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Enabling poor rural people
to overcome poverty

Governing Council
Thirty-fifth Session Report
Rome, 22-23 February 2012

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Chapter 1

Inauguration and proceedings

1. The thirty-fifth session of the Governing Council of IFAD was held in Rome on 22-23 February 2012. 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 Her Excellency Clémentine Messina, outgoing Chairperson of the Governing Council and Governor of IFAD for the Republic of Cameroon.

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 Marie-Josée Jacobs
Minister for Development Cooperation and
Humanitarian Action of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg

Vice-Chairpersons: Mr Bambang Brodjonegoro
Director
International Relation Policy
Fiscal Policy Office
Ministry of Finance of the
Republic of Indonesia

His Excellency
Miguel Ruiz Cabañas Izquierdo
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of the United
Mexican States to IFAD

Bureau of the Governing Council



Her Excellency Marie-Josée Jacobs, Governor for the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg, newly-elected Chairperson of the Governing Council, and Her Excellency Clémentine Messina, outgoing Chairperson of the Governing Council



Her Excellency Marie-Josée Jacobs, Minister for Development Cooperation and Humanitarian Action of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg



Mr Bambang Brodjonegoro, Director International Relation Policy, Fiscal Policy Office, Ministry of Finance of the Republic of Indonesia



His Excellency Miguel Ruiz Cabañas Izquierdo, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the United Mexican States to IFAD

D. Inaugural meeting of the session

6. Her Excellency, Marie-Josée Jacobs, Governor for the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg, and Chairperson of the Governing Council, delivered an introductory statement. The full text of this introductory statement is reproduced in chapter 4.
7. Mr Kanayo F. Nwanze, President of IFAD, welcomed the special guests to the inaugural meeting of the session. This welcoming statement is reproduced in chapter 4.

8. His Excellency Paul Kagame, President of the Republic of Rwanda delivered a keynote address. This address is reproduced in full in chapter 4.
9. His Excellency Mario Monti, President of the Council of Ministers of the Italian Republic delivered a keynote address to the Governing Council, the full text of which is reproduced in chapter 4.
10. His Excellency Joseph Nyuma Boakai, Vice-President of the Republic of Liberia delivered a keynote address on behalf of Her Excellency Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, President of the Republic of Liberia. The full text of the keynote address is reproduced in chapter 4.
11. His Excellency Andrea Riccardi, Minister for International Cooperation and Integration Policies of the Italian Republic, delivered a keynote address to the Governing Council, the full text of which is reproduced in chapter 4.

E. Statement by the President of IFAD

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

F. High-level panels

13. The proceedings of the high-level panels on "Feed the world, protect the planet" and "From words to actions: Creating a sustainable future for smallholder farmers" are summarized in the summary records contained in chapter 3, part A.

G. Centre-stage events

14. Summaries of the proceedings for the centre-stage events entitled "What promise will Rio herald for agriculture" and "Sustainable agricultural productivity: The key to poverty reduction" are provided in the summary records contained in chapter 3, part A.

H. General statements

15. 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 four regional side events are provided 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 fourth global meeting of the Farmers' Forum, held on 20-21 February in conjunction with the Council session, is included in chapter 4.

I. Closure of the session

16. The Vice-Chairperson of the Governing Council, Mr Miguel Ruiz Cabañas Izquierdo, summarized the results of the Council's main deliberations and then closed the thirty-fifth session of the Governing Council. The text of his statement is reproduced in full in chapter 4.

Chapter 2

Decisions of the Governing Council

A. Application for non-original membership

17. The Governing Council considered document GC 35/L.2 and, on 22 February 2012, adopted resolutions 164/XXXV and 165/XXXV approving the membership of the Republic of Estonia and the Republic of South Sudan.

B. Report on the Eighth Replenishment of IFAD's Resources

18. The Governing Council reviewed the report on the status of donor contributions to the Eighth Replenishment of IFAD's Resources contained in document GC 35/L.3. The Council was informed that, including the pledges received since the date of the report, pledges for the Eighth Replenishment amounted to US\$1.06 billion, or 88 per cent of the replenishment target amount of US\$1.2 billion. It further noted that instruments of contribution deposited, inclusive of those deposited since the date of the report, amounted to 91 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\$866.2 million, equivalent to 82 per cent of the pledged total.

C. Ninth Replenishment of IFAD's Resources

19. The Governing Council considered document GC 35/L.4 together with its addenda and adopted, on 22 February 2012, resolution 166/XXXV approving the Report of the Consultation on the Ninth Replenishment of IFAD's Resources (2013-2015) authorizing the replenishment of the Fund.

D. Consolidated financial statements of IFAD for 2010

20. The Governing Council considered and approved the financial statements showing the financial position of IFAD as at 31 December 2010 and the results of its operations for the year ended on that date, as contained in appendices A to K, inclusive of document GC 35/L.5 and the report of the external auditor thereon.

E. IFAD's capital and administrative budgets and the budget of the Independent Office of Evaluation of IFAD for 2012

21. After considering the proposed administrative and capital budgets of IFAD and the budget of the Independent Office of Evaluation of IFAD for 2012, as presented in document GC 35/L.6, the Governing Council adopted resolution 167/XXXV, relating thereto on 22 February 2012.

F. Revision of the Financial Regulations of IFAD

22. The Governing Council considered document GC 35/L.7 and adopted, on 22 February 2012, resolution 168/XXXV approving the Revision of the Financial Regulations of IFAD.

G. Report on the special expenditure for the Voluntary Separation Programme for IFAD for 2009-2011

23. Having reviewed the report on the special expenditure for the Voluntary Separation Programme for IFAD for 2009-2011 contained in document GC 35/L.8, on 22 February 2012 the Governing Council adopted resolution 169/XXXV on the repurposing of the balance from the special expenditure for the Voluntary Separation Programme for reform actualization.

H. Election of members and alternate members of the Executive Board

24. In accordance with rule 40.2 of the Rules of Procedure of the Governing Council, and after considering document GC 35/L.9 and its addendum, the Governing Council elected, on 22 February 2012, new members and alternate members to the Executive Board for a term of office of three years.
25. Within List A countries, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Netherlands, Norway and the United States were elected as members; and the following as their respective alternate members: Finland, Belgium, Luxembourg – as alternate to Germany for 2012 – to be replaced by Switzerland for 2013-2014, Portugal, Denmark, United Kingdom, Sweden and Spain. In addition, it was decided that the United Kingdom be appointed as the member and Netherlands as the alternate member for the last two years of the term of office, i.e. for 2013-2014.
26. Within List B countries: Kuwait, Nigeria, Saudi Arabia and the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela were elected as members; and the following as their respective alternate members: United Arab Emirates, Qatar, Indonesia and Algeria.
27. Within sub-List C1 countries, the following countries were elected as members: Angola and Cameroon for 2012, with Cameroon being replaced by Egypt for 2013-2014; and the following as their respective alternate members: Mauritius and Egypt, with Egypt being replaced by Equatorial Guinea for 2013 and 2014.
28. Within sub-List C2 countries, China and India were elected as members; and the following as their respective alternate members: Pakistan as alternate to China and Bangladesh as alternate to India for 2012, to be replaced by Turkey for 2013 and the Republic of Korea for 2014.
29. Within sub-List C3 countries, Brazil and Mexico were elected as members; and the following as their respective alternate members: Argentina and Guatemala.
30. Accordingly, the composition of the Executive Board elected at the Governing Council is as follows:

Executive Board composition for the three-year term 2012-2014

Member

Alternate member

LIST A

Canada
France
Germany

Finland
Belgium
Luxembourg (2012)
Switzerland (2013-2014)
Portugal
Denmark
United Kingdom (2012)
Netherlands (2013-2014)
Sweden
Spain

Italy
Japan
Netherlands (2012)
United Kingdom (2013-2014)
Norway
United States

(The Netherlands and the United Kingdom will alternate seats for the years 2013-2014.)

LIST B

Kuwait
Nigeria
Saudi Arabia
Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)

United Arab Emirates
Qatar
Indonesia
Algeria

LIST C

SUB-LIST C1

Africa

Cameroon (2012)
Egypt (April 2013-2014)
Angola

Egypt (2012)
Equatorial Guinea (April 2013-2014)
Mauritius

SUB-LIST C2

Europe, Asia and the Pacific

China
India

Pakistan
Bangladesh (2012)
Turkey (2013)
Republic of Korea (2014)

SUB-LIST C3

Latin America and the Caribbean

Brazil
Mexico

Argentina
Guatemala

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

31. The Governing Council considered document GC 35/L.10 which provided a report on the implementation of the performance-based allocation system at IFAD and the 2011 country scores and 2012 annual allocations.

J. Istanbul Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011-2020

32. The Governing Council considered document GC 35/L.11 and adopted resolution 170/XXXV, on 22 February 2012, on the endorsement of the Istanbul Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011-2020.

K. Other business

33. 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-fifth session held on Wednesday, 22 February 2012 at 9 a.m.

Outgoing Chairperson: Clémentine Ananga Messina (Cameroon)

Chairperson: Marie-Josée Jacobs (Luxembourg)

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34. **The meeting was called to order at 9.05 a.m.**

OPENING OF THE SESSION (agenda item 1)

35. **The outgoing CHAIRPERSON** declared open the thirty-fifth session and called for renewed commitment in support of IFAD's vision of enabling rural people to overcome poverty through agricultural development.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA (agenda item 2) (GC 35/L.1)

36. **The outgoing CHAIRPERSON** drew attention to document GC 35/Inf.4 concerning revision of the Lending Policies and Criteria, which explained that the Executive Board had decided to remove the item relating to that subject from the provisional agenda on the basis of its view that document GC 34/L.8, which contained details of the proposed revision, would benefit from further discussion and elaboration. A dedicated working group had accordingly been tasked with presenting to the Board a proposal on lending policies which, if approved, would apply to the first round of financing to be provided under the Ninth Replenishment of IFAD's Resources (IFAD9) in April 2013. It was therefore proposed that the item be submitted to the Governing Council for consideration at its thirty-sixth session.
37. Furthermore, as already communicated to the Governors in writing, the President of the Fund had proposed for addition to the agenda a supplementary item entitled "Istanbul Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011-2020". She took it that those two proposals were acceptable.
38. **The agenda (GC 35/L.1), as amended, was adopted.**

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

39. **The outgoing CHAIRPERSON**, recalling rule 12 of the Rules of Procedure of the Governing Council, pursuant to which the three members of the Bureau served a two-year term of office, said that the last election of the Bureau had taken place at the thirty-third session of the Council, in February 2010. She had been informed of the nomination of Ms Marie-Josée Jacobs, Governor for the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg, for the office of Chairperson.
40. **Ms Marie-Josée Jacobs (Luxembourg) was elected Chairperson of the Governing Council by acclamation.**
41. **The outgoing CHAIRPERSON** said that she had also been informed of the nomination of Mr Bambang Brodjonegoro, Governor for Indonesia, and Mr Miguel Ruiz Cabañas Izquierdo, Governor for the United Mexican States, for the offices of Vice-Chairperson.
42. **Mr Bambang Brodjonegoro (Indonesia) and Mr Miguel Ruiz Cabañas Izquierdo (Mexico) were elected Vice-Chairpersons of the Governing Council by acclamation.**
43. **The outgoing CHAIRPERSON** said that it had been an honour for her country, Cameroon, to have served the Governing Council. She conveyed the gratitude of the outgoing Bureau for the cooperation and support received from Member States and also thanked IFAD's staff for their dedication and commitment, which had ensured the Council's success and facilitated the work of the Bureau.
44. **Ms Marie-Josée Jacobs (Luxembourg) took the Chair.**

STATEMENT BY THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE GOVERNING COUNCIL

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

APPLICATIONS FOR NON-ORIGINAL MEMBERSHIP (agenda item 4)

46. **The CHAIRPERSON** invited the Governing Council to adopt the two draft resolutions contained in document GC 35/L.2, approving the non-original membership of the Republic of Estonia and the Republic of South Sudan, respectively.
47. **Resolutions 164/XXXV and 165/XXXV were adopted.**
48. **The CHAIRPERSON** said that the Republic of Estonia would become a party to the Agreement Establishing IFAD upon registration of its instrument of accession. The Republic of South Sudan had already submitted its instrument of accession to the depositary and would therefore become a member of the Fund with immediate effect.

INAUGURAL CEREMONY

49. **His Excellency Paul Kagame, President of the Republic of Rwanda, and His Excellency Mario Monti, President of the Council of Ministers of the Italian Republic, were conducted to their seats.**
50. **Mr NWANZE** (President of IFAD) welcomed the President of the Republic of Rwanda and commended his strong commitment to the elimination of poverty and hunger, which was borne out by figures showing that some one million Rwandans had emerged from poverty in the past five years. Equally impressive were Rwanda's exemplary efforts to promote climate-smart agriculture and to support all farmers, however small. IFAD was proud to be associated with such endeavours, striving as it did to create prosperous and sustainable rural environments.

KEYNOTE ADDRESS BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF RWANDA

51. **His Excellency KAGAME** (President of the Republic of Rwanda) delivered a keynote address, the full text of which is reproduced in chapter 4.
52. **The CHAIRPERSON** thanked His Excellency Kagame for his statement, which had been truly enriching in the light of the great strides achieved by Rwanda in the recent past and its experience in the area of sustainable smallholder agriculture on which the current session was focused.

KEYNOTE ADDRESS BY THE PRIME MINISTER OF THE ITALIAN REPUBLIC

53. **Mr NWANZE** (President of IFAD) welcomed the **President of the Council of Ministers** of the Italian Republic, whose presence at the meeting symbolized Italy's commitment to ensuring that agriculture remained at the heart of the international agenda. Italy was not only host to IFAD but also its steadfast friend and partner, as demonstrated by its crucial role in the successful Ninth Replenishment of IFAD's Resources.
54. **His Excellency MONTI (President of the Council of Ministers** of the Italian Republic), delivered a keynote address, the full text of which is reproduced in chapter 4.
55. **The CHAIRPERSON** expressed gratitude to His Excellency Monti for his statement and to the Government of Italy for the warm hospitality and support that it had always shown towards IFAD.
56. He then invited the Governing Council to watch a video documentary on IFAD's activities.
57. **The video documentary was screened.**

STATEMENT OF THE PRESIDENT OF IFAD (agenda item 5)

58. **Mr NWANZE** (President of IFAD) made a statement, the full text of which is reproduced in chapter 4.
59. **The CHAIRPERSON** expressed the Council's appreciation to the President for his statement and commended his leadership and his vision for the Fund, as well as the tireless dedication of IFAD's staff to the Fund's mission.
60. **His Excellency Paul Kagame, President of the Republic of Rwanda, and His Excellency Mario Monti, President of the Council of Ministers of the Italian Republic, were conducted from the meeting room.**

HIGH-LEVEL PANEL DISCUSSION: "FEED THE WORLD, PROTECT THE PLANET"

61. **Mr GOWING** (Moderator), introducing the high-level panel discussion, said that it would provide an opportunity to engage with experts with a view to deepening knowledge of sustainable, climate-smart approaches to agriculture, which called for bold new ideas. The critical topic under discussion was illustrated by a video currently being screened, and the debate would be further informed by Twitter and Facebook input.
62. Unsustainable development models were degrading the natural environment and threatening the ecosystems and biodiversity on which both livelihoods and food and nutrition security depended. Because no green economy was viable without sustainable agriculture, a profound change in agriculture and food systems, and more coherent policies at all levels, were urgently needed in order to achieve global food security and improve lives, which involved empowering smallholder households and landless farmers, many of whom were women. In short, the enormity of the challenge demanded dramatic options.
63. He then introduced the members of the panel: Ms Pamela K. Anderson, Director General of the International Potato Center, from Lima, Peru; Ms Nivedita Banerji, co-founder and Secretary of Samaj Pragati Sahayog, from India; Mr Andre Leu, President of the International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movements, from Queensland, Australia; Mr Bruce McNamer, President and Chief Executive Officer of TechnoServe, from Daintree, Australia; and Ms Estrella Penunia Banzuela, Secretary General of the Asian Farmers' Association for Sustainable Development, from the Philippines.
64. **Ms ANDERSON** said that the problem-set of interconnected challenges associated with the current agriculture and food system involved such issues as food security, poverty, social exclusion, climate change, nutrition and agriculture-related health problems which, for lack of time and resources, could no longer be addressed separately. A multifunctional transformative agriculture driven by the world's currently undervalued 1.5 billion smallholders was the way forward. Increased funding for research and development was needed to that end, together with productivity revolutions, diversification, sustainable intensification and the linkage of smallholders with sustainable value chains and new business models. Funding was likewise essential to scaling up existing success stories. In one such example, smallholder producers of native potatoes in Latin America had brought together a series of non-traditional partners, with the result that potato prices at the gate and productivity had doubled in just four years. In that particular instance, the market driver had created innovation at the institutional, commercial, technological and policy levels to stimulate protection of biodiversity and best practices in agriculture. That type of coincidence was vital in working towards a multifunctional transformative agriculture.
65. **Ms BANERJI** said that the risks created by markets and ecology at a time of climate change must be converted into opportunities. It was important to facilitate

the transformation of marginal small farmers into powerful economic institutions if they were to benefit from the unavoidable link with markets. Her organization had devised strategies to enable the impoverished tribal people inhabiting the difficult geographical areas of India in which it worked to form strong economic institutions of small women farmers who aggregated their produce collectively and formed a federation-like entity. As a result of the millions those women had accumulated through small savings, they were now in the position to acquire bank loans with which to improve their rainfed agriculture and allied livelihoods. In terms of sales, they were able to benefit from economies of scale that had turned them into a market force with staying power and were equally powerful when it came to buying essential market commodities. Also important to sustainable agriculture was the sustainable use of groundwater. India therefore planned to introduce a unique programme for mapping aquifers in order to promote the collective use of groundwater by farmers.

66. **Mr LEU** said that smallholders, who produced 80 per cent of food in the developing world, were central to his organization's policies and its work to create food security. In that regard, a range of strategies was needed to promote organic agriculture, starting with the traditional and bringing in innovation to improve soil nutrition, pest, disease and weed management, and water efficiency. Eco-function intensification, namely the replacement of synthetic inputs by eco-services, was also being used with great success to increase yields. Organic agriculture therefore had a vital role to play in the overall efforts to improve food security. Peer review data also showed that organic systems were among the most resilient of systems for maintaining yields in extreme weather conditions caused by climate change. Lastly, the development of high-value markets giving farmers a good return was crucial to erasing poverty. His organization had some 40 years of experience in that area at the national, regional and international levels.
67. **Mr MCNAMER** said that markets and investment in viable commercial business models were of critical importance when it came to green smallholder approaches to agriculture. Smallholder farmers should be regarded as business people who thought about money-making, farm profits and losses, and sustainable value chains in which business models applied to all those involved in the chain. Business opportunities, credit access and incentive investments, inter alia, were essential to enabling smallholder farmers to implement conservation agriculture packages, which would require the investment of public and donor funds in private companies. Only then could the cause of sustainable agriculture be advanced in conjunction with opportunities for smallholder farmers as business people in commercially viable value chains. In addition to organic and other certifiable business opportunities serving specific market needs was the leveraging of advantages in mobile and other technologies in order to drive down the cost of access to pricing, weather and other information and to financial and other facilities vital to business success. In short, a dual approach, combining environmental and economic considerations, must be adopted in the interest of scaling up environmentally sustainable opportunities for smallholder farmers.
68. **Ms PENUNIA BANZUELA** recounted an example of successful agrarian reform cooperation in the Philippines, where 500 landless farmers had been given land as a basic productive asset designed to provide income for themselves and future generations. After 15 years of sustainable agriculture practice, the cooperative formed by those farmers now sold its organic rice produce to a wide variety of consumer outlets and the farmers had been able to educate their children, including in agriculture-related areas of specialization at university level. The land, moreover, was well preserved as a result of the cooperative's sustainable practices and use of non-chemical fertilizers. In another success story, Cambodian farmers who practised a system of rice intensification using mainly organic fertilizers had more than doubled their yields, halved their seed purchases and also improved soil health

- and water efficiency. The proof from IFAD and other projects was that sustainable agro-ecological agriculture by smallholder farmers protected the planet and lifted millions of rural people out of poverty. Help was therefore needed for implementing enabling policies aimed at mainstreaming and scaling up sustainable agriculture.
69. **Mr GOWING** (Moderator) informed participants that points being made by those following the discussion via Twitter were focused on education and the need to engage the next generation of potential smallholders, whose interest was more likely to be stimulated by the possibility of making a reasonable living while operating in an ecologically sustainable manner. Farmers' organizations also had a key role to play in gathering, packaging and disseminating knowledge about environment-smart agriculture.
 70. **Mr McNAMER** said that education would certainly contribute to promoting the required changes. A better educated youth, however, was more likely to stay in a rural setting if engaged in commercially viable agriculture that offered money-making opportunities. There were also under-exploited opportunities for youth in non-farm but rural-related entrepreneurship. With the right training and access to credit, younger entrepreneurs could benefit from myriad business opportunities in a rural context, which could indeed be enabled by education, including entrepreneurship business training.
 71. **Ms BANERJI** agreed that the commercial angle was an important consideration in sharing the different kinds of knowledge being generated in sustainable agriculture. Indeed, it had been the focus of her organization's interventions with smallholders. It had, for example, produced a series of short self-help films featuring women smallholders demonstrating the use of small technologies, with the immediate result that their fellow smallholders had since taken up those technologies. The visual media was therefore an ideal means for communicating with smallholders in their own language.
 72. **Ms ANDERSON** said there was evidence of a critical shift from capital-intensive practices and moving inputs to sustainable, intensified and diversified agriculture. Successful knowledge-based agriculture demanded a dramatic overhaul of the education system. His organization had developed a "farmer business school", which taught farmers to become business people, but a much revamped curriculum was needed to capture the next generation, particularly girls.
 73. **Mr GOWING** (Moderator) wondered whether raising awareness of the need for sustainability was part of the approach.
 74. **Ms PENUNIA BANZUELA** replied that her organization had made farmers aware of the disadvantages of certain agricultural practices and of the advantages of sustainable agro-ecological approaches. At the recent youth workshop conducted by the Farmers' Forum, participants had emphasized the need for agriculture to be seen as a dignified profession and the importance of access to available technologies. Education should be both formal and informal, including such solidarity initiatives as farmers' exchange visits.
 75. **Mr LEU** fully agreed that many children would be deterred from farm work in the absence of a good business model and that education was fundamental to knowledge-based agriculture. It was also important, however, to include youth in farmers' organizations and thereby build and encourage the new generation. The fact that one third of delegates in the Farmers' Forum were young people was a proud achievement and steps were being taken to ensure in future that half of those young delegates would be women.
 76. **Ms ANDERSON** commented that added value to the work of all members of value chains was critical as a driver of sustainable agriculture, signalling a remarkable change in approach. Furthermore, the increased earnings generated through those

chains served as an incentive for addressing technology demands to policymakers in order to protect the resource base.

