction du développement et de la coopération Département fédéral des affaires étrangères Berne
Conseiller	Pio WENNUBST Conseiller Représentant permanent adjoint de la Confédération suisse auprès de la FAO, du FIDA et du PAM Rome
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SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC

Governor

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Enabling poor rural people
to overcome poverty

Agenda and programme of events

Governing Council — Thirty-third Session
Rome, 17-18 February 2010

For: Approval

Agenda

1. Opening of the session
2. Adoption of the agenda
3. Election of the Bureau of the Governing Council
4. Statement by the President of IFAD
5. General statements
6. Report on the Eighth Replenishment of IFAD's resources
7. Audited financial statements of IFAD for 2008
8. IFAD's capital and administrative budgets and the budget of the Office of Evaluation for 2010
9. Revision of IFAD's Lending Policies and Criteria
10. Progress report on implementation of the performance-based allocation system
11. Progress report on the Global Mechanism of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification
12. Other business

Programme of events

Wednesday, 17 February 2010

Morning session 9.30 a.m. – 1.30 p.m.

9.30 a.m. to 11.30 a.m. Inaugural ceremony (a Head of State is expected to inaugurate the Council).

11.30 a.m. to 1.30 p.m. Consideration of agenda items.

Afternoon session 3 p.m. to 7 p.m.

3 p.m. to 5.30 p.m. **Interactive dialogue on the theme of the Governing Council:** *"From summit resolutions to farmers' fields: Climate change, food security and smallholder agriculture"*. The panel would be composed of two or three guest speakers and two or three heads of delegation who would each speak for no more than five minutes, followed by a question-and-answer session.

5.30 p.m. to 7 p.m. Continuation of consideration of agenda items, including general statements.

7 p.m. Reception for all delegates

Thursday, 18 February 2010

Morning session 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

9 a.m. to 10 a.m. Continuation of consideration of agenda items, including general statements.

10 a.m. to 12 a.m. Several events will be held simultaneously on specific topics. The events may be chaired by ministers or senior representatives from the regions involved and, if possible, include guests invited to the Council, heads of delegations and the IFAD staff concerned.

12 a.m. to 12.50 p.m. Conclusion of remaining agenda items, including general statements.

12.50 p.m. to 1 p.m. Closure of the session.

1.30 p.m. to 3 p.m. Lunch hosted by President Nwanze for heads of delegation.

List of documents placed before the thirty-third session of the Governing Council

Document No.	Agenda Item	Title
GC 33/L.1/Rev.1	2	Provisional agenda and programme of events
GC 33/L.1/Rev.1/Add.1	2	Schedule of work
GC 33/L.2	6	Report on the status of contributions to the Eighth Replenishment of IFAD's resources
GC 33/L.3	7	Consolidated financial statements of IFAD as at 31 December 2008
GC 33/L.4	8	IFAD's 2010 results-based programme of work and administrative and capital budgets, and the Office of Evaluation's three-year (2010-2012) rolling work programme and 2010 resource issues
GC 33/L.5	9	Revision of the Lending Policies and Criteria
GC 33/L.6	10	Progress report on implementation of the performance-based allocation system
GC 33/L.7	11	Progress report on the Global Mechanism of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa
GC 33/INF.1 + Add.1		Arrangements for the thirty-third session of the Governing Council
GC 33/INF.2		IFAD's participation in the Debt Initiative for Heavily Indebted Poor Countries – Progress report
GC 33/INF.3		Report on the status of contributions to the Seventh Replenishment of IFAD's resources
GC 33/INF.4		IFAD Policy on the Disclosure of Documents
GC 33/INF.6/Rev.1		Order of speakers – Statements to be delivered during plenary meetings
GC 33/INF.7		Financial highlights of the year ended 31 December 2009
GC 33/Resolutions		Resolutions adopted by the Governing Council at its thirty-third session

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Enabling poor rural people
to overcome poverty

Resolutions adopted by the Governing Council at its thirty-third session

Governing Council — Thirty-third Session
Rome, 17-18 February 2010

For: Information

Resolutions adopted by the Governing Council at its thirty-third session

1. The Governing Council, at its thirty-third session, adopted resolutions 157/XXXIII and 158/XXXIII on 17 February 2010.
2. These resolutions are transmitted for the information of all Members of IFAD.

Resolution 157/XXXIII

Administrative and capital budgets of IFAD and its Office of Evaluation for 2010

The Governing Council of IFAD,

Bearing in mind article 6.10 of the Agreement Establishing IFAD and regulation VI of the Financial Regulations of IFAD;

Noting that, at its ninety-eighth session, the Executive Board reviewed and agreed upon a programme of work of IFAD for 2010 in the amount of SDR 503 million; and

Having considered the review of the ninety-eighth session of the Executive Board concerning the proposed administrative and capital budgets of IFAD and its Office of Evaluation for 2010;

Recalling that the Governing Council at its thirty-second session in 2009 approved, in its resolution 154/XXXII, the Report of the Consultation on the Eighth Replenishment of IFAD's Resources calling for the integration of the Programme Development Financing Facility (PDFF) expenditures into the administrative budget, starting from 2010;

Decides that the PDFF shall be integrated into the administrative budget of IFAD;

Approves firstly the administrative budget of IFAD for 2010, in the amount of US\$131.99 million inclusive of PDFF expenditures, secondly, the capital budget of IFAD for 2010 in the amount of US\$3.53 million and thirdly, the administrative budget of IFAD's Office of Evaluation for 2010 in the amount of US\$6.2 million, as all three are set forth in document GC 33/L.4, determined on the basis of a rate of exchange of EUR 0.72/US\$1.00; and

Further determines that in the event the average value of the United States dollar in 2010 should change against the euro rate of exchange used to calculate the budget, the total United States dollar equivalent of the euro expenditures in the budget shall be adjusted in the proportion that the actual exchange rate in 2010 bears to the budget exchange rate.

Resolution 158/XXXIII

Revision of the Lending Policies and Criteria

The Governing Council of IFAD,

Noting and having considered the recommendations of the Executive Board related to the revision of the Lending Policies and Criteria;

Decides that:

1. Upon the proposal of the President, the Executive Board shall submit to the thirty-fourth session of the Governing Council in 2011 revised Lending Policies and Criteria that shall take into account all developments since the last revision of the Lending Policies and Criteria in 1998 and express concisely and clearly the broad policies and criteria applicable to financing by the Fund.
2. In the interim period prior to the adoption of the revised Lending Policies and Criteria by the Governing Council, the Executive Board shall have the authority to create a category of lending terms similar to the hardened terms offered by the International Development Association (IDA) and apply such terms to IFAD loans to countries to which IDA provides hardened terms.