77. **Mr GOWING** (Moderator) asked how the value chain could be made environmentally sustainable.
78. **Ms BANERJI** said that investment in environmental sustainability was crucial to ensuring the commercial viability of agriculture for smallholders. An example of a starting point to the way out for smallholders was provided by India's Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, which ensured 100 days of work in creating durable assets, such as water-harvesting structures, that would promote the improvement of agriculture for small farmers. It was entirely possible to have a value chain of which environmental sustainability was a critical component at all levels.
79. **Mr McNAMER** said that the environmental overlay must follow the value chain, which came first, citing as an example the exceptional Zambian success in implementing conservation agriculture where cotton preceded rotational crops in the value chain. The dissemination of information and adoption of sustainable agriculture could nonetheless be more widespread. Within a decade, a new set of opportunities would emerge as a result of the radically decreasing cost of technology, knowledge transfer and the abilities of audit and key transparent market systems.
80. **Mr GOWING** (Moderator) asked how realistic the multiplier impact of digital technology was in the case of Indian agriculture.
81. **Ms BANERJI** said that knowledge dissemination required a good deal of concerted effort. Whether through visual or digital media, the important point was to show by example the potential impact of new technologies, such as those used to produce bio manures.
82. **Ms PENUNIA BANZUELA** said that mobile phone use had already assumed high importance for farmers with respect to communicating information on market prices. Farmers' organizations also employed the print and broadcasting media to disseminate agriculture-related information derived from the Internet.
83. **Mr GOWING** (Moderator) commented that literacy remained a major challenge.
84. **Ms BANERJI** confirmed the importance of technology in ascertaining market prices; it enabled farmers to bypass traders and obtain better prices for their produce than at the farm gate.
85. **Mr ALHASSANE** (Mali) said that feeding the world and protecting the planet posed a genuine challenge in which protecting the environment was the first step. In Mali, water management and agricultural intensification programmes had been implemented with a view to saving resources and moving away from traditional itinerant forms of agriculture that damaged the environment. The use of intensive fertilizer systems had not only increased crop yields but had improved land use since less land was needed for cultivating the same quantity of crops. Feeding the world today was a difficult equation, bearing in mind the larger number of people to be fed in urban environments. Efforts should be made to reverse the trend of rural exodus by improving rural living conditions.
86. **Mr LEU** said that intensification was a major issue, given that the amount of agricultural land currently available was not set to increase. In Africa, farmers taught to make compost from local materials obtained yields as good as, or higher than, those obtained using expensive chemical fertilizers. Others taught how to regenerate land at the landscape level and harvest for compost had also more than doubled their yields and had lower production costs, in addition to receiving another source of income from compost sales. Moreover, they were erecting hives as the land regenerated in order to provide another cash crop. In terms of agro-ecology at

the village and landscape levels, resilient systems could be built through intensification.

87. **Mr McNAMER** said that the diffusion of innovation was one aspect of intensification to be considered, there being no efficient mechanisms in place for distributing to farmers some of the technologies deployed in the developed world, whether off-the-shelf technologies relating to drought resistance and the effective use of organic fertilizers or other new enabling technologies for sustainable smallholder agriculture. Business models could provide incentives for distributing those technologies through credit schemes and help small businesses start up in that line of work, with governments acting as brokers. Information previously unavailable to some was now accessible as a result of the emerging mobile and other technologies, which provided opportunities for the uptake of fresh approaches.
88. **Ms ANDERSON**, agreeing with the comments of the two previous speakers, said that research also had an important role to play, in particular given the need to start focusing on systems productivity and, by extension, the intensification and modification of those systems. In the southern belt of Asia, for example, research and pilot studies showed that, by breaking the mono-crop cycle, the production of potatoes and rice had as much as doubled, without any need for extra water or nitrogen fertilizer. Among the challenges in scaling up were training and the availability of sufficient quantities of seed potato of a type appropriate to a shorter 70-day cycle. A new "short-cycle" or "precocious" potato was being developed to resolve that problem.
89. **Mr LEU** said that the most successful examples of scaling up, which included a push-pull system for increasing corn yields in East Africa and conservation agriculture projects in southern and East Africa, involved a method that represented the best way forward: that of empowering farming organizations and engaging directly with farmers in determining the most workable options.
90. **Ms BANERJI** said that scaling up could happen only while protecting the planet with State support; given the intricacy and labour-intensive nature of alternative systems, smallholders would otherwise find it difficult to adopt the new technologies in such areas as integrated pest management and organic agriculture.
91. **Mr GOWING** (Moderator) asked a question that had been tweeted: why was good technology not reaching smallholder farms and what were the barriers to the scaling-up process?
92. **Ms PENUNIA BANZUELA** said that lack of training was among the reasons for the inability to scale up sustainable agro-ecological approaches. Certain materials available on the Internet, for example, remained inaccessible to farmers. Another was the lack of such incentives as pricing support for farmers growing organic produce.
93. **Ms BANERJI** added that smallholders were often involuntarily enmeshed in interlocked modes of exploitation by traders who sold to them on credit or offered no variety of product, thereby restricting opportunities for change.
94. **Mr McNAMER** said that both governments and donors had a role to play in catalysing investment by devising new incentives aimed at engaging the private sector. Risk mitigation strategies, including insurance products, could be one way of addressing the risk factors currently associated with smallholder farmers.
95. **Ms PENUNIA BANZUELA**, recalling the investments made several decades earlier in the green revolution, said that it would be possible to mainstream environmentally sustainable agriculture, with smallholders at the core, given the necessary investment in terms of energy, time and money.
96. **Ms ANDERSON** agreed that such a goal was achievable, provided that farmers' organizations were critically involved in changing the conversation by voicing the

- needs of their membership in order to improve the match between existing technologies and the opportunities that farmers sought to realize.
97. **Ms BANERJI** said that she also concurred with Ms Penunia Banzuela's remarks and stressed the urgent need for new commitment.
 98. **Mr LEU** likewise agreed with the need to change the conversation, which should also be broadened. In that regard, the lack of consumer interest in where food came from was a key to the debate. The international media should be mobilized into ensuring that consumers understood how food production worked and the issues surrounding the subject. Governments would then start to react.
 99. **Mr JANABI** (Iraq) said that farmers in developing countries lived at or below the poverty line because agriculture was unprofitable and mostly subsidized. Unless deliberate policies were introduced to change that situation, interest in performing agricultural work would remain low. Education and rural development were also vital to reducing the urban-rural gap and eliminating its adverse impact on agriculture.
 100. **Ms AJAMAY** (Norway), citing a study commissioned by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), said that one third of all food produced was lost during or after harvest or wasted through commercial and consumer chains, thereby increasing pressure on natural resources and reducing the incomes of smallholder farmers. What could be done within the different sectors to limit those losses, which were also significant in the context of sustainability?
 101. **Mr BERHE** (Eritrea) said that feeding the world and protecting the planet went beyond the practice of biological farming to include such factors as the geography of the terrain; in hilly areas of Eritrea, for example, the richness of the farmland was dependent on soil and water conservation measures. Concerning measures to increase production, governments had a role to play in ensuring that farmers employed sustainable and environmentally friendly practices by engaging in appropriate research and extension activities; implementing appropriate policies; and securing access to farmer-friendly credit.
 102. **Mr LEU** said that the major issue of the food losses mentioned by the earlier speaker, due in many cases to poor logistics and transport, was best addressed through work as a value chain, which was usually also cost-effective.
 103. **Mr McNAMER** said that it was a multistakeholder problem. The systems approach was key and the elements that would play a role in it included, among others, government investment, logistics and infrastructure, sustainability, food-related technologies and such business aspects as credit, warehouse receipts and commodity exchanges. Commercial incentives were vital to putting that approach into practice.
 104. **Ms ANDERSON** emphasized the importance of returning that neglected issue to the research and development agenda.
 105. **Mr GOWING** (Moderator) requested a brief explanation of knowledge-based agriculture for the benefit of a number of tweeters who had raised the question.
 106. **Ms ANDERSON** replied that no additional knowledge was required by farmers planting pest- or disease-resistant seeds. Integrated pest management, however, involved more complicated technologies that demanded an ecological knowledge base for effective screening and control. Without the necessary training and education for users, those knowledge-intensive technologies did not work.
 107. **Ms TAGLIANTE-SARACINO** (Côte d'Ivoire) said that political will was another important consideration, the paradox being that productive farmers lived in areas where poverty and malnutrition were most severe. The farmer's environment should therefore be borne in mind, as should limiting factors such as the loss of

knowledge about biodiversity. Knowledge databases must be built to give farmers the opportunity to remain within their sectors and to eat better. A well-functioning transportation system was also vital to ensuring sustainable production.

108. **Mr LEU** agreed that transportation was a critical element in the sale of produce; improved infrastructure would help to counter the many losses that occurred before produce reached the market. Those losses could be further reduced by selling produce on local markets, which would entail a shorter supply chain.
109. **Mr McNAMER** asked who should provide transportation and with what incentives. In his view, transportation challenges were one step up the value chain, forming part of the work of organizations such as those represented by the panellists. Farmers should organize themselves to deal with those challenges.
110. **Mr RUIZ CABAÑAS IZQUIERDO** (Mexico) stressed that burgeoning population growth must be kept in mind; a production increase of 100 per cent in developing countries and 70 per cent in developed countries would be needed in order to feed over nine billion people in 2050. Achievement of the goals sought therefore required improved production and productivity, with technological and logistical innovation at the administrative level. At the same time, all forms of improvement should be approached from a green, sustainable perspective.
111. **Mr MAROOFI** (Afghanistan) stressed the importance of raising farmers' awareness of the assistance offered by the Rome-based organizations; indeed, reaching out to them in that manner would provide a psychological boost that indirectly aided production. Another point was that farmers were often bound by rural traditions that did not encourage reinvestment of income or spending on education or new equipment and inputs as a priority.
112. **Mr Sesay** (Sierra Leone) said that the challenge posed by the post-conflict situation in his country was that of needing to double production in order to feed its people. Farmers viewed intensification through the use of agrochemicals and mechanization for increasing cultivated areas as the two ways forward. The problem lay in determining at what point should the balance be struck between those options and environmental sustainability. Farmers were therefore being usefully educated as to better long-term options, such as the production of organic cocoa, which had a high premium in European markets.
113. **Mr BAGNA DJIBO** (President, Network of Farmers' Organizations and Agricultural Producers of West Africa) said that policy responses to the ongoing food crisis must be well thought out and, most importantly, developed in conjunction with the producers themselves. In his country, Niger, an increase in inputs had not provided the anticipated solution to the problem in a context of drought.
114. **Mr GOWING** (Moderator) invited the panellists to conclude with comments about progress made towards meeting the goal of feeding the world and protecting the planet.
115. **Ms ANDERSON** said that the will existed for pursuing the new agenda and engaging in the new set of conversations needed to support the goals of generating new potential for smallholders and protecting the planet.
116. **Ms PENUNIA BANZUELA** said that, as evidenced by the theme of the Governing Council's current session and corroborated by the findings of numerous FAO studies, there was now a realization that the sustainable agroecological approach was the way forward in the case of small farmers. If energies were directed towards implementing that approach, the green revolution could be turned into a new sustainability revolution within the required timescale.
117. **Ms BANERJI** cited as an example the many exciting rural development reforms under way in India as part of major government policy programmes that would

precisely address the issues of poor people, small farmers and environmental sustainability in a detailed manner.

118. **Mr McNAMER** said that, from the policy perspective, there had never been greater recognition of the overlap between development and economic growth and environmental imperatives. From the technology perspective, there had never been a greater opportunity to produce sustainably for markets that demanded it, using technology that was both environmentally and economically sound.
119. **Mr LEU** said that a bolder vision was needed, agreeing with the earlier comment concerning the need to tackle issues at the landscape level; the environment and the farmer should be reconnected and agroecology should be built from the village level up, taking account of the entire landscape, failing which there would be soil erosion and no water. The value chain must then be expanded to connect the consumer with the farmer in order to avoid critical gaps. Boldness and governance were vital parts of the equation and the three Rome-based agencies played a welcome role in that regard.
120. **Mr GOWING** (Moderator) concluded the discussion by citing comments received via Twitter: agriculture was like any other business requiring knowledge in order to improve production and sales, training, capital and access to markets. Another question was whether environmentally smart approaches would play a role in maintaining the attractiveness of rural areas to young people. Even if the answer to that question was no, a high profile for the environment was absolutely essential.

REPORT ON THE EIGHTH REPLENISHMENT OF IFAD'S RESOURCES (agenda item 7) (GC 35/L.3)

121. **Mr Kellet** (Chief Financial Officer and Head, Financial Operations Department of IFAD) said that the report before the Council provided an update on the status of contributions to the Eighth Replenishment of IFAD's Resources as at 31 December 2011. Since the date of the report, further payments had been received from Denmark, Indonesia, Finland and Switzerland. Total pledges now amounted to US\$1,060 million, or 88 per cent of the target for the Eighth Replenishment. Member States that had not yet done so could still make a pledge to the Eighth Replenishment. Instruments of contribution corresponding to 91 per cent of pledges had been received. Member States that had not yet deposited their instruments of contribution were requested to do so. Payments received as at 20 February 2012 totalled US\$866.2 million, representing 82 per cent of pledges.
122. **The Governing Council took note of the report on the Eighth Replenishment of IFAD's Resources.**

NINTH REPLENISHMENT OF IFAD'S RESOURCES (agenda item 8) (GC 35/L.4 and Add.1 and Add.2)

123. **The CHAIRPERSON** drew attention to the documents on the item and noted that the annex to resolution 160/XXXIV would be further updated as additional pledges were announced or submitted in writing.
124. **Mr LINN** (Chairperson of the Consultation on the Ninth Replenishment of IFAD's Resources) drew attention to the draft resolution on the Ninth Replenishment of IFAD's Resources, contained in annex V of the report. The Consultation on the Ninth Replenishment, recognizing the significant role that IFAD could play in helping poor rural people to increase their incomes and food and nutritional security, had agreed on a target for Member States' contributions of US\$1.5 billion to finance an indicative programme of IFAD loans and grants of US\$2.95 billion for the period 2013-2015. The aim of the investment, and additional cofinancing, was to lift 80 million rural people out of poverty. The report contained a detailed results measurement framework and provided guidance on specific issues to enhance

IFAD's development effectiveness and value for money. It also provided for a mid-term review of the Ninth Replenishment, which would offer Members an opportunity to monitor progress and provide further guidance. He encouraged Member States that had not yet done so, drawing inspiration from the many countries that had substantially increased their pledges, to make an announcement as soon as possible.

125. **Mr KABORE** (Burkina Faso) said that his country had decided to increase its contribution by 25 per cent from US\$100,000 to US\$125,000.
126. **Ms TAGLIANTE-SARACINO** (Côte d'Ivoire) announced that Côte d'Ivoire would be contributing around US\$70,000.
127. **Mr CAÑAS DELGADO** (Venezuela, Bolivarian Republic of) expressed continued support for IFAD and hoped to be able to make an official announcement very soon. He requested further information on the content and scope of the new programme on financing through the private sector and called for a report to be submitted to the next session of the Executive Board on the proportion of resources from the Ninth Replenishment that would be earmarked for the private sector.
128. **Mr KIOME** (Kenya) said that, as promised to the President of IFAD during his visit to the country the previous year, Kenya had pledged to increase its contribution from US\$100,000 to US\$500,000.
129. **Mr RAVATOMANGA** (Madagascar) confirmed the announcement that, despite the political crisis in the country, Madagascar would make a contribution of US\$50,000.
130. **Mr AL-BAHAR** (Kuwait) expressed support for the Replenishment and indicated that Kuwait would make an announcement very soon.
131. **Mr BENAÏSSA** (Algeria) said that Algeria's contribution would be increased tenfold in comparison with 2009.
132. **The Governing Council adopted resolution 166/XXXV on the Ninth Replenishment of IFAD's Resources.**

CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS OF IFAD FOR 2010 (agenda item 9) (GC 35/L.5)

133. **The CHAIRPERSON** recalled that, at its 102nd session in May 2011, the Executive Board had reviewed the audited financial statements and recommended that they be submitted to the Governing Council for approval.
134. **Mr KELLETT** (Chief Financial Officer and Head, Financial Operations Department of IFAD) said that the audited consolidated financial statements of IFAD as at 31 December 2010 were provided in document GC 35/L.5. In the opinion of the external auditors the financial statements presented "fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the ... [Fund] ... and its financial performance and cash flows ... in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards." The statements had been reviewed by the Audit Committee and endorsed by the Executive Board at its 102nd session in May 2011. The formal approval of the Council was now being sought.
135. **Ms JANJUA** (Pakistan) said that, while appreciating the results of the financial audit, a report on value for money or a performance audit would be extremely useful for both the Member States and Management. The Audit Committee could examine the possibility of including such a report in the terms of reference of the auditors. She also requested further information on the deficit of US\$80.3 million, the extent to which it was due to the negative effects of the exchange rate and the manner in which the deficit would be addressed.
136. **Mr KELLETT** (Chief Financial Officer and Head, Financial Operations Department of IFAD) said that it was normal for the audit of the accuracy of financial statements

to be an entirely separate exercise from performance evaluation. A report would be made in due course on the evaluation of IFAD's effectiveness. He added that it was common for exchange rates to change, sometimes resulting in gains and at other times in losses. The previous year IFAD had suffered losses due to the appreciation of the dollar. However, at some point the situation would be reversed and no specific action was required in that respect.

137. **Ms JANJUA** (Pakistan) called for further discussion of the matter.
138. **The CHAIRPERSON** invited the Council to approve the financial statements showing the financial position of IFAD as at 31 December 2010 and the results of its operations for the year ending on that date, as contained in appendices A to K inclusive of document GC 35/L.5 and the report of the external auditor thereon.
139. **It was so decided.**

IFAD's CAPITAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE BUDGETS AND THE BUDGET OF THE INDEPENDENT OFFICE OF EVALUATION OF IFAD FOR 2012 (agenda item 10) (GC 35/L.6)

140. **The CHAIRPERSON** said that at its 104th session the Executive Board had reviewed the proposed budgets for the Fund and its Independent Office of Evaluation and had recommended that they be put before the General Council for approval.
141. **Mr KELLET** (Chief Financial Officer and Head, Financial Operations Department of IFAD) recalled that at its 104th session the Executive Board had approved a record programme of IFAD loans and grants for 2012 totalling US\$1.15 billion. That level of commitments would ensure the achievement of the mandated target of the Eighth Replenishment of US\$3 billion, representing a 50 per cent increase over the previous Replenishment. In addition to the loans and grants, approximately US\$0.65 billion was projected in cofinancing directly managed and supervised by IFAD. The proposed administrative budget of US\$144.14 million in 2012 represented a 2.5 per cent nominal increase over the approved administrative budget for 2011 and would bring the ratio between the administrative budget and the programme of work of IFAD loans and grants to 12.5 per cent, thereby exceeding the target of 13.5 per cent for 2012 established in the Eighth Replenishment Results Measurement Framework.
142. The key objectives of the administrative budget were to strengthen IFAD's operational support capacity while increasing overall efficiency. That was demonstrated by the limitation of the staff increase to 11 positions, ten of which were in the Programme Management Department, to support an increase of 15 per cent in the programme of loans and grants. The focused increase would result in 61.8 per cent of the total administrative budget being allocated to operational work in 2012, compared with 58.1 per cent in 2010. In relation to efficiency, the President had advised the Executive Board that if the actual increase in the salaries of professional staff, as approved by the United Nations General Assembly, was under the 2.5 per cent budgeted, the savings would not be spent by management. The salary increase had not materialized, resulting in savings of US\$700,000. The Executive Board would be consulted on the use of those savings at its next session.
143. The focus of the capital budget of IFAD of US\$3.5 million proposed for 2012 would be on information technology, including the replacement of computers, the implementation of a data warehouse, the provision of a secure and easily maintainable information technology platform for in-country offices and upgrading physical security for in-country offices.
144. **Mr LAVIZZARI** (Director, Independent Office of Evaluation of IFAD) said that in 2012 the Independent Office of Evaluation planned to complete the evaluation of

IFAD's institutional and operational efficiency, which was not only difficult, but was also believed to be the first occasion on which a development organization had attempted to evaluate its efficiency with a view to improving its value for money. A timely and important evaluation would be undertaken of the Fund's direct supervision and implementation support policy, which had resulted in a dramatic change in the IFAD operating model and was widely believed to have made a significant contribution to enhancing the Fund's overall development effectiveness. Nine country programme evaluations, eight project performance assessments and around 25 project completion report validations were planned, in addition to the preparation of standing evaluation reports. Three evaluation synthesis reports would also be prepared on gender, the role of cooperatives in rural development and the country strategic opportunities programme (COSOP) as a strategy instrument.

145. Following the financial savings generated by the Independent Office of Evaluation, which had resulted in a real decrease of 6.3 per cent in its 2011 budget, it was committed to maintaining a zero real budget increase in 2012 in relation to the 2011 administrative budget. The Office planned to maintain the same level of staffing as in 2011 and its budget proposal for 2012 was around US\$6 million.
146. **Mr CAÑAS DELGADO** (Venezuela, Bolivarian Republic of) welcomed the savings achieved and the increased funds allocated for the 2012 work programme, which would raise the level of funding available to countries in terms of loans and grants. He expressed concern at possible imbalances in resource allocation in relation to the private sector and called for broader information on the private sector initiative.
147. **The Governing Council adopted resolution 167/XXXV on the administrative and capital budgets of IFAD for 2012 and administrative budget of the Independent Office of Evaluation of IFAD for 2012.**

REVISION OF THE FINANCIAL REGULATIONS OF IFAD (agenda item 11) (GC 35/L.7)

148. **The CHAIRPERSON** recalled that the Executive Board, at its 104th session in December 2011, had discussed the revisions to the Financial Regulations of IFAD set out in document GC 35/L.7 and recommended that they be submitted to the Governing Council for approval.
149. **Mr OEHLER** (Austria) expressed concern regarding the amendment to regulation VIII.2, which transferred responsibility for treasury activities to the Executive Board. The Executive Board, which approved the investment policy statement, is a governing body and should not assume managerial responsibilities. Its role should be restricted to the conduct of the Fund's general operations.
150. **The CHAIRPERSON** said that note was taken of the concern expressed by Mr Oehler.
151. **Ms JANJUA** (Pakistan) expressed support for the revisions to the Financial Regulations which offered flexibility to carry forward any unspent balance, introduced a more streamlined and efficient procedure for the appointment of the external auditor, and established a safety net in the form of a general reserve to cover exchange rate fluctuations and any delinquency in the receipt of loan service payments. However, she noted that the resolution, although providing for a process to amend the ceiling of the general reserve from time to time, did not indicate the current ceiling.
152. **Mr KELLET** (Chief Financial Officer and Head, Financial Operations Department of IFAD) said that he would provide the requested clarification in due course.
153. **The Governing Council adopted resolution 168/XXXV on revisions to the Financial Regulations of IFAD.**

REPORT ON THE SPECIAL EXPENDITURE FOR THE VOLUNTARY SEPARATION PROGRAMME FOR IFAD FOR 2009-2011 (agenda item 12) (GC 35/L.8)

154. **The CHAIRPERSON** drew attention to the final report on the expenditure incurred under the Voluntary Separation Programme (VSP) for the period 2009-2011 and the resolution on the repurposing and reallocation of the balance from the programme.
155. **Mr GEHRINGER** (Acting Head, Corporate Services Department of IFAD) recalled that the Governing Council had approved an amount of US\$5.5 million for special expenditure on the VSP for 2009-2010 and a no-cost extension to the programme for 2011. A total of 25 staff members had been approved for early separation under the programme, which could therefore be regarded as successful. The total expenditure under the programme had been US\$3.2 million over the whole period, representing 60 per cent of its budget allocation and leaving a balance of US\$2.2 million. Document GC 35/L.8 outlined a proposal for the repurposing of the balance as special expenditure to finance the implementation of the major human resources reform initiatives.
156. The continuation of the ambitious human resources reform programme made it likely that there would be a continuing need for transitional support for IFAD and its staff. The document provided details of possible financing needs, although the precise dimensions and constituent elements of the costs would depend on the outcomes of the job audit and its implementation procedures.
157. **Ms JANJUA** (Pakistan) expressed support for the proposal for the repurposing of the balance of the budget set aside for the VSP as special expenditure to finalize implementation of the outcomes of the major human resources reform initiative.
158. **The Governing Council adopted resolution 169/XXXV on repurposing of the balance from the special expenditure for the Voluntary Separation Programme for reform actualization.**

ELECTION OF MEMBERS AND ALTERNATE MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD (agenda item 13) (GC 35/L.9 and Add.1)

159. **The CHAIRPERSON** said that the term of office of the current membership of the Executive Board expired at the end of the present session of the Governing Council. Schedule II of the Agreement Establishing IFAD provided that 18 new members and 18 new alternate members should be elected or appointed: eight members and eight alternate members from List A; four members and four alternate members from List B; and six members and six alternate members from List C. A list of the Member States against which an accounting provision existed under rule 40.1 of the Rules of Procedure was attached to document GC 35/L.9. The composition of the Executive Board proposed by the Convenors of the three lists was set out in document GC 35/L.9/Add.1.
160. For List A the following countries had been selected as members: Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the Netherlands, Norway and the United States; and the following as alternate members: Finland, Belgium, Luxembourg (for the first year of the term, to be replaced by Switzerland for 2013 and 2014), Portugal, Denmark, Sweden, Spain and the United Kingdom. The Netherlands and the United Kingdom would alternate seats for 2013 and 2014.
161. For List B the following countries had been selected as members: Kuwait, Nigeria, Saudi Arabia and Venezuela (the Bolivarian Republic of); and the United Arab Emirates, Qatar, Indonesia and Algeria respectively as alternate members.
162. There were three sub-listings within List C. For sub-List C1 (Africa) Angola and Cameroon had been selected as members (with Cameroon being replaced by Egypt

for 2013 and 2014) and Mauritius and Egypt respectively as alternate members (with Egypt being replaced by Equatorial Guinea for 2013 and 2014). For sub-List C2 (Europe, Asia and the Pacific) China and India had been selected as members and, as alternate members, Pakistan as alternate to China and Bangladesh as alternate to India (to be replaced by Turkey for 2013 and the Republic of Korea for 2014).

163. It should be noted that document GC 35/L.9/Add.1 recorded the agreements reached within the Lists regarding the distribution of seats in the Executive Board for the term 2012 to 2014. There being no objections, the Chairperson declared those members and alternate members elected to the Executive Board.

164. **The Governing Council approved the elections.**

PROGRESS REPORT ON IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PERFORMANCE-BASED ALLOCATION SYSTEM (agenda item 14) (GC 35/L.10)

165. **Mr CLEAVER** (Associate Vice-President, Programme Management Department of IFAD), introducing the progress report, recalled that the performance-based allocation system (PBAS) continued to be used to allocate IFAD resources to countries as a function of rural population size, country performance on IFAD projects and performance on policy, and in inverse relation to per capita income. The report provided information on the data used, the country scores, the rural population size, per capita income and the allocations made. Only global grants were allocated outside the PBAS, accounting for around 1.5 per cent of total allocations. All international financial institutions (IFIs) now used some form of PBAS and a working group had been established to share experience and introduce best practices among those institutions.

166. **The Governing Council took note of the progress report on the implementation of the PBAS.**

OTHER BUSINESS (agenda item 15)

ISTANBUL PROGRAMME OF ACTION FOR THE LEAST DEVELOPED COUNTRIES FOR THE DECADE 2011-2020 (GC 35/L.11)

167. **The CHAIRPERSON** recalled that, in accordance with rule 8 of the Rules of Procedure, the present supplementary item had been included on the agenda of the Governing Council, as agreed during the adoption of the agenda. She drew attention to the resolution endorsing the Istanbul Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011-2020.

168. **Mr SERE** (Chief Development Strategist, Office of Strategy and Knowledge Management of IFAD) said that IFAD had participated in the Fourth United Nations Conference on Least Developed Countries (Istanbul, 9-13 May 2011), where the Programme of Action had been endorsed by the 48 countries classified by the United Nations as "least developed". IFAD had subsequently participated in various follow-up meetings and consultations to facilitate the mainstreaming and integration of the Istanbul Programme of Action into the work plans of United Nations bodies and funds. The Permanent Representative of Nepal to the United Nations, in his capacity as Chair of the Global Coordination Bureau of the Least Developed Countries, had requested IFAD to integrate the Istanbul Programme of Action into its work plan and to contribute to its implementation. In view of the simplicity and political sensitivity of the issue, the timing of the resolution and overall opportunity considerations, the President of IFAD wished to draw the attention of the Governing Council to the Istanbul Programme of Action. The Secretariat would report periodically to the Executive Board on IFAD's contribution to the implementation of the Programme of Action.

169. He added that, although least developed countries (LDCs) were not necessarily an operational category in the context of IFAD, the Fund was active in 47 of the 48 LDCs and had devoted almost 49 per cent of its resources to them since inception. IFAD was already pursuing the priority areas of agriculture, food security and rural development outlined in the Istanbul Programme of Action.
170. **Mr EKER** (Turkey) said he supported the integration of the Istanbul Programme of Action into IFAD's programme of work. As a contribution to the implementation of the Programme of Action, the Prime Minister of Turkey had announced an economic and technical cooperation package amounting in total to US\$200 million annually for LDCs. The planned activities included an international science, technology and innovation centre and an international agricultural centre in Turkey, and the provision of 1,000 undergraduate, post graduate and medical scholarships for students from LDCs over the decade. An allocation of US\$5 billion would be made to monitor the implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action. It was aimed to raise investment in LDCs by the Turkish private sector to a total of US\$5 billion by the end of 2015 and US\$10 billion by 2020, with a commensurate increase in the credit ceiling of Eximbank for projects and programmes in LDCs.
171. The package would include studies in the fields of agriculture and food security, project proposals for implementation in many LDCs, the organization of land use classes, agricultural needs assessments and research and development, and training in sheep breeding, land improvement and irrigation systems. The first stage would consist of the implementation of projects that could give immediate results.
172. **The General Council adopted resolution 170/XXXV on the endorsement of the Istanbul Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011-2020.**

GENERAL STATEMENTS (agenda item 6)

173. **Mr BRODJONEGORO** (Indonesia) commended the Fund on its frontline role in helping smallholder farmers eradicate rural poverty by promoting sustainable agricultural development. He welcomed Members' strong support for IFAD9 despite the difficult global economic situation and expressed appreciation for IFAD's efforts in that regard. Mindful of the urgent need for sufficient resources to help the world's poor, Indonesia had pledged to double its contribution to the Ninth Replenishment as compared with the Eighth Replenishment.
174. In the medium term, Indonesia was focusing on revitalizing its agricultural sector and gaining competitive advantages, both nationally and internationally. Thanking IFAD for supporting its projects and looking forward to its further engagement with Indonesian agriculture, he urged the Fund to continue to provide incentives for smallholder farmers to stay in rural areas and remain economically active. In view of the worldwide threat of food insecurity, IFAD must do more to secure global food supplies while addressing poverty-related structural problems. In particular, IFAD should concentrate on increasing agricultural productivity by facilitating investment in producing affordable resilient seed. Furthermore, it should boost agricultural trade by expanding markets through South-South cooperation. Finally, it should focus on improving agricultural infrastructure in order to increase farm production while lowering production costs.
175. **Mr TAH** (Mauritania) said that 2011 was the first year of his country's third plan of action under its Poverty Reduction Strategic Framework (2011-2015), prepared by government administrations together with the private sector, civil society and development partners. Aimed at achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), it prioritized food security and agricultural development as effective tools for fighting poverty. A national strategy for food security was also being finalized.

176. The allocation of public funding to poverty eradication programmes had effectively promoted an improvement in living standards for the marginalized inhabitants of rural areas and urban slums in particular. In Mauritania's poor and remote "triangle of hope", formerly known as the "poverty triangle", a dedicated programme was under way to build an infrastructure for growth and basic services, such as roads, water, electricity, schools and health services. The programme also involved over 80,000 families in productive activities in the areas of agriculture, environmental conservation and local development, to which IFAD had made a valuable and much appreciated contribution.
177. **Mr WU** (China) said that, since the 2011 Governing Council session, the weak recovery of the global economy and the continuing volatility of commodity and food prices had posed severe challenges to world poverty reduction and development. Consequently, IFIs, including IFAD, needed to mobilize more resources and increase investment in agricultural development and food security while meeting the MDGs on time. The successful conclusion of the IFAD9 Consultation had laid the financial foundations for IFAD to play a stronger role in the future. He had three observations on IFAD's future development.
178. Firstly, IFAD should accelerate the implementation of the measures outlined in the Strategic Framework 2011-2015 and the report of the Consultation on the Ninth Replenishment of IFAD's Resources. That meant steadily consolidating and expanding IFAD's operations to help developing countries, especially the least developed countries, to improve agricultural production, strengthen rural infrastructure and expand markets while mobilizing more external resources and development inputs. Secondly, IFAD should devise and implement effective cooperation strategies for disseminating experience in agricultural development and poverty reduction, serving as a knowledge base for smallholder agricultural development. Moreover, it should help developing countries to build an important South-South cooperation platform for rural development and poverty reduction. Thirdly, IFAD must maintain the momentum of its reforms, meeting its commitments and continuing its efforts to increase development effectiveness and institutional efficiency. Planning for the future, it should design programmes for medium- and long-term institutional reform, adapting to the changing situation so as to improve governance structures, pursue human resources reform, improve the representation of the developing countries in the institution, and strengthen the role of country offices in order to improve the services provided. China would continue to support IFAD's reforms and long-term development through mutually beneficial cooperation.
179. **Ms COUSIN** (United States) reiterated her Government's support for IFAD at a time of devastating food shortages in Africa and continuing price volatility worldwide. As improving food security remained critical, the United States was maintaining its Feed the Future initiative and financing multilateral programmes including the Global Agriculture and Food Security Program (GAFSP). IFAD was an important partner, implementing GAFSP-financed projects while carrying out complementary projects and programmes in critical areas, such as the dissemination of technology, extension systems, risk mitigation and the development of agricultural markets and finance. Food security would be a priority during her country's presidency of the Group of Eight (G-8) and emphasis would be laid on accountability for commitments made under the L'Aquila Food Security Initiative, of which IFAD was a member.
180. In order to reduce chronic hunger and accelerate agricultural development, IFAD needed strong and sustained support from the Member States. She therefore welcomed the positive outcome of the IFAD9 Consultation, a clear reflection of strong confidence in the Fund and its mission. Any Member States that were not yet fully committed should show their support by making as generous a pledge as they could.

181. The United States fully endorsed IFAD's management policy commitments for IFAD9, which would enhance effectiveness and make IFAD a leader among its peer institutions. Although the focus on scaling up would increase IFAD's impact, the Fund should work closely with other relevant bodies in order to expand its footprint. Her country would cooperate with IFAD and other partners to leverage the Fund's human and financial resources with a view to generating strong, quantifiable outcomes in sustainable food security and eliminating chronic undernutrition.
182. **Ms AJAMAY** (Norway), speaking on behalf of the Nordic countries, said that the impressive outcome of the Ninth Replenishment demonstrated not only that the rural poor were seen as protagonists in the solutions for climate change, food insecurity and poverty but also that IFAD was seen to be delivering results on the ground. She welcomed first-time contributions by several developing countries and increased contributions by others. IFAD must use its resources as efficiently as possible, while focusing on its comparative advantages and scaling up projects through partnerships.
183. Looking forward to the ongoing evaluation, the Nordic countries encouraged IFAD to become more efficient, not least in human resources management, and to mobilize additional resources. Stressing the importance of the working group on Lending Policies and Criteria, they considered that taking IFAD's specificity into account when revising the lending terms for blend countries should not lead to any deviation from the existing International Development Association/International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IDA/IBRD) terms. Improved human resources management included stability in senior management positions and recruitment with a long-term perspective. IFAD must maintain a culture of transparency with all its stakeholders, including in the run-up to the election of the President in 2013. Gender equality and women's empowerment in IFAD should be fully mainstreamed, through a comprehensive, operational and budgeted policy and sufficient core resources.
184. IFAD played a crucial role in serving the interests of marginalized smallholder farmers, women in particular, and should promote smallholder integration in markets and value chains. The Fund's stronger engagement with the private sector and its cooperation with other partners would improve food security and help farmers to cope with the impact of climate change through practices that improved the resilience of farming systems. IFAD and the other Rome-based agencies were expected to contribute substantively to the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20).
185. **Mr EWOVOR** (Togo) said that, having successfully launched an agricultural production recovery strategy in response to the 2008 food crisis, Togo had recently established an investment programme for agriculture and food security together with a number of partners. Togo was one of the first countries to implement such a programme in keeping with the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) and expected the agricultural sector to grow by six per cent by 2015 as a result. A major IFAD-supported project focused on the development of staple crops and rural infrastructure, including irrigation, with emphasis, inter alia, on the creation of a value chain and capacity-building among farmers and their organizations. The President of IFAD had visited Togo in October 2011, demonstrating the Fund's strong commitment to his country and its efforts to develop agriculture, and had been able to witness Togo's success in transforming its agricultural sector. Nevertheless, more had to be done to ensure the involvement of producers and their organizations, while the private sector was being encouraged to commit itself to those efforts.
186. He thanked all IFAD Member States and, in particular, GAFSP donor countries, for their support for the action being taken to develop his country's agricultural sector. Togo welcomed the theme of the current session, would be participating actively in

the Rio+20 conference and was fully committed to making the necessary changes to make agriculture a sustainable sector of its economy. Emphasis would be laid on institutional frameworks, research and the development of new technologies, with technical advice and support on the ground to improve access for small farmers.

187. **Ms ANANGA MESSINA** (Cameroon) said that addressing the challenge of sustainable smallholder agriculture called for fresh approaches to climate change, diverse domestic markets, the risks facing small farmers, integrated international trade and emerging markets. Production systems had to be made secure in order to safeguard food security while sustainably protecting the environment and offering opportunities for economic growth. By discussing potentially controversial issues, such as promoting green energy sources, policies to support ecological agricultural technologies or guarantee land rights, payment for environmental services and subsidies for agricultural inputs, the Governing Council could contribute to the negotiations under way. Agriculture based on the ecosystems approach was the way forward and she looked forward to discussions at the Rio+20 conference.
188. In developing countries, where family units accounted for over 80 per cent of production capacity, strategies had to be built on local experience and innovation. The successful diversification of smallholder production systems in Cameroon under an innovative IFAD-funded project was further exemplified by the widespread domestication of wild species, the processing of farm products by suburban farmer organizations and the breeding of cane rats. In order to achieve food security while ensuring environmental protection, the agricultural sector needed new and innovative financing, for which public-private partnerships could prove decisive. Smallholder farmers needed IFAD's support and the Fund should finance innovative projects with a high added value. The successful conclusion of the IFAD9 Consultation was the Member States' response to the Strategic Framework 2011-2015, which focused on the means of subsistence and food security of the rural poor and on smallholder farming not only as an essential source of income and food for many poor rural households but also as the engine of economic growth in the countryside.
189. **Mr BENAÏSSA** (Algeria) said that existing responses to food insecurity included the doubly green revolution, intelligent agriculture, the active protection of natural resources and the fight against desertification. In the face of such challenges, IFAD had become more efficient but needed to take a dynamic and innovative approach, drawing on its 35 years of experience in agricultural and rural development. Algeria fully supported IFAD and its solidarity with the world's most vulnerable populations. Since 2009, his country had been refocusing its activities, taking a bold approach to rural and agricultural renewal that encompassed sustainable development, in the firm belief that development could only be sustainable if it was nationwide and involved all sectors.
190. Rural areas embodied great potential for the future and, complications notwithstanding, existing trends and paradigms must and could be overturned with a view to increasing investment in rural development. Tools had been developed for that purpose in the form of integrated grass-roots development projects, strengthening existing synergies to optimize the use of public and private resources. The projects were designed to ensure the involvement and approval not only of the communities concerned but also of local authorities, civil society and academic institutions, thus placing small farmers and rural households at the heart of all rural development efforts and enabling them to benefit from investment and other forms of support and also from government policies on land rights and access to new farmland. Rural households, women and family farms were part of a construction process bringing about the harmonious and sustainable development of rural areas while meeting production targets. Capacity-building and technical assistance were key aspects of the policy, with major investment in research and

training. In conclusion, he confirmed Algeria's commitment to the Ninth Replenishment.

191. **Mr CERIANI** (Italy) said that the US\$1.5 billion target for IFAD9 was a challenge which would require a substantial effort from all donors, including the emerging economies, which had a growing role to play in international development cooperation. It would also require the generation of adequate internal financial resources and a continued drive for efficiency within the Fund. Despite the current economic difficulties, Italy was demonstrating its belief in IFAD's mission by increasing its own contribution to the Fund. Since the L'Aquila Summit in 2009 and the establishment of a global partnership on agriculture, progress had been made in increasing the transparency of markets, combating volatility in the prices of agricultural products and sustaining investment in agriculture. The issue of food security was now central to the discussions of the G-8 and the G-20, with the focus on small-scale producers and the need to introduce criteria of sustainability in global agricultural production.
192. IFAD's unique mandate in relation to poor rural areas, the financing of smallholders and the recognition of the central role of women in combating poverty gave it a specific responsibility in the field of international development cooperation. The target assigned to the Fund with the current Replenishment was that of lifting 80 million people out of poverty by 2015. It was a challenge that required an institution that made the best possible use of its human capital; effective dialogue with partner countries; sufficient flexibility to include concern for the environment in its approach to agricultural development; and innovation in developing partnerships with the private sector for the benefit of small-scale producers. It was to be hoped that in 2015 the evaluation of outcomes would find that positive results had been achieved. Italy reiterated its continued support for IFAD, particularly in the light of the theme of the current session.
193. **The meeting rose at 2 p.m.**

- (ii) Summary record of the second meeting of the thirty-fifth session held on Wednesday, 22 February 2012 at 3 p.m.

Chairperson: Bambang Brodjonegoro (Indonesia)

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194. **The meeting was called to order at 3.20 p.m.**
195. **His Excellency Joseph Nyuma Boakai, Vice-President of the Republic of Liberia, was conducted to his seat.**
196. **The VICE-CHAIRPERSON** welcomed the Vice-President of the Republic of Liberia.

KEYNOTE ADDRESS BY HIS EXCELLENCY JOSEPH NYUMA BOAKAI,
VICE-PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA ON BEHALF OF
HER EXCELLENCY ELLEN JOHNSON SIRLEAF, PRESIDENT OF THE
REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA

197. **Mr BOAKAI** (Vice-President of the Republic of Liberia) delivered a keynote address, the full text of which is reproduced in chapter 4.
198. **His Excellency Joseph Nyuma Boakai, Vice-President of the Republic of Liberia, was conducted from the meeting room.**

CENTRE-STAGE EVENT ON "WHAT PROMISE WILL RIO HERALD FOR
AGRICULTURE?"

199. **The VICE-CHAIRPERSON** introduced Ms Lindiwe Majele Sibanda, Chief Executive Officer of the Food, Agriculture and Natural Resources Policy Analysis Network, who would be the keynote speaker in the centre-stage conversation moderated by the journalist Ms Naga Munchetty.
200. **Ms SIBANDA** outlined her background in a village in central Zimbabwe and her early interest in livestock science and subsequent studies in animal production.
201. **Ms MUNCHETTY** (Moderator) added that Ms Sibanda, through the Food, Agriculture and Natural Resources Policy Analysis Network, was currently coordinating policy research and advocacy programmes in 14 southern African countries with the aim of making Africa a food secure region. In 2009, she had led the No-Agriculture, No-Deal global campaign and mobilized African civil society organizations to push for the inclusion of agriculture in the negotiations relating to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). She was an animal scientist by training and a practising cattle farmer. In 2010, she had been co-opted onto the Global Development Advisory Panel, which brought together some of the world's most influential thinkers and development experts.
202. Introducing the event, the Moderator emphasized that smallholder farmers in developing countries had a critical role to play. They managed 80 per cent of farmland in Africa and Asia, and experience showed that they were willing and able to change their ways of doing business if the right policies and incentives were in place. She therefore asked Ms Sibanda whether, in her view, the right policies and incentives had been adopted and, if not, what they should be, how the move could be made towards a more environmentally-sound and climate-smart agriculture, and, looking ahead to the United National Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20), what, if any, impact the United Nations Climate Change Conference held in Durban in 2011 had had.
203. **Ms SIBANDA** said that the past five years had been frustrating. At the 14th Conference of the Parties to the UNFCCC in Poznań in 2008, there had been no mention of agriculture and the focus had been on ensuring that those who caused damage paid for it. But it was clear that it was not possible to talk about climate change without talking about agriculture. The agricultural sector had the highest emissions of greenhouse gases, but was also the sector that fed the world's population of seven billion. It was therefore a special sector, and should not be treated in the same way as other sectors. If the right technologies were used, agriculture could be adapted to climate change, emissions could be reduced and

enough food could be produced to feed the world's population. The 2011 Durban conference had itself proved frustrating on account of the lack of political leadership to emphasize that agriculture was a key sector. However, there was cause for some optimism because for the first time recognition was emerging of the importance of agriculture. It was to be hoped that all countries would fight for the recognition of the special nature of agriculture at the 18th Conference of the Parties to the UNFCCC at the end of 2012. It was not possible to deal with climate change without addressing the challenge of food insecurity and of climate-proofing agriculture.

204. In that respect, it was clear that there had been a broad division between developed and developing countries. Interestingly, however, the developed countries now understood the importance of agriculture, but divisions remained among developing countries, which were failing to speak with one voice on the issue. Climate change and environmental issues could not be addressed without considering the sector that was worst affected by climate change. It was therefore to be hoped that voices would be raised at the Rio+20 conference and that there would be political leadership to fight for sustainable development and green economies, and recognition that there could be no sustainable development without sustainable agriculture.
205. **Ms MUNCHETTY** (Moderator) asked how the discussions leading up to the Rio+20 conference would be influenced by the fact that agriculture was the sector that depended the most on the climate.
206. **Ms SIBANDA** said that recognition in the Rio+20 preparatory process of the key nature of agriculture was an exciting new development. However, it was worrying that the link between those who were responsible for developing agricultural policies and those who produced the food was still very weak, and that the link with women was even weaker. There could be no solution until farmers were put first and the necessary investments were made to ensure that they had the right tools and policies to be able to produce in a sustainable way. That raised the question of how policies originated and who was responsible for advising policymakers. In that respect, it was abundantly clear that there was a disconnect between the available scientific evidence and the policies that were adopted, which would need to be overcome if sustainable agriculture were to be achieved.
207. **Ms MUNCHETTY** (Moderator) asked how that bridge could be built.
208. **Ms SIBANDA** said that the current era was one of participation. For example, policymakers had listened to the riots that had occurred in 2007 and 2008 as a result of food shortages. The situation at that time had been characterized by a shortage of food and the closing of borders to prevent food from being imported from countries with surpluses. That pointed to a sector in which the people needed to be able to participate in the policymaking process. However, science had to be central to that process, and the indigenous knowledge and coping mechanisms of farmers needed to be used to develop policies that could be implemented in practice. The policies that were currently being followed looked good on paper, but were not relevant to the plight of the people on the ground.
209. **Ms MUNCHETTY** (Moderator) asked whether that depended on the willingness of governments and organizations to make the necessary investment.
210. **Ms SIBANDA** replied that the right policies were within reach, but that political leadership was still needed for their implementation and the necessary investment. Through the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP), there had been a commitment by African countries since 2003 to invest 10 per cent of national budgets in agriculture. However, only ten African countries were currently fulfilling that commitment. It was, therefore, necessary for ministers of finance to resist the calls by other ministries and to emphasize the need to produce food, and the consequent necessity to provide farmers with the right policies,

investment, infrastructure and knowledge, and to develop functional markets through which inputs could be purchased and food distributed to consumers. Now was the time to talk about sustainable agriculture and sustainable development. It was now accepted that the returns from agricultural labour had diminished, that the land had not been fed and that it was pay-back time. African farmers knew very well that 20 years previously yields had been double present levels and that Africa had been food secure. What had changed was that the natural resource base had not been fed and now needed to be replenished. For that purpose, it was necessary to adopt the right technologies for soil management, animal management systems and water harvesting. But those technologies could only be implemented after they had been adapted to local conditions.

211. **Ms MUNCHETTY** (Moderator) asked how confident Ms Sibanda was that food security was possible across the African continent.
212. **Ms SIBANDA** emphasized that Africa could definitely feed itself, as it had done in the past. But certain fundamental conditions needed to be in place. The vision of a food secure Africa should start at the household level. Family farming in Africa, and throughout the world, consisted of farmers who lived on and derived their livelihood from two hectares of land. They did not have the luxury of expanding their land base. It was therefore necessary to identify technologies that improved production. The success of Malawi and Rwanda in tripling crop yields proved that such productivity improvements were possible. To do so, it was necessary to establish the right policies and bring in the appropriate technologies. But it was often forgotten, when talking about the environment, that it was also necessary to put more money into farmers' pockets. All those engaged in the business of farming were looking to earn money, produce food, feed the land and their families and pay the tax authorities.
213. **Ms MUNCHETTY** (Moderator) raised the question of how farmers could be convinced that they could make money, adopt sustainable farming techniques and remain environmentally friendly.
214. **Ms SIBANDA** said that farmers did not need to be convinced. They had been there before. But the policy process had robbed them of their assets, as they had had to cope with erratic weather patterns on their own with only minimum support. They were therefore seeking the replenishment of their farming assets and knowledge, timely information on weather patterns, investments in infrastructure that would allow them to buy inputs at reasonable rates and policies to ensure that their labour yielded results and offered them a decent livelihood. Bold leadership was required to ensure that the right to food was respected and that farmers were provided with the tools to enable them to continue doing what they knew best, namely farming and securing a livelihood. However, what was fatal was a fragmented, or "silo" approach. In countries where responsibility for food security disaster reduction rested with the Office of the President, ministers of finance put the necessary financing into agriculture. When that responsibility lay with the ministry of agriculture, it was not strong enough to ensure the implementation of the 10 per cent budgetary commitment.
215. **Ms MUNCHETTY** (Moderator) said that it currently seemed difficult to consider many farmers as entrepreneurs. Would that change?
216. **Ms SIBANDA** said that the reply depended on the definition of entrepreneur. Smallholder farmers were always thought of as subsistence farmers. But, for example, her own family had grown tomatoes. She had been raised and sent to school on the income from the sale of tomatoes. It was not possible to eat tomatoes for breakfast, lunch and dinner. They had to be sold to obtain a decent livelihood. Farmers therefore had the spirit of entrepreneurship, but were not supported by adequate policies: that was the challenge. Three dimensions were needed at the Rio+20 conference. The first was bold political leadership which

- emphasized the need for sustainable agriculture as a major player in sustainable development. The second was a commitment to make the necessary investments, particularly in infrastructure, technology generation and research. Finally, a framework would have to be developed in which agriculture did not stand alone, but was supported by other sectors.
217. **Ms MUNCHETTY** (Moderator) asked whether the role of the industries producing the inputs used by farmers needed to be further clarified by decision makers.
218. **Ms SIBANDA** replied that the clarity already existed. People knew what needed to be done, but were not doing it. It was necessary for civil society to hold leaders to account and to seek explanations as to why the right action was not being taken. The focus should now be on outcomes, including greener jobs, the increased engagement of youth in agriculture and the empowerment of women as landowners. At present, only 2 per cent of land title was held by women, even though they accounted for 70 per cent of those who fed the world. It was therefore high time for those affected to stand up and give voice to their concerns and to ensure that the connection was strengthened between the scientific evidence available and the policies adopted. What was at issue was not therefore the need to make farmers believe, but the political awareness and leadership necessary to make the bold decisions that were required.
219. **Mr FERNANDEZ** (President, International Movement of Catholic Agricultural and Rural Youth – MIJARC) welcomed the fact that agriculture would be discussed at the Rio+20 conference. However, he was very unhappy at the reality on the ground. He came from a small village in Kerala, India, where everybody was deeply involved in agriculture and cultivated values rather than profit. However, farmers there had recently been facing many problems which had their origins in policy changes, land-grabbing and price volatility. In that region, over 4,000 farmers had committed suicide between 2005 and 2008 because survival had become impossible and they faced bankruptcy. It had become an immense struggle to survive. The challenge was particularly difficult because farming was not considered a profession by many governments, and was no longer an occupation in which it was possible to make a profit. In view of all the threats, including climate change, it was therefore becoming increasingly problematic to convince young persons to engage in agriculture.
220. **Ms SIBANDA** emphasized the importance of ensuring that farming was a dignified profession. However, between 60 and 70 per cent of those registered on the World Food Programme (WFP) food aid list were farmers, which meant that they were unable to sustain themselves with their own supplies. In the case of young people, it was important to offer them a variety of ways of entering the agricultural value chain, including through the inputs industry, farming itself, processing, post-harvest commodity care, as well as marketing, science and research. But what was not being done by policymakers was to establish the linkage between the education system and agriculture. Once again, that was due to the failure to place agriculture in a central position as a driver of sustainable development and a sector that could create green jobs. Agriculture could offer many opportunities for young people. It was therefore particularly sad that those opportunities were not being fully used in Africa, which was the continent with the highest proportion of young people and where the 70 per cent of the population under the age of 30 constituted a major jobs challenge.
221. **Ms MUNCHETTY** (Moderator) asked whether such disillusionment among young people was causing them to turn to cities where they saw the wealth.
222. **Mr FERNANDEZ** (President, MIJARC) said that young people in his part of the world were still interested in farming as a vocation. The basic challenge for them, however, concerned access to productive resources and capital. The perceived risks

- of climate change also functioned as a deterrent, including for parents who did not want their children to suffer as a result of continuing to cultivate the land.
223. **Ms SIBANDA** said that those holding the purse strings must take into account the alarming prediction that, by 2050, 60 per cent of the world's inhabitants would be living in cities. The question was who would feed those people and who would finance food imports. Investment in rural development was the best option for persuading people to remain in rural areas and the agricultural sector was key to revitalizing the economy.
 224. **Mr FERNANDEZ** (President, MIJARC), highlighting the general lack of farmer involvement in debates about agriculture, asked whether the farming community would be brought into the discussions at the Rio+20 conference.
 225. **Ms SIBANDA**, agreeing with the importance of creating space in United Nations bodies for the voice of smallholder farmers, said that Rio+20 zero draft submissions should be made without further delay, stressing the absence in the draft of the link between food security and farming and farmers. The fight to create that space, which had continued since the UNFCCC conference in Durban, should include efforts to engage heads of State and relevant ministers with a view to ensuring that farmers were a priority when it came to policymaking.
 226. **Ms MUNCHETTY** (Moderator) invited views from the audience.
 227. **Mr MOTEANE** (President, Lesotho National Farmers' Union) said that the commitment of African leaders had been demonstrated by their signing of the CAADP in 2004 and further indicated by the presence of the President of Rwanda at that morning's meeting. The capacity of farmers to address troubling policy issues could be enhanced within the CAADP process. Most of the farmer organizations involved in that process also provided a stage for younger farmers, whose future would be assured if they continued to pursue the farming profession, with an eye to the slogan of "No farmer, no food and no life".
 228. **Ms MUNCHETTY** (Moderator) said that, although encouraging, the message was not necessarily shared by all or put forward at crucial meetings.
 229. **Ms SIBANDA** said that the key message was to put farming first and to invest, while at the same time ensuring that commitments to invest were realized, bearing in mind that benchmarks agreed within the CAADP framework had not been followed through in the majority of countries.
 230. **Ms MUNCHETTY** (Moderator) asked whether it was now a concern that young people would abandon all hope of farming and simply leave because the outlook was too bleak to contemplate.
 231. **Ms SIBANDA** said it was only natural that children who saw their parents growing more impoverished by the day should choose to seek livelihoods elsewhere. It was therefore for policymakers to bring dignity to the farming profession and ensure a decent livelihood for farmers by scaling up and seizing the many business opportunities available. Farmers were willing to continue farming but they should be met half-way by governments. The private sector should also be brought in, and farming should be professionalized and made into a business that yielded returns.
 232. **Mr ASEFFA** (Ethiopia) said that it was preferable to talk in terms of the deliverables heralded for agriculture by the Rio+20 conference; promises would otherwise remain promises. Much depended on the messages that delegates took with them to that conference. Smallholder farmers were now receiving the global attention that they deserved for their role not only in feeding a large portion of the population but also in protecting both the planet and the plant genetic resources in many parts of the world. Examples of policies, such as in his own country, that had improved farming productivity should be taken to the Rio+20 conference in a bid to

- develop mechanisms for the synthesis and sharing of best practices from around the world.
233. **Ms SIBANDA** said that that the deliverables sought from the Rio+20 conference could be accommodated within the seven thematic areas identified by the Future We Want campaign: job creation; greener energy; greener cities; food; water; oceans; and disaster-free nations. It was a case of articulating the need to accommodate them.
234. **Ms MUNCHETTY** (Moderator) asked whether there was sufficient evidence of policy strategy being synthesized.
235. **Ms SIBANDA** said that no framework would ever be translated into action as long as the policymaking process remained top-down, rather than bottom-up. Submissions for the Rio+20 conference had not been requested and leaders were not held to account with regard to statements delivered at international forums by their country representatives. Nor had platforms for engagement been created at the local level, particularly in Africa, where, despite high illiteracy rates, media such as the radio and community theatre were not employed to convey information about the policies in place. The game must be changed by ensuring that local voices informed the policy process and that the very people affected by problems participated in the efforts to resolve them.
236. **Ms NDISALE** (Malawi) said that resources would be required for the implementation of actions emanating at the global, regional and national levels from the concrete deliverables following on from the Rio+20 conference. What could be done to help map resources pledged at the global level in order to ensure that they were in fact channelled into concrete actions at the national level?
237. **Ms SIBANDA** said that mutual accountability frameworks were needed for that purpose. Knowledge about resources pledged must be shared with the target groups and they in turn must be vocal about the types of assistance required. In other words, there should be a two-way process in an era of participation involving sustainable platforms for transparent engagement at the rural, local, national, regional and global levels.
238. **Ms MUNCHETTY** (Moderator) asked Ms Sibanda to conclude the discussion with a final short message.
239. **Ms SIBANDA** said that there could be no global deal in which agriculture was not central to development; without agriculture, there could be no sustainable development and no green economy. Bold leaders were needed to make that statement in order to raise the game of feeding people and ensuring that no one went to bed hungry. The one billion mark was unacceptable and it could be stopped in its tracks. No agriculture meant no deal.

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

240. At the invitation of the Chairperson, **Ms Rachel KALABA**, the Pan Africa Coordinator for the International Movement of Catholic Agricultural and Rural Youth, summarized the deliberations of the Farmers' Forum, which was held in Rome on 20 - 21 February 2012 in conjunction with the thirty-fifth session of the Governing Council. The full text of her statement is reproduced in chapter 4.

GENERAL STATEMENTS (agenda item 6, continued)

241. **Mr ALI SAID** (Djibouti) said that his country was struggling to meet its people's food needs. Having to guarantee food security while supporting smallholders and fishing communities and creating jobs, the Djibouti Government had committed itself to programmes aimed at helping the primary sector. They currently included a

- project valued at around US\$3 million to develop microfinancing and another, totalling US\$12.5 million, to mobilize surface waters and sustainable land management, financed by IFAD and other development partners. Projects planned for the coming year included community development and water mobilization, combating drought and boosting drought resilience in the Horn of Africa. He recalled that Djibouti hosted the World Food Programme's regional platform, which stored food needed to combat chronic malnutrition and famine in East Africa.
242. The recent increase in acts of piracy in the Indian Ocean affected essential trade routes. Insurance costs had rocketed, leading to higher prices for consumer goods. His Government was playing its part in the fight against piracy; at the initiative of the President of Djibouti, international armed forces were offered port and airport facilities to that end.
243. Expressing his country's gratitude to IFAD for supporting its rural development programmes, he noted that Djibouti met the criteria for hosting an IFAD office. Although extremely poor, Djibouti was stable politically and its Fund portfolio had registered a net increase. At the thirty-fourth Session of the Governing Council, it had begun discussions to that end.
244. **Mr OMER** (Sudan) said that recurrent drought, natural disasters and security issues had led to food shortages and greater hunger and poverty in many countries, including his own, notwithstanding the relative advantages for farming and productivity that it enjoyed owing to its richness of natural and animal resources and its variety of climates. Of the Sudanese economic reform programmes formulated to offset the loss of oil revenues after South Sudan's secession, the most important were those aimed at reviving agriculture, which additionally fulfilled the pledge made under the Maputo Declaration on Agriculture and Food Security in Africa concerning the allocation of not less than 10 per cent of the public budget to the agricultural sector. Great strides forward had thus been made in combating poverty and achieving food security through not only rural infrastructure programmes but also strategic public-private partnerships designed to promote production for export and improve technical and administrative performance.
245. Priority was also accorded to the traditional and increasingly poor rainfed sector. In that context, IFAD, among others, had provided financial and technical support for mapping land usage, building smallholder capacity to cope with the effects of climate change, and achieving food security and sustainable development. In 2012, efforts were being channelled into such activities as dam-building in a bid to increase the amount of agricultural land, and eight IFAD projects were also in progress. The Sudan sought to accomplish the same goals as IFAD: sustainable economic growth, agricultural capacity-building, risk-disaster reduction and food security.
246. **Mr HOSSAIN** (Bangladesh) said that, as in many developing countries, the agricultural sector played a crucial role in his country's economy. The Government's Perspective Plan 2010-2021 set the target of ensuring 2,122 kilocalories per person per day of food for all poor people and standard nutritional food for at least 85 per cent of the population. In order to harness the potential productivity of small farms, which accounted for 97 per cent of all farms, the Government had halved the price of non-urea fertilizers, made quality seeds available, increased the subsidy on inputs and eased credit provisions for poor farmers. In 2011, Bangladesh had produced 33 million tons of rice and 1 million tons of wheat. Despite its vulnerability to natural disasters, salinity intrusion due to climate change, erratic monsoons, river erosion, land degradation and a declining cultivated area, Bangladesh had become nearly self-sufficient in rice.
247. He acknowledged IFAD's consistent support for Bangladesh. The Fund was currently supporting eight ongoing projects, focused on agricultural technologies, market access, infrastructure development, poor people's access to resources, enabling

poor farmers to adapt to climate change and increasing women's opportunities. Re-engagement in agriculture and the rural sector was essential for achieving the MDGs and increasing economic growth. It required a grasp of the best ways of achieving sustainable rural development, involving the poor as both beneficiaries and empowered agents of change. He wished IFAD success in fulfilling its mandate and assured it of Bangladesh's continued support.

248. **Mr KIM** (Republic of Korea), after recalling the series of natural disasters across the globe in 2011, said that all too many people in Africa and Asia continued to suffer from food shortages and malnutrition. In 2010, the average FAO Food Price Index had reached record levels, 14 per cent higher than in 2008. Moreover, the growth rate of grain production, such as rice and wheat, had failed to keep up with population growth over the past two decades, with possible severe effects on the balance between food supply and demand. Countries and international organizations should therefore jointly address imminent food shortages and strengthen underdeveloped agriculture. In 2011, at the Fourth High Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness, held in Busan, Republic of Korea, emphasis had been laid on the need for a concerted effort by the international community, in particular South-South cooperation and public-private partnership. Inclusive partnerships should be established between mutually complementary entities, while differences should be recognized when addressing agricultural development in the developing countries. International organizations, donor countries and NGOs needed to cooperate closely, under the ownership of the partner country.
249. The Republic of Korea supported IFAD's continued endeavours to reduce poverty and promote food security. The Fund should also assist the developing countries in responding to new challenges and changes in the agricultural sector. Accordingly, it should improve the efficiency of its project implementation and enhance accountability. His country had doubled its contribution to the Eighth Replenishment and further increased its contribution to the Ninth. It was also seeking to play its part in achieving food security in developing countries through new joint projects with IFAD.
250. **Mr MORDASINI** (Switzerland) said that IFAD was a pivotal global forum playing a crucial advocacy role in combating hunger and managing the ecosystem by supporting sustainable small-scale agriculture. Switzerland therefore supported the Fund's active participation in preparations for the Rio+20 conference, which should recognize the contribution of sustainable agriculture to green growth and poverty reduction.
251. IFAD's success was primarily contingent on the relevance and the efficiency and effectiveness of its programmes and projects targeting poor rural populations in developing countries. Three aspects of its work were particularly relevant to the theme of the current session. The first was to establish a link between innovations derived from agricultural research and traditional know-how, in order to help smallholders increase their capacity; that entailed supporting national farmers' organizations and helping to set up rural counselling services. The second was to give the rural poor access to land and natural resources; the preparation of voluntary guidelines for good land governance would soon be complete and IFAD would be the optimal partner for governments, the private sector and civil society in supporting their application. The third was to begin work immediately on reinforcing the resilience of sustainable small-scale agriculture to disaster risk and the effects of climate change; the rural poor in developing countries must be given the means to manage fragile ecosystems.
252. His country's contribution to the Ninth Replenishment, once it was finally approved by the Swiss Government, would be higher than announced in 2011, namely 28.5 million Swiss francs, a third higher than its contribution to the Eighth Replenishment, demonstrating Switzerland's renewed trust in the Fund's relevance.

253. **Mr de GRAAFF** (Botswana) recalled that, in the 1980s, IFAD had helped finance his country's Arable Lands Development Programme, which had greatly contributed to improving rural livelihoods, especially for the poorest. The Fund had indeed assisted many countries in addressing food security but it was now time for IFAD to address the new challenges facing small-scale farmers, helping farming families to become more productive and efficient by developing a rigorous training programme. In view of agriculture's economic importance in many countries, more resources needed to be invested in the sector. Over the past three decades, Botswana had invested substantial sums in its agricultural programmes, aimed at improving the declining performance of the arable subsector. The country's food security had improved as a result.
254. In order to improve the performance of the agricultural sector, IFAD must recognize all categories of farmers and their role in development. It should also address the shortcomings of the extension system, especially the storage and marketing of farm produce, while helping countries to share best practices. Botswana had continued to respond to farmers' needs, for example through its Integrated Support Programme for Arable Agriculture Development, introduced in 2008 to address the challenges facing farmers and the inherent low productivity of their subsector. Its main aims were to increase grain production, promote food security, commercialize agriculture, facilitate access to farm inputs and credit, and improve extension outreach. The Fund had agreed to support Botswana in establishing agricultural service centres, which would assist arable farmers with their tillage operations. Albeit small in appearance, the Agricultural Services Support Project would greatly improve the subsector's productivity, creating employment and raising rural incomes.
255. **Mr SAHA** (India) said that rising food prices, climate change and inadequate access to markets were some of the challenges facing the international community as the 2015 deadline for achieving the MDGs approached. Collective action and commitment by all concerned were needed in order to free the world of poverty, hunger and malnutrition. Promoting simple, climate-smart technologies to enhance productivity, nutritional security and better livelihoods for the poor was a priority.
256. IFAD's Strategic Framework 2011-2015 was central to ensuring higher incomes and prospects for millions of poor rural people. The Fund's emphasis on helping governments to increase food production, promoting linkages to markets, strengthening decentralized decision-making and improving delivery systems, was crucial. More should be invested, however, in forest regeneration, sustainable watershed and coastal management, and soil conservation, in order to ensure future access to essential natural resources. Agriculture must be integrated with other sectors while institutional arrangements and policy orientation should enhance the competitiveness of the agricultural sector. A transparent partnership between farming and industry, in which farmers were confident of land ownership and the protection of their interests, was key to rural transformation. Models that enabled farmers with different sizes of land to benefit from economies of scale should be designed. IFAD could facilitate the exchange of views between countries with experience of such models as part of South-South cooperation.
257. For more than three decades, IFAD had been an important partner for India, supporting the Government's efforts to eradicate rural poverty. His country especially valued the demonstration effects of IFAD-financed projects, which showed it how to design, implement, supervise and evaluate agricultural and rural development projects. He welcomed the overall 25 per cent increase in the Ninth Replenishment, a reflection of the Member States' confidence in the Fund's fundamental role in promoting sustainable and equitable development by investing in small-scale agriculture.

258. **Mr DAMAIS** (France) said that for 35 years IFAD had been carrying out a unique and challenging mission in promoting agricultural development and combating rural poverty, targeting the poorest populations in rural areas, taking the risk of working in places where absolute poverty remained a major challenge. In doing so it was contributing to the achievement of the MDGs, particularly in Africa. France had maintained its contribution to the Ninth Replenishment as a gauge of its support for IFAD. The Fund's work in regions that were often neglected by other institutions because they were isolated, ecologically fragile or extremely underdeveloped, was a source of particular satisfaction to France as it allowed many projects to be carried out in Africa. Furthermore, IFAD played a vital role in addressing food security, which France had made a priority of its Presidency of the G20 in 2011. The Fund's specialization had enabled it to become a key international player in preventing and responding to food crises.
259. The work on the Ninth Replenishment had highlighted some of the challenges that would face the international community in the years to come. Despite the success of the Ninth Replenishment, resources remained limited and IFAD would need to continue to show flexibility, inventiveness and selectivity in its activities in order to optimize the use of those resources. France encouraged IFAD to seek additional resources to develop future projects. Thanks to the work of its President, IFAD had been reformed, adapting itself to the increasingly complex realities of the countries in which it intervened. It had become a crucial player in the international community's aid architecture for agriculture. France hoped that it would continue to play that role.
260. **Mr VALLEJO LÓPEZ** (Ecuador) said that small producers in less developed countries should not be held responsible for environmental degradation and climate change; those who were responsible should one day be called to account. It was worrying that discussion about the rural world and the proposed solutions had been the same for over half a century. He believed that the solution did not lie only in effecting a new green revolution, improving seeds and fertilizers, introducing new technologies, applying organic farming or lowering prices. The real problem was a structural one and, without worldwide policies to resolve rural problems, farmers would never be lifted out of poverty and farmers' relationship with technology would never be changed.
261. He asked how poorer farmers could compete with enormous agricultural holdings and, under free trade agreements, with industrial farming in the developed world. Small-scale farmers found it difficult to compete with producers in receipt of aid. However, the real problem was global: the unjust relationship between rural and urban communities made small producers increasingly poorer. Young people living in rural areas suffered from disadvantageous teacher-to-pupil ratios in education. There were many public and private hospitals in cities but not a single medical post to care for farmers. Communications and transport infrastructure were being improved but as long as farmers were left out, the rural sector would not develop. International organizations and countries must be obliged to implement fair investment policies to change the structure of agriculture. Poor farmers such as those in the Horn of Africa could not be helped without improved irrigation and water supplies. As a first step towards solving the problem of the rural poor in developing countries, IFAD and FAO should set up an international fund for irrigation and soil conservation.
262. **Mr BEN SALEM** (Tunisia) said that followers of the Fund's work could not but be satisfied with the year-on-year progress achieved in its ongoing efforts to improve its effectiveness in keeping pace with the rapid socio-economic and climate changes taking place worldwide, which posed challenges for the farming sector in the developing world in particular. IFAD was a key partner in those countries' efforts to attain the MDGs, although progress to that end was nonetheless slower than hoped, notably in rural areas. Essentially, the multiple and complex causes underlying rural

- poverty had to be tackled in a comprehensive and integrated manner that took into account the social and economic features of rural inhabitants and enabled them to adapt to and benefit from global economic change. Additional resources must therefore be mobilized for involving poor and low-income groups in the development process.
263. In Tunisia, the grave socio-economic situation in the marginalized interior regions had sparked the revolution among its youth, who believed that work was a vital component of dignity and justice. Employment was therefore a main thrust of the Government's development policy. IFAD had afforded special attention to Tunisia in the wake of that revolution; the President of the Fund had visited the country, responding in prompt and exceptional fashion to the Government's request for additional funding in support of development in 2011.
264. **Mr MAGHEMBE** (United Republic of Tanzania) said that in the current context, a critical examination of smallholder farming in terms of sustainability, increased production, food security, poverty eradication and environmental protection was both relevant and timely. In his country, smallholder farming supported 77.5 per cent of the population, supplied 95 per cent of the country's food and accounted for 35 per cent of annual foreign currency earnings. In 2010, the sector had contributed 24 per cent of gross domestic product (GDP) and was growing at 4.2 per cent per annum.
265. In the light of emerging realities, the challenges facing smallholders had to be considered and collectively addressed, not least the demand for food that continued to outstrip the three per cent growth in the agricultural sector. That called for increased productivity through the routine use of improved seed, fertilizers, pest control and reduced post-harvest losses, and by creating reliable markets for agricultural commodities. Smallholders should also be given access to credit, allowing them to increase the scope of their operations and reduce on-farm labour demand by being able to hire services, purchase inputs and attend to the market needs of quality and timing. The commitment of developing countries' governments and donors to increase investment in smallholder farming, especially in the area of infrastructure – rural roads and electrification, irrigation, markets and farmer education – was very important. In the face of an unpredictable climate, steps should be taken to adapt to challenging conditions, including water harvesting, the use of sub-surface water, the application of more efficient irrigation techniques and the development of new cultivars. In most developing countries, private sector investment in agriculture was only beginning and it was important to promote the private sector's role.
266. **Ms ÁLVAREZ** (Argentina) said that Argentina saw IFAD as an invaluable ally in agricultural development and as a partner that had developed a new awareness of the diversity of rural contexts. That fresh vision had been translated into the recent adoption of Argentina's inclusive rural development programme, known as PRODERI. The programme reflected an excellent working relationship in the area of small-scale rural development between Argentine officials and their IFAD counterparts. It was also the outcome of a clear planning policy aimed at equitable rural growth, which despite its recent launching, had already produced tangible institutional results. A new Agriculture Ministry had been set up, together with a rural development and family agriculture department, and a strategic agro-industry and agro-food plan had been framed. She thanked the Spanish Government for its support in funding the project through the Spanish Food Security Cofinancing Facility Trust Fund. IFAD should continue to broaden the funding base, exploring innovations similar to the trust fund.
267. Argentina's commitment to triple its contribution in the Ninth Replenishment was in keeping with its vision of the Fund as the leading global player in the fight against poverty. However, IFAD should pay more attention to the diversity of Member

States' needs. Her country would like to see consideration given to alternatives to the performance-based allocation system (PBAS), and also called for IFAD to take account of the diversity within the Latin America and the Caribbean region and offer more sophisticated financial and other services; to foster greater South-South cooperation; to appoint more specialists from the region to IFAD's staff; and to strengthen its country presence. As a major international producer of food, Argentina concurred that investment in agriculture, especially small-scale farming, was a key to eradicating poverty at every level, and therefore trusted that IFAD would make a significant contribution to that end.

268. **Ms NDISALE** (Malawi) said that the Istanbul Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries and the Rio+20 conference would have a major bearing on the role and mandate of IFAD. The Rome-based agencies were important development partners for Malawi, with its agriculture-based economy, in which a strong smallholder subsector accounted for 75 per cent of total agricultural output. In view of the importance of food and nutrition security in sustainable economic growth, the Government had included agriculture and food security, along with green irrigation and water development, among the priority areas of the Malawi Growth and Development Strategy. In line with the CAADP, the focus areas of Malawi's approach to agriculture included the sustainable management of natural resources, and particularly sustainable land and water use. Emphasis was placed on conservation agriculture, afforestation, the protection of fragile catchment areas, the rehabilitation of degraded land, water use efficiency and the expansion of irrigation through the greenbelt initiative, taking into account value chain systems.
269. Such action was expected to cushion the national farm input subsidy programme from the effects of climate change. The subsidy programme was now a firmly established pillar of agricultural policy which had resulted in higher incomes for farmers through the export of surplus food. In 2012, with IFAD support, Malawi would start implementing a nine-year programme to develop a viable and sustainable smallholder agricultural sector employing good agricultural practices. A lesson from Malawi's experience was that smallholder farmers could feed the country, the region and the world. However, the challenge was to provide the necessary resources to increase productivity and to promote the sustainable management of natural resources in the face of climate change. It was therefore critical for adequate resources to be made available for the Ninth Replenishment.
270. **Mr NYIIRA** (Uganda) said that the need to be pragmatic and contextual was illustrated by the situation in Africa. The recent food crisis in the Greater Horn of Africa and drought in the Sahel pointed to the need for long-term solutions and substantial investment in the social and economic transformation of smallholder farmers in order to give hope of a better livelihood and sustainable development for the poor farming populations of the world.
271. The excellent cooperation between Uganda and IFAD, which had spanned three decades, included four ongoing projects, among them the highly successful vegetable oil development project, which supported the development and production of palm oil in the Bugala Islands of Lake Victoria, where it integrated production and processing by fostering close partnership between farmers and the private and public sectors. The social and economic benefits of the project were already visible on the islands and it was expected to stimulate unprecedented multiplier effects for many years. The funding provided by IFAD for the second phase of the project would ensure employment for many more Ugandans as the project expanded and production increased. It was an example of a successful growth-oriented investment programme based on agriculture. It had a rural focus which was inclusive of smallholder outgrowers, with both economic and environmental sustainability components and pathways to poverty eradication and sustainable development.

272. Uganda welcomed the participation by Member States in the Ninth Replenishment and fully supported the outcomes of the negotiations. It would announce its pledge following the current budgetary process.
273. **Mr RUIZ CABAÑAS IZQUIERDO** (Mexico) welcomed the positive impact of IFAD's work, and particularly its support for small-scale producers in developing countries, as described by the President of Rwanda. Mexico also recognized the importance of IFAD's leadership in the field of food security. The Fund therefore deserved firm and constant support, as had been emphasized by the Prime Minister of Italy. The achievement of IFAD in going beyond its objectives in recent years was also praiseworthy. For those reasons, Mexico reaffirmed its support for IFAD and was pledging a contribution to the Ninth Replenishment that was 66 per cent higher than its contribution to the Eighth Replenishment. Mexico was committed to promoting food security throughout the world, especially in poorer rural areas, and was also concerned about the negative effects of climate change on the activities of smallholder farmers.
274. Mexico was currently experiencing the worst drought in its history, which was affecting millions of people. The Government was responding by allocating unprecedented levels of extraordinary budgetary resources. The experience of Mexico showed that the greatest challenge to be faced over the next few years was that of significantly increasing the production and productivity of small-scale farmers through state policies to encourage technological innovation and to improve production systems. That would require a second green revolution which would have to deal with the effects of climate change. It would also require a second revolution in production, which would have to be ecologically sustainable, in order to release small-scale farmers from poverty. However, the challenge could only be met through concerted efforts to achieve that goal.
275. **The meeting rose at 7.40 p.m.**

- (iii) Summary record of the third meeting of the thirty-fifth session held on Thursday, 23 February 2012, at 9 a.m.

Chairperson: Miguel Ruiz Cabañas Izquierdo (Mexico)

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276. **The meeting was called to order at 9.05 a.m.**
277. **Mr Ruiz Cabañas Izquierdo (Mexico) took the Chair.**

GENERAL STATEMENTS (agenda item 6, continued)

278. **Mr FOX** (Canada) said that the Ninth Replenishment target reflected great resolve and political will in support of IFAD's mandate. Smallholder farmers, many of them women, had to be part of the answer to food and nutrition security. Canada reaffirmed its support for the Fund and would maintain its replenishment pledge at CAD75 million. It had strongly advocated the need for continued reform, greater effectiveness and an IFAD institutional culture focused on results, and therefore commended IFAD's pioneering work on better measuring the numbers of people who escaped poverty through agriculture. Similar work should be undertaken on measuring nutrition gains. Furthering efficiency through clear targets, mainstreaming climate change in all operations, scaling up successful programmes and human resources reform were similarly important.
279. No economy had been developed by agriculture alone, but none had done so without agriculture. Agriculture could and should contribute much more than food and raw materials for industry, and provide solutions to many of the development challenges, including employment and better livelihoods. For that to happen, governments needed the political will to develop enabling environments, backed by processes and institutions that included effective participation from the private sector and civil society. Concerted and coordinated action was required to stave off hunger today, meet the food needs of tomorrow and find sustainable solutions to food and nutrition insecurity, in the knowledge that the ultimate beneficiaries of agricultural development were the poor, including farmers themselves. Attention needed to be sustained and resources committed in an aid-effective manner to food security, which remained an issue of central global importance. IFAD should continue to be a key player in global efforts to that end.
280. **Mr RAVATOMANGA** (Madagascar) said that his statement was an appeal on behalf of smallholder farmers, who had the responsibility of feeding the world. In Madagascar, 80 per cent of the population lived in rural areas and was engaged in primarily smallholder agriculture, which accounted for 27 per cent of overall GDP. Madagascar therefore appreciated IFAD's continued support and its high-quality programmes and projects, which were in line with national priorities. Four projects were currently being implemented in the country; for one of which the final approval of the supplementary loan was awaited with confidence. Madagascar also attached great importance to the final approval of a fifth project on vocational training and the improvement of agricultural productivity (FORMAPROD). He appealed for the two pending projects to be approved as soon as possible and observed that the projects that were being financed had humanitarian aims.
281. The Government of Madagascar confirmed its pledge of US\$50,000 to the Ninth Replenishment, despite all the difficulties it was undergoing on account of the political crisis in the country. With regard to the national political situation, an agreement had been signed between most of the main political actors on 17 September 2011, outlining a road map, and a Government of National Unity had been established in November 2011, which included former members of the opposition, including himself. Although there were still some divergences, real efforts had been made by the political protagonists to pave the way for the holding of credible and transparent elections that were accepted by all. On behalf of the Government and people of Madagascar, he therefore appealed for support to help the country return to a genuine new constitutional order.
282. **Mr IILONGA** (Namibia) stressed the importance of the current session's theme of sustainable smallholder agriculture, both to feed the world and to protect the

planet, at a time when the world was striving to attain a balance in the utilization and protection of the world's natural resources. It was therefore imperative for as many smallholder farmers as possible to be included in initiatives to achieve sustainable agricultural productivity. That would only be possible if institutions such as IFAD had the necessary resources and made them available to help smallholders to farm in a more sustainable manner.

283. It was to be welcomed in that context that IFAD identified countries with many smallholders and used its own independent funding policy for the provision of support, without basing its loan and grant target group on the World Bank categorization of countries. At the present crucial stage in IFAD's review of its lending policy and financial regulations and terms, he urged the Governing Council to give particular consideration to countries with a high Gini coefficient so that they could have access to IFAD funds on favourable terms. That would not only have the effect of helping smallholders to farm more sustainably, but would also result in improved agricultural infrastructure and productivity in developing countries. It should be recalled that those countries were currently disadvantaged by the World Bank ranking system, despite the higher levels of poverty affecting their smallholder farmers.
284. **Mr MANIRAKIZA** (Burundi) thanked IFAD for the constant support that it had provided to Burundi, which had just emerged from a long period of social and political crisis, and reaffirmed his country's desire for continued cooperation with the Fund. With the aim of ensuring food self-sufficiency, the Government had just introduced a strategic development framework for agriculture in the context of the Burundi 2025 vision and the second-generation national Growth and Poverty Reduction Strategy Framework (GPRSF II). The Strategy Framework was composed, among other elements, of a national agricultural investment programme, a national food security programme, a strategic guidance paper on stock-raising, the national strategy for aquaculture, the master plan for research and a watershed and wetland management strategy.
285. IFAD was to be commended for its assistance in achieving those ambitious objectives, and especially in preparing the national agricultural investment programme and mobilizing of resources to develop agriculture and combat poverty, particularly in rural areas. Burundi would continue to seek support from IFAD and other partners for the mobilization of additional funding to help it address the many challenges that it was facing. In conclusion, he called on Burundi's bilateral and multilateral partners to continue providing assistance to help the country combat hunger, malnutrition and poverty.
286. **Mr MERTENS DE WILMARS** (Belgium, speaking on behalf of Belgium, Luxembourg and the Netherlands (the Benelux countries)) welcomed the theme for debate at the current session as a significant contribution to the preparation of the Rio+20 conference. The Rio+20 final declaration must indeed make it clear that sustainability could not be achieved if millions of poor people continued to be excluded from development and were sometimes forced to increase pressure on natural resources to survive. The final declaration must reflect the crucial role of agriculture in sustainable development. More than ever, bridges needed to be built between the environment and agriculture, and innovative solutions would have to be found. There were already many success stories of what had been achieved by governments that had adopted effective policies, and closer cooperation among the Rome-based agencies would enhance the effectiveness of their action.
287. Governments should show leadership in ensuring food security at the local level, taking into account the specific characteristics of their countries, with the support of effective international aid. Local food security also involved securing access to natural resources, particularly land and water. In a context of ever-increasing pressure on land, the legitimate rights of traditional land users, particularly small-

scale producers, must be respected in order to create a climate conducive to investment and agricultural development. Investment in agriculture should be made through public-private partnerships, which should aim to secure a fair share of profits for smallholder farmers throughout the production chain, while respecting the environment. Gender equality should be a feature of all policies and programmes. IFAD should make every effort to achieve substantive results in that respect, in close partnership with governments, farmers' organizations, and particularly the ultimate beneficiaries of its programmes.

288. Following IFAD's commendable performance during the Eighth Replenishment period, the Benelux countries hoped that the Fund would achieve its objectives under the Ninth Replenishment, particularly in terms of greater organizational and project efficiency. They confirmed their commitment to contribute to the success of the Ninth Replenishment.
289. **Mr EKER** (Turkey) said that the primary objective of agriculture was to feed the increasing population, but it should also contribute to environmental sustainability. Small-scale family farming still constituted a large portion of agricultural production in Turkey. Through policies and measures in support of smallholders, agricultural GDP had tripled over the past decade, which meant that Turkey could be considered a model in that respect. The strategy adopted had been based on five main pillars: rural development, competitiveness and market access, producer-industry integration, producer organizations, and food safety and security. As farmers were the most important resource of sustainable agriculture, investment had been focused on capacity-building, based on various extension methods and information technologies. Specific affirmative measures adopted for women were aimed at their further involvement in the rural workforce, increasing women's entrepreneurship and enhancing their social status. A national grant scheme for rural investment had been implemented, and improved market access for unions of smallholder producers and commodity markets were being encouraged.
290. At the international level, the main issue was how such success stories could be shared through international initiatives. Many countries, particularly the least developed among them, lacked the significant financial and human resources required for initiatives targeting smallholders. Concerted international efforts were therefore needed, and donor funds should be used in a more strategic and coordinated manner. The recent global food crisis reaffirmed the importance of smallholders, who were more resilient in crisis situations than large-scale producers, but without effective support they could not compete with larger producers in the long term. Investment in rural infrastructure to improve living conditions could be a solution to keep smallholders in farming. IFAD had a significant role to play in that respect.
291. **Mr ADESINA** (Nigeria) said that food security was the key to overcoming national security challenges of the kind facing Nigeria. With that in mind, his Government had articulated a clear vision for achieving a hunger-free Nigeria through an agricultural sector that would drive income growth, accelerate food and nutritional security, generate employment and transform Nigeria into a leading player in the global food markets. Agriculture was indeed a vital sector for Nigeria, where, despite the fast-growing economy, the rural poor constituted the majority of the population. The country's bold agricultural transformation plan had thus been specially developed to increase domestic food production, making Nigeria self-sufficient in rice by 2015, and to reduce wheat imports by 40 per cent by replacing wheat with high-quality cassava flour. Millions of jobs were expected to be created by 2015 with a view to reviving the rural economy.
292. A critical and valued partner in that drive, IFAD was changing for the better as a result of its institutional reforms. Its continuing focus on smallholder farmers was particularly encouraging, as was its special focus on sub-Saharan Africa. Its mission

was crucial for improving the livelihoods of the rural poor and its plan for the Ninth Replenishment period was highly commendable. It must continue to focus on such issues as greater access to productivity-enhancing technologies and inputs, climate change adaptation, improved natural resources management, expanded market access and skills acquisition to make agriculture a business. For its part, Nigeria would continue supporting IFAD; for the Ninth Replenishment, it would be tripling its usual contribution through a pledge of US\$15 million.

293. **Mr KIOME** (Kenya) said that IFAD had invested a total of some US\$200 million in programmes and projects for the reform and development of Kenya's predominant agricultural sector. Despite the challenges posed by drought and the influx of refugees, his Government had already made a higher budget allocation to agriculture than the 10 per cent pledged under the Maputo Declaration on Agriculture and Food Security in Africa and it planned to increase that allocation further to 12 per cent during 2012. The eradication of poverty and food security demanded a move from subsistence to commercial farming through focus on the value chain with a view to increasing productivity and income. Having identified the six priorities of inputs, credit, irrigation, markets, infrastructure and institutions for research, extension and value addition, Kenya had successfully assisted over 600,000 farmers to make that move in the past two years through a dedicated programme.
294. In addition to taking steps to ensure affordable credit facilities for farmers and improve their access to markets, the Kenyan Government had earmarked an extra US\$150 million for investment in irrigated agriculture on a massive scale in order to reduce dependence on rainfed agriculture. Strong institutions in the identified areas of priority would be needed in support of the relevant programmes so as to exploit economies of scale and transform farming into a business. The bigger resource envelope under IFAD's Ninth Replenishment was testimony to the efforts to move agriculture up the global development agenda. In support of those efforts, Kenya was pledging to the Replenishment the sum of US\$500,000, amounting to five times its contribution to the Eighth Replenishment.
295. **His Excellency Andrea Riccardi, Minister for International Cooperation and Integration Policies of the Italian Republic, was conducted to his seat.**
296. The VICE-CHAIRPERSON welcomed the Minister for International Cooperation and Integration Policies of the Italian Republic.

KEYNOTE ADDRESS BY HIS EXCELLENCY ANDREA RICCARDI, THE MINISTER FOR INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION AND INTEGRATION POLICIES OF THE ITALIAN REPUBLIC

297. **Mr RICCARDI** (Minister for International Cooperation and Integration Policies of the Italian Republic) delivered a keynote address, the full text of which is reproduced in chapter 4.
298. **The VICE-CHAIRPERSON** thanked the Minister for his address and for Italy's support for IFAD. Italy had shown leadership over many decades in dealing with food security issues around the world.
299. **His Excellency Andrea Riccardi, Minister for International Cooperation and Integration Policies of the Italian Republic, was conducted from the meeting room.**

CENTRE-STAGE EVENT WITH MR BILL GATES, CO-CHAIR AND TRUSTEE, BILL & MELINDA GATES FOUNDATION, ON "SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTIVITY: THE KEY TO POVERTY REDUCTION"

300. **The VICE-CHAIRPERSON**, introducing the event, said that it would offer an opportunity to examine potential ways for government policies to help smallholder farmers produce more food and adapt to environmental challenges in a renewable and sustainable manner.
301. **Ms SESAY** (Moderator) explained that small-scale farming was of personal interest to her as her grandparents were from rural areas of Sierra Leone. She then introduced Mr Bill Gates, co-chair and trustee of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.
302. **Mr GATES** said that IFAD and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation shared the same goals and had funded many of the same projects. Earlier that day they had signed a new partnership agreement and he looked forward to new joint projects. The heads of the three Rome-based food agencies, whom he greeted, represented an exciting new generation of leaders aiming to energize the international agricultural system. That system had had great success in the past. Not only had pessimistic predictions of mass starvation proved unfounded but world food production had doubled since the 1970s and poverty had declined. Well-managed investments in agriculture had improved the lives of billions of people.
303. Nevertheless, over that time the international community had not done enough to fight hunger and poverty. Productivity growth had slowed in South Asia and had improved too slowly in sub-Saharan Africa. Country systems, the food agencies and donors needed to cooperate closely, using modern technology, to offer small farmers timely support. The strong leadership at the food agencies and the focus provided by global agenda-setters presented an opportunity to set ambitious goals for a new revolution in agricultural productivity. Sustainable yield increases improved farm families' lives and made food more accessible and cheaper for the urban poor. More productive smallholders were the key to achieving the relevant Millennium Development Goals (MDGs); assisting the poorest meant assisting agriculture. Small farmers' yields in South Asia and sub-Saharan Africa could be doubled or even tripled within two decades while preserving the land, but only if productivity increased four times faster than in the previous two decades. Such increases would lift over 400 million people out of poverty, providing them with enough food and ensuring that their children could develop their full physical and mental potential. Self-sufficient families could then invest in the next generation.
304. He urged the Rome-based agencies jointly to set global productivity targets for small farmers and create a system of scorecards to measure contributions to poverty reduction, following the successful example of the MDGs. Under that system, countries could compare their performances with those with best practices, resulting in notable progress in the field of health. Although numerical measurement was problematic, being compared with their peers would motivate politicians to focus more on neglected issues like agriculture and invest more resources to make improvements. The scorecards would help communities work towards ambitious productivity targets, helping each part of the system to focus on its key contributions, diagnose any problems and disseminate the best solutions. Currently, there was no overview of what worked and what did not, nor was there any awareness of the top priorities. Unsuccessful policies were not discouraged and there was no pressure to make improvements. It would be a complicated task but, with focus by everyone and support from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, it should be possible to launch such a mechanism within a year.
305. Each part of the world's food system had a part to play: donors should provide funds and technical assistance whereas the multilateral agencies and research communities should support the national programmes. In practice, however, the

distinction between those roles had become blurred. Some developing countries organized their national plans around populist policies that did not improve yields, a practice only richer countries could afford, whereas it was vital for developing countries to adopt the right policies. Many donors had forced recipients to change their priorities to suit politics at home, while the food agencies had often been forced to implement non-strategic projects for the sake of crucial funding. A scorecard system could minimize such distortions, which undermined the joint mission. The Purchase for Progress (P4P) programme was a good example of a successful initiative that might be further improved. Under P4P, one year's food had been purchased from small local farmers to feed more than 1.3 million people. WFP ran the programme alone but, with funding and advice from the other food agencies, the programme could be developed into a better coordinated and even more efficient plan, backed up by the necessary accountability mechanisms.

306. So that ambitious productivity targets could be met, the digital revolution needed to be harnessed. New discoveries in genomic science and information technology offered innovative solutions and should be used to help poor farmers. Existing systems failed to do so because the new technologies did not exist when they were designed. Advances in genomics were changing methods of breeding seeds, for example. The timespan and cost of genome sequencing had been reduced dramatically. The same tools and techniques could be applied to agriculture. Cassava was a good example, owing to the difficulties inherent in breeding the seeds. New software and algorithms linking sequence data from the cassava genome to phenotypes made it possible to predict seed performance. That technique had first been developed to predict milk yields in cows; as DNA sequencing became cheaper, it could be applied to the rest of agriculture, including plant systems that had previously been neglected. Breeders in developing countries would be able to predict the performance of seedlings, reducing the breeding cycle to less than two years and greatly improving the quality of the selected seedlings. Such techniques offered great potential for small farmers who were facing climate change, plant diseases and low yields to become self-sufficient. But the difficulty lay in applying them quickly to benefit those who needed them most and the danger lay in their being confined to the rich world.
307. The digital revolution had other applications. For example, digital video cameras could be used to disseminate information on best practices among women farmers. The Digital Green project in India applied that technique and was expected to reach more than one million farmers in 10,000 villages, complementing the classical agricultural extension system. It was highly cost-effective and was making a huge difference. In an age of data collection satellites, antiquated, labour-intensive methods were still in use in many countries. A digital approach would greatly improve data collection and the use of resources. The agencies therefore needed to enhance expertise and help national data collection systems move into the digital age. Such expertise already existed in the sector, for example in countries like Brazil and China, where the agricultural sectors were booming and innovation could easily be introduced.
308. A promising trend was the breadth of innovation and its rapid diffusion. More and more ideas were being devised for ways of improving agriculture, while the ability to connect the people who had those ideas was continually improving. The Grand Challenges initiative relating to solutions to agricultural problems had received a massive worldwide response, often from surprising quarters, owing to its outreach on the Internet to a broad and innovative global community. Many of the advances that could be used came from other fields, such as medicine and defence, which produced huge amounts of data of great value to agriculture. The international agricultural system should play a central role in detecting applicable innovations in other sectors.

309. The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation was committed to help in the realm of innovation. Owing to his background, he was optimistic about the differences that digital approaches could make. Initially the advances in computing had only benefited richer countries and it had proved difficult to find ways of addressing the challenges of rural connectivity, simplifying products and making them affordable. Since market forces would always favour innovation for rich farmers, it was important to find ways of making the digital revolution accessible to the poorest and avoiding the digital divide found in other sectors. At first the Foundation had focused on health, but it had become clear that work in agriculture was complementary and the opportunities for advances were equally strong. It was a surprising fact that over 70 per cent of those without sufficient food were farmers. There was a direct connection between helping farmers to increase productivity and reducing hunger; bringing it about as quickly as possible was simply a matter of organization.
310. The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation had a long-term commitment to the agriculture sector and had pledged more than US\$2 billion to helping smallholders. There had been some failures, but, with the right tools in farmers' hands, the enterprise had proved largely successful. For example, the use of submergence-tolerant rice seed had made a big difference for many farmers. Similarly, micro-irrigation systems boosted yields even when there was a water shortage, and one of the results was to enable farmers to send their children to school. The Foundation was announcing additional grants to the value of US\$200 million for agricultural products, building on earlier successes. They supported the release of 30 new varieties of drought-tolerant maize, the delivery of new livestock vaccines and the training of more than 10,000 agro-dealers, who would in turn equip and train farmers.
311. The Foundation's goal was to increase the sustainable productivity of hundreds of millions of people, moving them out of poverty and giving them the opportunity to be properly educated and to contribute to building a future of productivity and prosperity. In order to achieve that shared goal, better coordination was needed and innovative approaches had to be embraced. Functional measurement systems would help to identify failings and make necessary changes.
312. **Ms SESAY** (Moderator) asked Mr Gates what grade he would give his Foundation for its efforts in agriculture and poverty reduction.
313. **Mr GATES** said that the Foundation had been working in the field for six years and had benefited greatly from the experience of pioneers such as the Rockefeller Foundation, which for many years had attached importance to research and development in Africa. The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation had focused on upstream funding, working with the Consultative Group on International Agriculture Research (CGIAR) and the newly-founded Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA). It had also had positive experience of working with national systems. Each grant was ranked and some had worked better than others. The Foundation had a new strategy and was trying to explain it better to potential partners. It had decided to focus on eight crops, including livestock, leaving others to take the lead in areas where they had the expertise. Overall, he would award the Foundation's efforts a generous B grade.
314. **Ms SESAY** (Moderator) asked Mr Gates what, in his experience, did not work in agriculture.
315. **Mr GATES** said that there were numerous pieces of the puzzle to be put together along the way. So far he had focused on "magic seed", working with CGIAR. The next step was to ensure that seed companies could make a profit while meeting quality standards. Further steps were addressing agro-dealers and farmer education while ensuring that farmers had the necessary credit to buy the appropriate tools. Coordination with other experts was vital throughout the process. A successful example was submergence-tolerant rice. The research had already

been done decades earlier. The Foundation had offered resources to the International Rice Research Institute (IRRI) and some national systems, which had approved its use quickly. The rice had then been successfully promoted among farmers. Not all projects could be implemented as quickly, however. A project to develop disease-resistant and higher-yielding bananas in Uganda had taken 14 years to complete, yet that project was regarded as a success. Moreover, it was still necessary to determine who should play which role; for example, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) should take the lead in assisting national systems.

316. **Ms SESAY** (Moderator) asked about the Foundation's strategy to address the unique challenge of climate change.
317. **Mr GATES** said that weather had always presented small farmers with problems. The Foundation sought to help farmers cope with the drought and floods caused by weather variability resulting from climate change by means of more resistant seeds, better storage and greater productivity. Small farmers would suffer although they had not contributed to the problem. Yet the actions that were needed would have been necessary even without climate change. The seeds needed to address climate change were in fact drought-resistant or flood-tolerant. Climate change increased the urgency of existing problems but did not change the overall situation. After all, FAO had not been set up to deal with climate change. The right measures to improve the agricultural sector were a constant.
318. **Ms SESAY** (Moderator) asked whether it was true that the Foundation was reluctant to address the climate change issue head on.
319. **Mr GATES** said that he had probably funded more energy start-ups than anyone else but more needed to be done in the field of energy generation. Huge innovation was needed in the energy market. When helping farmers deal with shocks, he was prepared to face the reality of climate change, but the issue should not be a diversion.
320. **Mr FRISON** (Director General, Biodiversity International) recalled that Biodiversity International was the fourth Rome-based agency dealing with food and agriculture and also a CGIAR centre. He asked Mr Gates how not only food quantity but also the problem of food quality and malnutrition could be addressed, for example by diversifying diets, and whether health and nutrition indicators should be included in the scorecards advocated by Mr Gates.
321. **Mr GATES** said that nutrition was very important in connection with health programmes. It was also directly linked to agricultural productivity whereas the question of micronutrients called for different strategies. The Foundation supported the Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition (GAIN), which worked on food fortification in a very innovative way. Moreover, the Foundation was probably the largest funder of biofortification, a process whereby seed lines were changed to ensure that crops contained vitamin A, iron and other micronutrients. It was in its early stages and it was too soon to determine its importance. Diet supplements, including pills, were another means of intervention. It was not costly but required the creation of a social marketing system to ensure uptake. Moreover, there were surprisingly large gaps in knowledge on the results of vitamin A, iron and zinc supplementation, and there was considerable controversy surrounding the use of supplements.
322. The Foundation had been working on the problem of children's diet and its effect on health and mental development. There were strong indicators that poor diet held Africa back, owing to diarrhoea and the lack of certain nutrients. It seemed that a higher percentage of children suffered from problems of mental development. Eradicating diarrhoea and malaria depended on the improvement of micronutrients. He hoped that better measurements and greater understanding over the next four

- or five years would help to avoid a terrible tragedy. His Foundation was funding research, mindful of the fact that the lack of understanding held back investment in many areas that one day would probably be seen as vital.
323. **Mr ASEFFA** (Ethiopia) said that many countries, including his own, had achieved best practices for raising the productivity of smallholder agriculture. He asked how those practices could be scaled up and how productivity could be raised to the level of the most successful farmers, and also how those best practices could be made available to other countries.
324. **Mr GATES** said that his idea of scorecards was relevant. The Ethiopian Agricultural Transformation Agency was an example of a best practice already showing results. A scorecard could be used to list the specific problems faced with seed varieties, such as supply, costs or farmer education. Other countries could then decide what changes needed to be made. Some changes, such as offering seed companies the right incentives, could be made quickly with positive results. Others, such as changes to the agricultural budget, changing the tax system or educating farmers, were equally important but took longer to effect. It would be very useful to make the experiences of Ethiopia explicit by means of a report card mechanism.
325. **Ms SESAY** (Moderator) asked what was the most important action that should be taken by national governments and their policymakers in the area of agriculture and agricultural development.
326. **Mr GATES** said that agriculture did not receive the focus that it deserved in terms of budget, policy or technocratic excellence of a department. It should be possible to tell countries' leaders about the shortcomings in their agriculture or inform them of other countries that had been successful. For example, it would be useful to be able to tell a country that its vaccination coverage was inferior to that of a poorer neighbouring country, giving details of the effect on child development or mortality. The scorecard system would be very helpful for identifying the top priorities. Moreover, most political leaders lacked a background in agricultural systems.
327. **Mr DIALLO** (Guinea), explaining that he was a farmers' representative, asked what could be done with IFAD's help to strengthen producers' organizations in sub-Saharan Africa and improve agricultural production in a sustainable manner.
328. **Mr GATES** said that farmer organizations played a key role by voicing their views about how agriculture ministries could make improvements. Uniting farmers gave them a say in policies on fertilizers, seeds, education and disease, which could help to avert disasters. There were many successful farmer organizations in Africa but there should be more. IFAD already ran many of its projects in conjunction with farmer organizations and his Foundation was increasingly doing so. He was interested in finding ways of giving those organizations a more powerful voice.
329. **Ms SESAY** (Moderator) asked whether African farmer organizations could learn from those elsewhere.
330. **Mr GATES** said that countries' efforts to facilitate grassroots movements should be included in the scorecards. There seemed to be more farmers' groups in Asia than in Africa, which was something that might be emulated.
331. **Ms TAGLIANTE-SARACINO** (Côte d'Ivoire) said that the Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunisation (GAVI Alliance) had greatly improved vaccine coverage in many African countries, including her own. She thanked Mr Gates for his humanistic approach to helping to spread the use of the meningitis vaccine, in particular.
332. **Mr GATES** said that much had been learned about vaccines through the GAVI experience. Through a grant to an Indian company, a cheaper form of meningitis vaccine was now being supplied to affected areas of Africa; demand had been incredibly high. The technology was not new but thanks to some investment the

costs had been considerably reduced. The same principle could be applied to agriculture. No-till equipment built for farms in the United States could not be replicated exactly for use by smallholders but the concept might be extremely valuable. The market often prevented tools designed for the rich world from being affordable by the very people who needed them.

333. In response to question by an Italian journalist, he said that he would not be available for the job of President of the World Bank as he was fully occupied with his work for the Foundation. The World Bank was doing a better job than in the past; its current President was working towards reversing the declining focus on agriculture at the World Bank. He had also been endeavouring to place infrastructure projects aimed at boosting agricultural activity on the agenda. Although Rockefeller and Ford deserved credit for the green revolution, the World Bank had helped to bring about rapid improvements by focusing on vital infrastructure projects, which made it an important partner for the Rome-based agencies. It had provided infrastructure support for the Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC) while the Foundation had been involved in partnerships with the World Bank involving agricultural productivity. The World Bank was willing to admit to its failings and he hoped that it would find a leader who would build on the work done by the current President, in partnership with the Rome-based agencies.
334. **Mr da SILVA** (Director-General, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)) asked how the increasingly important issues of waste and obesity should be addressed, and whether consumer education was the answer.
335. **Mr GATES** said that obesity had once been regarded by the upper classes in richer countries almost as a mark of distinction. Since the better-off in the developed world had become aware of the need for exercise and healthy diets, obesity rates had become inversely related to income. It was unclear whether consumer education would be successful. He hoped that technology could be used to invent snacks that tasted good but did not convert into fat. Many companies were already working on artificial meat and other foodstuffs. It would be preferable to produce tasty low-calorie food than to try to convince people to eat less or to impose state controls. Nevertheless, education should be pursued. The only country that seemed to have succeeded at all in reducing obesity was Finland. More work should be done country by country in the developed world and the United Nations could then help to promulgate best practices. He hoped that countries were taking innovative approaches, funding science to make it easier for people to be virtuous.
336. **Ms SHEERAN** (Executive Director, World Food Programme (WFP)) asked what the ultimate goal of the scorecards was: increasing incomes or reducing hunger and malnutrition. Sometimes higher productivity led to more food exports and had no effect on hunger and malnutrition. Was the highest ranking to be given to countries that increased exports or drove up production figures, or those that secured higher incomes for small farmers, leaving the rest to take care of itself?
337. **Mr GATES** agreed that paradoxical situations could arise. Higher production could lead to lower prices and, in turn, cut farmers' incomes, benefiting the urban poor but causing huge problems for the rural poor. FAO had produced useful reports on food insecurity. He would give priority to enabling subsistence farmers to feed their families, even if that meant driving down food prices. In successful countries, higher agricultural productivity had eased pressures on urban employment. If the food community, including the Rome-based agencies, did their job properly, that trend could be facilitated. China was exemplary in that regard. In view of the global food shortage, there should always be demand for production but the output of subsistence farmers needed to be connected to the world system. Encouraging the use of land that was neither sustainable nor productive need not necessarily lead to higher food prices. He was shocked by the speed with which protectionism was applied to food because the buffer stocks were so small that nationalism took over

and created harmful distortions. Africa should not have to import staple crops; it should be a net exporter of staple crops so that the most vulnerable were not affected by the price of imported food.

338. **Mr NWANZE** (President of IFAD) asked Mr Gates for his views on the role of the private sector in supporting smallholder farmers. He also wished to know how the Foundation ensured that its projects were sustained by a given community or country.
339. **Mr GATES** said that when farmers had better seeds they were not tempted to use poor land and they could afford continually to invest in improving the soil. However, capitalism never funded research and development sufficiently owing to the risks, the long timeframes and the disincentives for innovators. The market was no substitute for CGIAR, FAO and IFAD in basic agricultural work, data studies and funding, respectively, and he was often amazed by market failures owing to perceived country risk or instability. Nevertheless, he favoured involving the private sector and often sought its helpful views on the viability or sustainability of the Foundation's projects. The Foundation had worked with the seed companies, persuading them to donate intellectual property although they did not expect to make money from most African farmers. Open-mindedness with regard to the private sector was often constructive. In many projects, the private sector saw to processing, transport or the export of products to markets abroad. The Foundation's goal for every project was to raise productivity to a level that enabled it to exit. One of its coffee projects and some of its dairy projects had already achieved that goal.
340. **Ms SESAY** (Moderator), drawing the proceedings to a close, thanked Mr Gates and all the participants.

HIGH-LEVEL PANEL DISCUSSION WITH POLICYMAKERS ON "FROM WORDS TO ACTIONS: CREATING A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE FOR SMALLHOLDER FARMERS"

341. **Ms MUNCHETTY** (Moderator) invited the Governing Council to watch a video documentary on how sustainable practices were helping farmers to work their way out of poverty.
342. **The video documentary was screened.**
343. **Ms MUNCHETTY** (Moderator) introduced the members of the panel: His Excellency Mr Akinwunmi Ayo Adesina, Minister for Agriculture and Rural Development of Nigeria, who was a former Vice-President of the Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa and whose ambition was to make Nigeria, which was spending over US\$20 billion a year importing food, self-sufficient in rice in just three years; Mr Carlos Seré, Chief Development Strategist of IFAD, who emphasized the importance of smart collaboration and partnerships and of international organizations working with governments, farmers and the private sector to find sustainable solutions; Her Excellency Ms Doña Nemesia Achacollo Tola, Minister for Rural Development and Land of the Plurinational State of Bolivia, who had formerly been a leader of various farmers' organizations and focused on issues such as gender equality in politics and the recovery of native seeds to ensure food security; and His Excellency Mr Mehmet Mehdi Eker, Minister for Food, Agriculture and Livestock of Turkey, a country which had achieved outstanding success in tripling agricultural production over the past eight years through targeted government action.
344. **Mr ADESINA** (Nigeria), in response to the question of where responsibility lay for changing the world's outdated and inefficient agricultural system, emphasized that the first priority was to raise agricultural productivity rapidly, along the lines of the green revolution in Asia, which had been instrumental in lifting several billion people out of poverty. The second priority was political leadership to set the right direction. For example, Nigeria, which had been a major agricultural exporter in the 1960s and early 1970s, was now the largest importer of rice in the world. It had

therefore set the target of becoming self-sufficient in rice production by 2015 by increasing productivity, improving irrigation and developing high quality milling capacity.

345. **Mr EKER** (Turkey) said that there was no simple answer to the issue of the overall responsibility for achieving a global solution. One problem was that the ultimate target of large international companies was to maximize profits. Their competitiveness could persuade smallholders in many developing countries not to compete with them but to concentrate on feeding their families, or might even have the effect of removing them from the production system. International institutions therefore needed to discuss the problem and find solutions that helped smallholders to remain in the system. The alternative was that, when they faced hunger and poverty, many smallholders would be forced to leave rural areas and migrate to cities, where existing problems would be intensified.
346. **Ms ACHACOLLO TOLA** (Plurinational State of Bolivia) emphasized the importance, with a view to achieving sustainable and environmentally-friendly agriculture, of state participation to empower the various smallholder, indigenous and women's organizations. Through the provision of financial resources and incentives for programmes and the various organizations, based on their needs and with their participation, it was possible to increase both conventional and organic production by small-scale producers in a joint and coordinated manner.
347. **Ms MUNCHETTY** (Moderator) asked Mr Seré for his comments on the question of partnerships and, more broadly, on the roles of international organizations.
348. **Mr SERÉ** said that, although individual countries, with their national leadership, formed the main administrative unit for addressing agricultural issues, the real challenges were being faced crossed borders, environments and sectors. Very high levels of coordination were therefore required to ensure that development efforts were clear and accountable and took into consideration all the related dimensions. The traditional world governance structure, covering such areas as trade, gender and social issues, had been the United Nations system. However, other very important actors, and particularly the private sector, civil society and farmers' organizations, also needed to be involved. The United Nations Committee on World Food Security was one element of the attempt to reinvent global governance, but the challenge was extremely difficult and involved the development of new architecture, while at the same time addressing very specific issues in a subsidiary manner, such as rice in Nigeria, one example among many others.
349. **Ms MUNCHETTY** (Moderator) asked whether governments should merely enable rather than implement.
350. **Mr ADESINA** (Nigeria) said that lessons needed to be learnt from the past. For example, in Africa the withdrawal of government intervention under the influence of the international financial institutions had left a situation in which the commodity chains now lacked marketing institutions and expenditure had been reduced on research, extension services and critical rural infrastructure, including irrigation. His view was that government was not the problem, but a lead part of the solution. For example, in Nigeria the aim was to achieve a government-enabled, private sector-led transformation process. Moreover, while reference was often made to foreign direct investment and official development assistance, it should not be forgotten that the economies of many African countries were growing and that the banking sector therefore had large amounts of liquidity, which should be leveraged into agriculture. The aim should accordingly be for agriculture to be developed as a business, in which the private sector played a role in such areas as seed and fertilizer provision, as well as in storage and transport systems, while the government would have to provide enabling public goods in the areas of research, extension services and irrigation. That was how the green revolution in Asia had been achieved.

351. **Ms MUNCHETTY** (Moderator) asked about the government's role in promoting environmental sustainability.
352. **Mr ADESINA** (Nigeria) said that the question of environmental sustainability involved a very complex set of issues. For example, it was known that climate change would give rise to much more drought in African countries, which would require greater investment in irrigation and research on drought-tolerant crops, as well as the development of crop insurance to protect farmers from shocks in the system. The African countries lacked institutional support systems. Great attention would also need to be paid to balanced agricultural development strategies, which should include more productive and organic inputs, as well as the sound management of land and water resources. A much broader biodiversity base was required that took into account the need to feed the population both today and in the future. Environmental sustainability should not be seen as contrary to productivity growth.
353. **Mr EKER** (Turkey) agreed that it was essential for government strategy to focus on sustainability. One aspect of that was for the support provided to smallholders to be conditional. For example, subsidies for fertilizers should be conditional on soil analysis to identify the nutrients that were needed; that was the strategy adopted by the Government of Turkey. Other measures it had taken included encouraging the use of certified seeds, seedlings and saplings to achieve greater productivity, and the provision of zero-interest loans, and even grants, for drip irrigation systems which preserved the soil from erosion. Assistance in the form of grants was also being provided for the integration of production and industrial processes by helping farmers to develop packaging, processing and cool storage facilities. In addition, public research facilities had been opened for use, free of charge, by the private sector and farmers' unions.
354. **Mr SERÉ** said that environmental sustainability involved a difficult trade-off. Some tasks could be passed on to the private sector to a certain extent, such as investment in drought-tolerant materials, but the real challenge lay with natural resource management, understanding weather patterns and information, which were critical public goods that must be delivered. Governments, however, could not do the job alone. There was now growing recognition of the high levels of global diversity. The green revolution in Asia had been achieved under very homogenous conditions, with particularly large controlled irrigated areas. There was now a need to move into more variable conditions such as rainfed agriculture, for which central plans rarely worked. Innovation and the empowerment of people to find solutions was therefore essential. Although investments, such as those provided by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation could establish the building blocks, sustainable agriculture depended on the investment of local people. Farmers' organizations were needed to translate big concepts, new technologies and other innovations into practice, in accordance with local needs.
355. **Mr TOI** (Togo), President of the young farmers' association in his country, said that the development of sustainable agriculture required the dissemination of knowledge, innovative approaches to training and agricultural practices and access to profitable markets. However, those conditions were not always met in terms of public services and advisory and research activities. He therefore raised the question of the type of reform that was necessary so that some type of partnership agreement could be reached between non-governmental organizations (NGOs), the private sector and the state, and what permanent funding mechanisms could be established to guarantee sustainable agriculture.
356. **Ms ACHACOLLO TOLA** (Plurinational State of Bolivia) said that experience showed that there was no permanent funding to improve agricultural sustainability and production levels. National policy and programmes to support agriculture hinged on transparency, generation and transfer of technology and provision of knowledge to

producers and farmers. Whereas large industrial farmers were able to invest in acquiring knowledge and developing improved inputs and techniques, that was not the case for smallholders, who were engaged in subsistence farming and depended on the knowledge acquired from their parents and families. It was therefore the responsibility of the state to provide a sufficient level of lasting investment in improving know-how and transferring technology, particularly through cooperatives and organizations of smallholders, young people and women.

357. **Mr ADESINA** (Nigeria) added that, although smallholders accounted for 80 per cent of the farming population, they were not always included in policy processes. It was therefore fundamental to start by strengthening farmers' organizations and similar forums for dialogue to ensure that their voice was heard and that government was accountable to them. Regarding inputs, reforms he had introduced in Nigeria now meant that all fertilizers and seeds were sold directly to farmers or their cooperatives. Proper accountability was essential in ensuring that subsidized inputs reached their targets. It was also a matter of scale: the cell phone-based system introduced in Nigeria targeted five million farmers. Reforms therefore had to cover technologies, institutions, governance and accountability so as to guarantee that the voice of farmers was central to all the measures taken and that they had a real impact on their lives.
358. **Mr SERÉ** also emphasized that smallholders were very dependent on public support services. For example, large poultry companies could hire veterinarians, while small poultry producers had to rely on public veterinary services, and were placed at a great disadvantage if such public services were not available. He added that innovation was needed, not only in technology, but in all areas, including institutional innovation, to find new ways of doing things. One example was the self-allocation of IFAD loan resources in communities in the Andes in Peru. The communities themselves, rather than central government, which was very far removed from them, defined the critical public investments that they needed, which meant that the people close to the problem were being empowered.
359. **Mr EKER** (Turkey) agreed that it was very important for extension services to be provided to farmers, especially by governments. In Turkey, 7 500 agricultural engineers and veterinarians had been appointed to live in villages and provide advice and information to smallholders free of charge. It was planned to employ another 2 500, which would make it possible to cover all smallholders. Sometimes very little information and advice was necessary to increase productivity levels significantly.
360. **Mr RUIZ CABAÑAS IZQUIERDO** (Mexico) agreed that governments were not the problem and were not in competition with the private sector. They had an essential role to play in promoting agriculture in all countries, particularly in the areas of research and development, infrastructure and regulations governing food production and distribution. In relation to the need to increase production in a sustainable and environmentally friendly way, he raised the question of the mechanisms that would be needed to prevent and respond to climate change. He invited the panellists to comment on the new costs that climate change entailed for producers, especially small-scale producers.
361. **Mr ADESINA** (Nigeria) said that the focus should first and foremost be on adaptation to climate change. In Africa, that would require research and development focusing on drought-resistant and heat-tolerant crop varieties. Another aspect was to increase access to meteorological information to help farmers plan planting and the application of fertilizers more effectively. That would require heavy investment in Nigeria, for example, where there were currently very few weather stations. It was also necessary to raise the awareness of farmers that the situation was changing and that planting and preparation would have to be adapted accordingly. Early warning systems were crucial.

362. He stressed the importance of insurance programmes for farmers based on weather indices. The issue was how they could be financed at the appropriate scale and the source of the financing. In his view, it was the role of international organizations to finance such programmes. He therefore proposed that IFAD, FAO and other organizations, including the World Bank and the Asian Development Bank, should accelerate access to finance for weather index insurance in Africa to cover millions of farmers who would be vulnerable to shocks resulting from climate change. An another point, while irrigation was fundamental, it was also crucial for work to be carried out at the national and international levels on improving efficiency in the use of water.
363. **Mr EKER** (Turkey) said that everyone would be affected by the costs of climate change, and particularly developing countries. It was therefore necessary to develop strategies and policies to sustain production and prevent harm from the misuse of fertilizers and irrigation systems. In Turkey, for example, farmers had been provided with 50 per cent grants to change from the conventional open channel irrigation system to the drip or sprinkler irrigation system. The application of an integrated pest management and control system had resulted in the reduction of the amount of pesticides used in Turkey from 54 000 tons to 38 000 tons in eight years. Information on the use of pesticides and chemicals had been included in the information system and extension services provided, which had contributed to the tripling of agricultural production over the past eight years.
364. **Ms TAGLIANTE-SARACINO** (Côte d'Ivoire) described the vicious circle of increased pressure in cities, which raised the pressure on politicians to ensure the availability of food, which in turn resulted in the public and private sectors buying food on the world market, and particularly rice, flour and maize. Studies showed that many children were no longer eating the same produce as previous generations, which was partly a perverse effect of the lack of markets for millet, yams or sweet potatoes produced by small-scale farmers. The question therefore arose of how governments could organize and reserve part of the market for the traditional products that small-scale producers could grow.
365. **Ms MUNCHETTY** (Moderator) asked how easy it would be to create a sustainable market for small-scale farmers.
366. **Ms TOLA** said that investment was needed from governments to create markets in cities so that consumers there could have access to products at a reasonable price and to help small-scale producers transport their produce to those markets. Resources were also required to protect consumers from price increases and the effects of climate change. It had taken six years and a great deal of investment to achieve self-sufficiency in many agricultural products in her country, although it was still necessary to import wheat.
367. **Mr SERÉ** added that it was very difficult to reverse changes in consumption patterns once they had taken root. Moreover, traditional products were sometimes replaced because they were difficult to cook: the boom in rice consumption was partly due to the lower energy needs for cooking rice. It was therefore necessary to invest in science and technology to develop new products for urban markets. An example was such as the use of indigenous potatoes from the Andes to produce chips. Public investment could therefore be used to integrate small-scale producers into urban markets.
368. **Mr ADESINA** (Nigeria) said that many countries imported produce that could be replaced by home-grown crops. For example, Nigeria, while being a major wheat importer, was the largest producer of cassava in the world. It had therefore been decided that up to 40 per cent of the wheat flour used for bread would be replaced by high quality cassava flour, which would save around US\$2 billion a year in imports and would create jobs for approximately 1.3 million farmers. Many major African cocoa producing countries were still selling cocoa beans, rather than

processing them within the country, which would help them set rather than having to accept international cocoa prices. Institutional arrangements should be put in place to allow for such a change. He added that the removal of marketing boards had had a disastrous effect in Africa. In Nigeria, private sector marketing corporations were therefore being set up to coordinate each of the value chains. Similarly, there should be greater focus in Africa on commodity exchanges, which would be instrumental in improving standards and enhancing trade between countries, resulting in an expansion of regional markets.

369. **Ms MUNCHETTY** (Moderator) turned to the policy commitments that needed to be made at the Rio+20 conference and asked the panellists to outline the goals that they believed the world could agree on for agriculture, the management of natural resources and food security.
370. **Mr EKER** (Turkey) said that the first goal was to ensure food security, especially for the one billion people who suffered from hunger and extreme poverty, whose numbers were still rising. The second goal was to support smallholders and help them to stay in the farming system. If they migrated to the cities in large numbers, the situation would be aggravated in terms of poverty, socio-economic problems and crime.
371. **Ms ACHACOLLO TOLA** (Plurinational State of Bolivia) reaffirmed the need for debate with the involvement of smallholders on how the necessary investment could be made in food security, national self-sufficiency, infrastructure and markets. The action taken by international development and financing institutions needed to be coordinated directly with producers. The major meetings held on the subject, for example at FAO, were detached from the experience of smallholders as reflected, for example, in the Farmers' Forum. It would be very difficult to move forward on food needs and the increasingly complex issues raised by climate change unless a concerted strategy was developed with the involvement of producers and the population. The Bolivian approach was to take on the responsibility jointly with a view to concerted action.
372. **Mr ADESINA** (Nigeria) said that sustainable environmental development patterns could not be achieved without sustainable income in agriculture. Low input systems produced low output. With a projected global population of nine billion by 2050, the absolute priority was a significant rise in agricultural productivity, while paying great attention to all issues relating to the environment, water and biodiversity. A second issue concerned carbon, in respect of which local and regional financing facilities should be developed. For example, African countries should use their domestic financial markets to create carbon financing facilities that rewarded farmers for intensifying agricultural production, which in turn increased biodiversity and carbon sequestration. Developing countries should not always depend on the generosity of the global community. It was in the interest of African nations with growing economies to adopt smarter strategies and concerted policies to finance green growth in their own countries.
373. **Mr SERÉ** said that the main dimensions of an ideal post-Rio+20 world had been outlined: real comprehensive development, the engagement of the population and farmers, and a process that was endogenously driven and could not be outsourced. What was now needed was to bring all those dimensions together in a sustainable development model. That would require a major paradigm shift that could be set in motion at the Rio+20 conference. The challenge was to identify a paradigm that was acceptable to all and was sufficiently comprehensive to address the integrated needs of food security, poverty reduction and sustainability, while at the same time being manageable and subject to monitoring. A number of initiatives reported at the current session could provide input to that debate.

374. **Ms MUNCHETTY** (Moderator) asked the panellists, in view of the need for bold international leadership, to describe briefly how experience in their own countries could contribute to change at the international level.
375. **Mr EKER** (Turkey) said that the international agencies with expertise in food and agriculture needed to be strengthened and supported so that they could provide the leadership that was necessary to help the international community solve the problems.
376. **Ms ACHACOLLO TOLA** (Plurinational State of Bolivia) stated that 2013 is the International Year of Quinoa and that her country, being one of the main producers and suppliers of quinoa, a basic world food staple, sought support to develop these initiatives.
377. **Mr ADESINA** (Nigeria) emphasized the real challenge of food security and the need to achieve the MDGs by the target date of 2015. The focus should be on national governments, which were responsible for their peoples, knew the issues and had adopted strategies and plans, and should therefore set the pace and the direction. The international organizations and donors concerned should therefore return to basics and support national governments, regional efforts and farmers.
378. **Mr SERÉ** said that it was clear that the international system needed to support and bring together countries, which were the driving force for the necessary action.
379. **Ms MUNCHETTY** (Moderator), drawing the proceedings to a close, thanked all the participants.

GENERAL STATEMENTS (agenda item 6, continued)

380. **Mr CAÑAS DELGADO** (Venezuela, Bolivarian Republic of) said that spiralling food prices had particularly affected developing and low-income countries and those with a food production deficit. Some 100 million people had joined the ranks of the hungry. The Venezuelan economy had been safeguarded by the economic and social programmes implemented, especially for the most underprivileged population groups. It was now the Latin American country with the lowest inequality index, and extreme poverty had been reduced from 21 per cent in 1999 to seven per cent in 2011. The great Agro-Venezuela mission programme had benefited over 500,000 small, medium- and large-scale producers, who had received bank credits with a view to rehabilitating agricultural systems. The policy focused on regularizing land tenure, new financing mechanisms for small- and medium-scale producers and State mediation in marketing, thereby removing intermediaries who raised prices, with the aim of guaranteeing food security and sovereignty. Its success had been compounded by bilateral poverty reduction projects.
381. IFAD's increased funding for projects in developing, low-income and food deficit countries was to be welcomed. Sustainability needed to be incorporated into IFAD's budgetary planning to protect it against the possible effects of the global crisis of capitalism. Its work to eradicate rural poverty should focus on: lending policies and criteria; the new IFAD vision for middle-income countries; the allocation of resources under the Ninth Replenishment; and private-sector financing. However, the latter should not support large international or transnational enterprises, or those adopting monopolistic practices. Poor rural farmers grouped together in small or medium-sized enterprises or other economic cooperation associations should be the principal beneficiaries so as to maintain a balance in the negotiating power between smallholders and large commercial entities. IFAD and the other Rome-based agencies faced a great challenge in channelling international action into an equitable, productive and social model of development that offered opportunities for the rural poor.

382. **Mr MONIB** (Egypt) said that his country's key development partnership with IFAD had culminated in the signing of an agreement, in November 2011, to establish an IFAD country office in Cairo. Demonstrating the two-way nature of that partnership and its faith in IFAD's mission, Egypt had decided to pledge US\$3 million for the Ninth Replenishment, which would further strengthen its ties with the Fund.
383. IFAD was engaged in welcome efforts to develop its work and projects in line with the needs of beneficiary countries. Also welcome was the Strategic Framework 2011-2015, with its prioritization of South-South cooperation, women's empowerment and the establishment of partnerships with the private sector, taking into account the variations in rural poverty levels that largely determined the size of its operations in any one country. In addition to continuing to perform its unique mission, IFAD should expand the delivery of loan services and of projects tailored to each country's development framework. In that context, Egypt looked forward to participating in the working group to be established in 2012 in order to review lending categories and criteria. The theme of the current session and its focus on smallholders, sustainable development and food security was also particularly gratifying; smallholders had always been pivotal to Egypt's socio-economic development plans for poverty eradication and agricultural development.
384. **Mr PRAVONGVIENGKHAM** (Lao People's Democratic Republic) said that food security and climate change remained great challenges requiring urgent, innovative and holistic responses. More coordinated cooperation was essential, as was the need to learn the lessons of past failures in the quest to support the development of more viable production systems for smallholders. Investment in farmers also required an enabling policy and legal environment and a range of actions designed to connect them to markets, guarantee land tenure and fair contracts, provide access to information and credit, and improve the reach of health, education and extension services.
385. His country's active promotion of strong groups of smallholders through farmers' organizations, which were crucial to the practice of more viable and environmentally-friendly agricultural systems, had led to an increase in sustainable farming, whether involving organic crops, livestock-raising linked with biogas production, non-tillage land-based conservation technology or solar and hydro-energy. The Lao Government would maintain the level of its previous pledge for the Ninth Replenishment, looking forward to new solutions for more sustainable agricultural development and to concrete programmes for supporting the efforts of smallholders to achieve long-term food security, resilience to climate change and the transition to a more diversified market-based economy. In his country's quest to eradicate poverty by 2020, IFAD's continued flexible support was much appreciated.
386. **Mr AL-AKWA** (Yemen) said that, in his country, the Fund implemented sustainable development activities and programmes focused on creating a variety of job opportunities that would improve the economic status of poor rural families, including women and young people, most notably in remote, arid, coastal and mountainous regions. Those programmes were now even more vital to helping Yemen cope with the additional challenges faced as a result of the recent crisis, which had exacerbated the humanitarian situation, increased rates of poverty, unemployment and malnutrition, and visited economic woes upon Yemen's largely rural population as a result of the fall in agricultural production and the initial doubling of food prices.
387. The Fund's efforts to develop its agricultural development activities should essentially be focused on strengthening its resources and funding in line with challenges and goals to be met; periodically reviewing its in-country activities for project planning purposes; affording special priority to projects for the economic integration of rural women; developing existing projects with a view to curbing unemployment and accommodating local and international market needs;

expanding small- and medium-scale loan projects to promote farming and livestock production; developing public-private partnerships; and stimulating investment in farming and fishing. The Yemeni Government would, for its part, continue its cooperation with and support for IFAD.

388. **Mr AL-TARAWNEH** (Jordan) said that food security was integral to a country's national security and should be a key universal objective. For his Government, food security was indeed a priority concern, together with poverty eradication and unemployment reduction, particularly in view of the high global food prices. Agricultural development and environmental protection were seen as the cornerstones of further development. It had accordingly adopted a national strategy for agricultural development focused on eradicating rural poverty, increasing the productivity of small farmers and livestock breeders, optimizing the use of land and water resources, notably through extension services, and improving job opportunities for rural women, in particular through income-generating projects.
389. The strategy's three main goals were to achieve sustainable agricultural development, attain food security and rural poverty reduction, and provide rural financial services and marketing services for household agriculture. It also aimed to empower women by developing their production and marketing skills and to stimulate the rural economy by improving marketing ties, minimizing post-harvest losses and introducing mechanization. A complementary national strategy for food security was also in the pipeline, while IFAD had provided soft loans for various sustainable food production projects implemented with tangible success, using available resources and vast areas of previously unexploited land. Jordan looked forward to further support for new projects and to continuing cooperation with the Fund.
390. **Ms TAGLIANTE-SARACINO** (Côte d'Ivoire) said that, since the mid-1980s, her country had continued to benefit from IFAD support for poverty reduction and agricultural projects to the tune of millions of dollars, whether in the form of loans or grants. The theme of the current session was of key importance for African countries, where agriculture was mostly in the hands of smallholder farmers and where poverty brought on by drought, famine and lack of action, chiefly on account of heavy indebtedness, was only set to grow. Côte d'Ivoire had been plunged into poverty by the succession of crises it had experienced. Future projects therefore signalled immense relief for smallholders and rural dwellers in general, men, women and children alike, including young school dropouts returning to the land.
391. The attainment of food security presented a new challenge for her Government, particularly in the northern, central and western parts of the country where the conflicts had displaced huge numbers to as far as neighbouring countries and had consequently ruined farming structures and farmers' production capacities. Food security must be guaranteed not only for returnees but also for those who fled to Côte d'Ivoire from conflicts or drought elsewhere, as had happened in the past. In conclusion, reiterating her country's support for the Fund, she announced her Government's decision to contribute US\$70,000 to the Ninth Replenishment of IFAD's Resources.
392. **Mr ADOUM** (Chad) said that, at a time of global recession, the least advanced countries, especially those in the Sahel, faced increased food insecurity and needed more help to address rising food prices and increase their production capacity sustainably. All the development stakeholders, including governments and international structures and financial institutions, should rise to the challenge. IFAD had a crucial role to play in that regard. In the highly vulnerable Guéra region of Chad, the Fund was supporting the creation and strengthening of village-level food security granaries, thanks to which some 20 per cent of the rural population had been saved from famine, tiding them over the most difficult periods. Nevertheless, the responses to repeated crises would also need to consist in testing and scaling

up new production methods and technologies that were more resistant to weather variations and were affordable by small producers. In Chad, 80 per cent of the population relied on subsistence farming and would need more help from development partners, in particular IFAD.

393. The Government of Chad welcomed the fresh boost to its partnership and cooperation with IFAD. Two programmes, worth almost US\$40 million, were currently under way, concerning rural development and livestock breeding. He thanked IFAD on behalf of the Government and expressed the hope that future actions, in keeping with the vision of President Idriss Deby Itno, would allow the country to continue to take effective action against food insecurity, reduce rural poverty and provide support in transforming Chad into an emerging country. Chad had paid its arrears in contributions to the Fund and had contributed EUR 250,000 to the Ninth Replenishment, as a gauge of the importance that it attached to cooperation with IFAD.

CLOSURE OF THE MEETING

394. **Mr NWANZE** (President of IFAD) made a closing statement, the full text of which is reproduced in chapter 4.
395. **The VICE-CHAIRPERSON** declared the thirty-fifth session of the Governing Council closed.
396. **The meeting rose at 1.30 p.m.**

Centre-stage events and High-level panels



Centre-stage event with Mr Bill Gates, Co-chair and Trustee, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, on "Sustainable agricultural productivity: The key to poverty reduction"



Centre-stage event with Ms Lindiwe Majele Sibanda, Chief Executive Officer, Food, Agriculture and Natural Resources Policy Analysis Network, on "What promise will Rio herald for agriculture?"



High-level panel on "Feed the world, protect the planet"



High-level panel on "From words to actions: Creating a sustainable future for smallholder farmers"

Chapter 3

B. Regional side event discussions¹

Regional side event 1: Achieving food security in sub-Saharan Africa through conservation agriculture



397. Panellists

(a) **The Honourable Florence Chenoweth**, Minister for Agriculture of the Republic of Liberia

(b) **His Excellency Djimé Adoum**, Minister of Agriculture and Irrigation of the Republic of Chad

(c) **Mr Collins Khatiko**, Senior Officer in the Conservation Farming Unit, Zambia Farmers' Union

(d) **Mr Ken E. Giller**, Chair of Plant Production Systems, Wageningen University, The Netherlands

(e) **Mr Dennis Garrity**, Chairperson of Landcare International, World Agroforestry Centre (ICRAF)

(f) **Mr Ibrahima Coulibaly**, President, National Coordination of Farmers Organisation (CNOP), Mali

398. Emblematic of the need for local solutions is the debate on conservation agriculture. This crop production system is offered as a promising method to increase productivity while preventing soil degradation. At its core are the principles of minimum soil disturbance, permanent cover crop and crop rotation. It has particularly taken root in Zambia, where its use has dramatically increased maize yields.²

399. At the side event entitled **Achieving food security in sub-Saharan Africa through conservation agriculture**, discussions highlighted both the benefits and the challenges faced by conservation agriculture in sub-Saharan Africa. Mr Dennis Garrity, the Chairman of

Landcare International, World Agroforestry Centre (ICRAF), highlighted what it has to offer: the potential for reducing labour and use of animals and fuel; more stable yields, especially in drought years; greater profitability; and benefits for the soil, including less erosion and better soil structure and moisture.

400. Yet Mr Garrity cautioned that the approach needs to be promoted case-by-case based on clear understanding of the local situation. It requires specific socio-economic and agro-ecological conditions and consistent policies. He called for a double-storey "evergreen" agriculture integrating trees with annual and perennial food crops while maintaining year-round green cover on the land, an approach that has taken hold in some parts of Africa.

401. Mr Ken Giller, Chair of Plant Production Systems, Wageningen University, said that he is concerned that the scientific evidence supporting conservation agriculture is

¹ Source: <http://www.ifad.org/events/gc/35/doc/proceeding.pdf>.

² IFAD, Smallholder conservation agriculture: rationale for IFAD involvement and relevance to the East and Southern Africa region, 2011, pp. 27-28.

unclear and inconsistent, and that the approach may not fit within the majority of smallholder farming systems in Africa. He also cautioned about the demand for weeding in the early years of using this method. Given that weeding is typically women's work, it adds to the workload of already overburdened female farmers.

402. He also noted that in Zambia, conservation agriculture was adopted specifically to address the problems of maize production, and in adopting the method it is important to determine the precise issues you need to address.
403. IFAD's director for East and Southern Africa, Mr Périn Saint Ange, summed up the discussion by noting that conservation agriculture needs to be implemented in a more structured and coordinated manner, with better management of investments, more up-scaling of successful initiatives and documentation of how it is working at the farm level. He pointed out that the risks of conservation agriculture need to be managed to ensure maximum opportunities for results in the field.

Regional side event 2: Community and Participatory Management of Natural Resources: Experiences from Mesoamerica's Indigenous Peoples and Forest Communities



404. Panellists

(a) **Mr Cacique Betanio Chiquidama**, Cacique General, Congreso General Embera Wounaan (CGEW) (Panama)

(b) **Mr Marcedonio Cortave**, Executive Director of the Association of Forest Communities of Petén (ACOFOP) (Guatemala)

(c) **Ms Victoria Flores Aguilar**, President of the Federation of Agroforestry Producers of Honduras (FEPROAH) (Honduras)

(d) **Mr Gustavo Sánchez**, Chairman of the Governing Council of the Mexican Network of Campesino Forestry Organizations, (A. C. REDMOCAF) (Mexico)

(e) **Ms Levi Sucre Romero**, Coordinator, Mesoamerican Peoples and Forests Alliance (AMPB)

405. One of the most important aspects of locally devised solutions is community management of natural resources, which is most common in forestry systems. The side event on **Community and participatory management of natural resources: Experiences from Mesoamerica's indigenous people and forest communities**, featured a discussion with Mesoamerican rural organizations and indigenous community leaders. They explored how to enhance community management of resources and their potential contribution to the green economy, with a focus on forestry.

406. Forests have long been recognized for delivering economic and non-economic benefits to rural communities and smallholder farmers. These range from non-timber forest products to building materials to more productive land. Forests sustain more than half of terrestrial species, regulate climate through carbon storage and protect water.

407. However, no clear global regime has yet been established to attract investments that can facilitate equitable and sustainable use of forests. As a result, most efforts are directed at traditional conservation. The estimated annual expenditure on these protected areas is US\$10 billion. But recent evidence shows that community-managed forests are both more profitable and better conserved than state-protected spaces. And the ability to generate reasonable returns from forests can be an important factor preventing deforestation.

408. The key issues discussed by the participants included the following:

- **Sustainable production:** The panellists pointed out that sustainable production is a powerful conservation tool. The transaction costs to the community are generally compensated by incentives, such as more

predictable incomes and diversification of options. As sustainable forestry practised through small-scale enterprises becomes lucrative, smallholder agriculture is more a complement than a threat to forests.

- **Sustainable agriculture and sustainable forest management:** Very often rural families combine forest use with sustainable agriculture practices. Agroforestry can provide environmental benefits in terms of re-greening deforested areas, as well as economic and social benefits for rural families.
- **Women, young people and communities:** Forestry management also provides opportunities for women and young people, helping to prevent migration. Though it is often difficult to get respect for indigenous knowledge from the authorities, forest communities would like to see their young people engaged in the technical side of managing forest resources. Collective management of resources is not easy, but the process strengthens community organizations, increasing their resilience.
- **Legal frameworks:** Communities and small-scale forest companies need long-term, renewable contracts for forestry management activities. New legal arrangements that allow wider participation (including ownership) by forestry users would result in more active engagement.
- **New opportunities arising from the international agenda:** Schemes such as REDD+³ can provide the incentives, financial and other, for sustainable use.
- **Financing and enabling conditions:** Reforms in forest governance are needed to make green financing accessible to poor rural people. Funding is needed for innovation, technical expertise and new investments, but subsidies and credit are increasingly scarce.

409. Resident communities, indigenous people and smallholder foresters must be seen as partners and contributors, the panellists said. That calls for challenging and changing the standard top-down approach, which requires dialogue and policy and financial support. The result will be a more inclusive approach in which all actors' activities are complementary, helping to preserve forests and their vital services. Participants also called on IFAD to play a larger role in making credit available directly to rural communities, supporting dialogue among marginalized groups and aiding reforms that will enhance sustainable production and markets.

³ Reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation, plus conservation, sustainable management of forests and enhancement of forest carbon stocks.

Regional side event 3: Crops for the future: Enhancing resilience of smallholder farmers through improved crop varieties in the context of climate change



410. Panellists

- (a) **H.E. Themina Janjua**, Ambassador-designate of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan
- (b) **Mr Mahabub Hossain**, Executive Director of BRAC, Bangladesh
- (c) **Mr Digna Manzanilla**, Agricultural Economist, International Rice Research Institute (IRRI), Philippines
- (d) **Mr Henry Saragih**, Head of the Indonesian Peasant Union (SPI) and the General Coordinator of Via Campesina
- (e) **Mr Wael Seif**, Director of the Water Resources Department at the Arab Center for the Studies of Arid Zones and Dry Lands (ACSAD)
- (f) **Mr Mahmoud Solh**, Director General, International Center for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas (ICARDA)

411. Technology has become a major player in helping farmers cope with the effects of climate change, as scientists have developed crop varieties tolerant to more extreme weather that produce good yields under unfavourable conditions. The question is to what extent these varieties are reaching the farmers and being adopted by them. This topic was addressed during the side event entitled **Crops for the future: Enhancing resilience of smallholder farmers through improved crop varieties in the context of climate change**.

- 412. One of the main issues of debate was how to increase adoption of these new varieties. It was pointed out that ICARDA has released 880 new varieties during its 35 years, 95 per cent of them in developing countries. While some have adoption rates of 65 to 85 per cent, others have been ignored by farmers.
- 413. A possible reason for farmers' resistance is insufficient collaboration between researchers and farmers. It was suggested that supporting cooperation between them from the very beginning of the process might ease the transfer of technology at the end. Farmers should be considered not just end users or even mere participants in scientific experiments, but active contributors to research. Researchers could also learn from experiments carried out by farmers.
- 414. How technology is transferred was also discussed. Instead of new varieties being promoted by an extension agent with little knowledge of the specific situation, information technology such as the radio and television, cell phones and the Internet should also be used.
- 415. In addition, the panellists suggested a more active governmental role in supporting farmers to learn about and experiment with new varieties, since many do not have the resources to do so themselves. Governments should also make sure that ownership of the new seeds remains in the hands of farmers. And farmers' own field experiments should be formally incorporated into the research – many have

already developed varieties adapted to conditions in their own fields. Future research investments may need to concentrate on transfer of technology more than on its development.

416. One of the successful practices discussed during the side event is “crop museums” in Bangladesh. At these sites a range of options are displayed together so that farmers can freely decide what might work best for their situation. This approach avoids sending the message that certain technologies are being imposed from above. Another initiative, in Georgia, is extension centres set up by the Government offering low-cost services such as soil analysis and consultation on pest management. The centres also provide training. In addition, the country has 12 service centres through which farmers can access tractors and other mechanized services at competitive rates.

Regional side event 4: Investing in green agriculture: The role of diaspora



417. Panellists

(a) **H.E. Ambassador Ibrahim Hagi Abdulkadir**, Permanent Representative of the Transitional Federal Government of Somalia to FAO and IFAD

(b) **H.E. Ambassador Virgilio A. Reyes, Jr.**, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Philippines to FAO, WFP

(c) **Mr Pedro De Vasconcelos**, Programme Coordinator of the Financing Facility for Remittances, IFAD

(d) **Ms Estrella Mai Dizon-Anonuevo**, Executive Director of Atikha Overseas Workers and Communities Initiatives Inc. (Atikha)

(e) **Mr Tawfiq El-Zabri**, Results-based Management Officer, IFAD

(f) **Ms Fatumo Farah**, Director of Himilo Relief and Development Association (HIRDA)

(g) **Ms Rose Thompson-Coon**, Acting Country Programme Manager for Somalia, IFAD

418. With around 10 per cent of its population living and working overseas, the Philippines is a major recipient of remittances – over US\$20 billion in 2011 alone – but little of it is invested in agriculture. Simultaneously the sector is hard hit by migration because families of

migrants typically stop tilling their land once they start receiving remittances.

Around 50,000 Filipino women from just six provinces are working in Italy, most in the service sector. They face difficulties in saving for long-term goals and planning for their and their children's future.

419. However, for some of these Filipino women workers the situation has changed thanks to the Atikha Overseas Workers and Communities Initiative, discussed at the Governing Council side event **Investing in green agriculture: The role of the diaspora**. Working in partnership with NGOs in Italy, Atikha began teaching Filipino migrant women about financial management and saving. These courses encouraged some members to invest their savings in small businesses. Then the group partnered with the Soro-soro Ibaba Development Cooperative (SIDC), which can provide cheaper money transfer options. By lowering the cost of sending remittances from 8 euros to 1 euro, it encourages more savings – and more investment.

420. The next element of the initiative was investment in the agriculture sector. As the country's largest agricultural cooperative, SIDC offers numerous rural business investment choices, from hog-raising to a feed mill to a water refilling station. Atikha chose SIDC's robust egg-laying business as its first offering to the migrant investors. Each shareholder invests EUR 1,800 per year for a guaranteed return of 6 per cent, plus additional dividends depending on farm performance.

421. Also discussed at the event was IFAD's recently launched Diaspora Investment in Agriculture initiative, which similarly aims to mobilize investment in sustainable

agricultural projects in migrants' communities of origin. Undertaken in collaboration with the United States Department of State, it will cofinance diaspora entrepreneurs and organizations for projects related to food security and agricultural value chains in 15 countries.

422. Panellists highlighted the fact that in 2011 alone, the world's 200 million-plus migrant workers sent home over US\$350 billion to family members in developing countries. In around 40 countries remittances make up 10 per cent or more of GDP. Other points raised by the panellists were:

- Diasporas play a vital role in the development of their countries of origin – through their remittances, investments, tourism, trade and philanthropy, along with the knowledge transfer and cross-border relationships they foster.
- The role of diaspora investment in catalysing private and public investment in the countries of origin is growing fast.
- Women's role in diaspora investment has been especially significant. In the Philippines, for example, women often play a leading role in family financial matters through goal setting, budgeting and saving.
- Diaspora cooperatives are an important instrument for pooling migrant savings and investment.
- Migrants' investment decisions are always based on family or community ties rather than profit seeking. This makes them reliable investors in their home countries, especially during crises, which discourage foreign investors.
- The international community needs to recognize and be sensitive to the human face of migration.

Chapter 3

C. Other general statements

Statement of the representative for Angola

First of all, allow me, on behalf of the Government of Angola, to convey my greetings to the Governing Council and congratulate the chairperson of the thirty-fifth session on her election.

Allow me also to greet all of you. I hope that we will focus our ideas on the main purpose of this meeting, that is, to strengthen food security, and reflect on the motto "Sustainable smallholder agriculture: Feeding the world, protecting the planet."

Despite the enormous potential in terms of agricultural development resources, the truth is that with the emergence of such phenomena as climate change, conflicts, economic and financial crises, as well as the volatility of prices in most African countries, smallholder agriculture is still ill-equipped, unproductive and poorly protected. It does not have the means to progress and compete at international market level.

In the meantime, we acknowledge that the developing countries are making progress in the fight against hunger, food insecurity and poverty.

We feel that the ongoing efforts of the developing countries need the concrete support of the developed countries and international organizations at both bilateral and multilateral cooperation levels. IFAD plays a key role in this framework.

Angola has the natural potential to reach production levels that will contribute to the harmonious development of its population. For this reason, the Government of Angola, under the leadership of His Excellency José Eduardo dos Santos, prepared a medium- to long-term programme for the agricultural development of the country and particularly the smallholder sector. The programme provides support to approximately two million smallholder farmers, and will have approximately 10 million beneficiaries.

The following programmes are being implemented:

- **Rural Extension and Development Programme**
- **Agriculture Campaign Programme** to sustain households with factors of production
- **Programme to Fight Hunger and Poverty**
- **Credit Campaign and Investment Programme to** sustain farmers in purchasing factors of production
- **Programme for the Rehabilitation of Irrigated Perimeters**
- **Programme for the Construction and Rehabilitation** of storage infrastructure at the main axes of production

The implementation of the above-mentioned programmes and projects, together with the functioning of the Luanda, Benguela and Namibe railways and the rehabilitation of secondary and tertiary roads, have contributed to enhanced production and productivity and therefore improved living conditions of rural populations.

With the support of international cooperation, the following projects to sustain smallholder agriculture are being implemented:

- Project Bom Jesus – Calenga – for the Development of Smallholder Agriculture, financed by the Government of Angola and the African Development Bank
- MOSAP Project, a smallholder agriculture market-oriented project financed by the Government of Angola, the World Bank, IFAD and the Japanese Government

Despite the results mentioned above, we are still facing many challenges, including the need to establish a marketing circuit for surplus production and to enhance the country's storage capabilities.

I would like to stress that our institution, IFAD, has improved the efficiency and transparency of its work. The opening of country offices enhances knowledge management and follow-up in context and quicker action.

There is acknowledgement not only of the impact of the projects financed by IFAD, but also its skills in promoting partnerships and identifying cofinancing for its programmes and projects.

We welcome the success of the Consultation on the Ninth Replenishment of IFAD's Resources, culminating in increased country contribution pledges in relation to the previous replenishments, in a time of deep international financial crisis.

This means that countries recognize the importance, the reliability and the key role of IFAD in improving the situation of small farmers and minimizing the problems of hunger and poverty.

Angola is going to contribute to the Ninth Replenishment and soon will announce the amount of its contribution.

Let me now conclude by offering once again my warm congratulations and thanks to IFAD's President, Dr Kanayo Nwanze and his team for the excellent job they have been doing.

Statement by the Acting Governor for Austria

Governors, Mr President, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is an honour and a pleasure for me to attend and address the thirty-fifth session of the Governing Council of IFAD on behalf of Austria.

Looking back on the past year, I believe that the replenishment exercise was the most salient issue for the Fund. We congratulate the Fund and the membership for the positive outcome. Thanks to the efficient support of the President and his management team and the able independent chairmanship of Johannes Linn, the Ninth Replenishment of IFAD's Resources was successfully concluded last December. The Consultation agreed on a record replenishment level of US\$1.5 billion. The commitment shown by the membership is impressive. However, in order to see these funds materialize, I wish to encourage those Members who were not yet able to announce their contributions to do so soon, to enable a timely coming into effect of the Ninth Replenishment.

The fresh money will enable the Fund to continue its important mission and at least maintain the current level of work of US\$3 billion over the period 2013 to 2015. The Replenishment Consultation strongly endorsed this goal.

The recent food price crisis has moved nutrition issues and agricultural development to the centre stage of development activities and in this context, made this institution better known to the public.

Given its unique mandate of rural poverty alleviation and increase of food production, the Fund has an important role to play in the global efforts to find practical avenues out of poverty for the poorest rural people who account for more than one billion and whose number is growing. Food security and affordable food prices remain the main challenge for IFAD's clientele as commodity prices – due to growing demand, production constraints and market distortions – continue to rise.

We trust that IFAD will work hard to fulfil the commitments agreed under the Replenishment Consultation. There is a need for greater operational and institutional effectiveness and efficiency, for improved financial capacity and management, and a stronger and broader impact of its interventions.

The Consultation agreed on many areas of reform. Let me highlight **scaling up**. We consider it important for this organization to commit even more strongly to the scaling up of successful country-owned interventions. This will guarantee more impact and better use of scarce resources. **Engagement with the private sector** is another area where a more systematic approach should be explored to raise private-sector investments in rural areas and facilitate access to value chains for rural producers.

IFAD's performance has improved over the years as it has constantly adapted to the challenging environment. But there are still areas where performance remains weak. The sustainability of project benefits is still weak and the performance of recipient governments has not shown much improvement over the last decade.

We therefore encourage the Fund to make even greater efforts for improvement in the pursuit of its mandate.

Regarding the budget for 2012, we can approve the proposed figures. The zero real growth approach is commendable. In this context, we wish to underline that for the sake of clarity and transparency, the approach of presenting all administrative expenditures in

a single budget should be maintained. Creating special vehicles for different expenditure budgetary variations would be hard to follow and understand from the outside.

We also support the envisaged lending level for 2012 in the order of US\$1.2 billion. This is in line with the envisaged programme of work of US\$3 billion for the IFAD8 period. Combined with the use of US\$600 million additional funds from bilateral donors, the overall lending volume could even attain the ambitious level of US\$1.8 billion. This means a heavy workload for the institution. But taking note of the assurances from Management, we trust that the Fund can successfully handle the implementation of such a substantive programme of work.

With regard to the resolution concerning the Revision of the Financial Regulations of IFAD, I wish to voice concern regarding the amendment of regulation VIII.2, which transfers responsibility for treasury investments also to the Executive Board. I believe that a governing body's role should be restricted to the conduct of the general operations of the Fund.

Estonia and the Republic of South Sudan have applied for membership. We wish to congratulate the Fund on its growing membership and welcome Estonia and the Republic of South Sudan as new members of the institution.

Mr President, you have done an excellent job over the last year. The Replenishment was expeditiously concluded. I wish you continued success and luck at the helm of the institution.

In conclusion, my thanks also go to the excellent staff of the Fund for its professional work and proven dedication.

Statement of the representative for Cape Verde

First of all, I am pleased to congratulate Her Excellency Ms Marie-Josée Jacobs, Minister for Development Cooperation and Humanitarian Affairs of Luxemburg, a country to which Cape Verde is closely linked by strong ties of friendship and a special partnership, for her election as Chairperson of this thirty-fifth session of the Governing Council. I also congratulate the Vice-Chairpersons.

To Dr Kanayo Nwanze, IFAD's President, I would like to reiterate the profound recognition of my Government for his strategic vision, leadership and unwavering engagement in the outstanding work that IFAD is doing in times of great economic uncertainties and hardship for humankind.

Indeed under his wise, able and competent leadership, IFAD is today more equipped to fulfil the mandate assigned to the organization by its founders of promoting the agriculture and food security of the peoples of developing countries. We have no doubts that, with IFAD's support, poor people in rural areas are living better and in a sustainable way as they are able to produce and sell food commodities in the markets thus raising their incomes and strengthening their ways of life.

My delegation also expresses its highest appreciation for the important contributions brought to the thirty-fifth session by His Excellency Paul Kagame, President of Rwanda; the Honourable Mario Monti, President of the Council of Ministers of Italy; and His Excellency Joseph N. Boakai, Vice-President of Liberia.

As we approach the Rio+20 conference, we cannot think of a better theme than the one chosen for this session to be at the centre of its deliberations: Sustainable smallholder agriculture: feeding the world, protecting the planet. We believe that, by exploring this theme, IFAD will be giving the required support to the Earth Summit promoting smallholder agriculture, which is, as we all know, responsible for the production of at least 60 per cent of the food that is consumed in the world while contributing to the preservation of the environment and mitigation of the effects of climate change, which are fundamental for sustainable agriculture and development.

With the population of the world set to increase to 9 billion by 2050, land preservation for sustainable agriculture is more than ever necessary not only to produce food, but also to allow for development that offers job opportunities and life prospects now and in the future for those in need, and especially for young people.

We believe that IFAD is well equipped to robustly contribute to that end. Not only does it have appropriate policies and strategies, it is also an efficient and quick-responding organization, well placed to help match good scientific knowledge with tradition. Moreover, through its growing and increasingly effective presence in the field, it is helping to build the necessary partnerships among all stakeholders – and first and foremost with the direct beneficiaries – to promote agriculture in a way that also recognizes that there are no one-size-fits-all solutions.

In this context, we support IFAD's reform actions and encourage the efforts led by President Nwanze with the active and magnificent participation of all staff members to make IFAD an even more state-of-the-art organization, one that can be a role model for the entire international community.

We appreciate the achievements in the field of coordination with the other United Nations sister agencies in Rome as well as with all stakeholders and especially with donors.

I would like to reiterate the appreciation of Cape Verde for the support that IFAD has extended to the country so far in its struggle against poverty. We believe that the new

programme now being put together will not only contribute to strengthening the relationship between the parties but will also respond better to a country that is trying to do all it can to ensure growth and sustainable development in a harsh and extremely fragile natural environment, in a situation made even more challenging by the economic hardships and uncertainties that we are all currently facing.

Statement of the Governor for the Democratic Republic of the Congo

It is truly an honour for me to address this distinguished assembly on behalf of my country, the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

Let me first express how timely we consider the choice of the theme for this thirty-fifth session of the Governing Council: Sustainable smallholder agriculture: Feeding the world, protecting the planet.

There is no question that the issues of interest to the most senior levels of IFAD – combating poverty and improving nutrition for rural people – continue to be a major concern for the world's leaders and not least my own country, as we approach the deadlines set for achieving the Millennium Development Goals.

As many of you know, the Democratic Republic of the Congo is a large country in the central part of Africa with an area of 2.3 million km². More than 80 million hectares of arable land are available for agriculture and vast forested areas serve as lungs for the world, in addition to parks and nature reserves.

Our country's interior is also endowed with many lakes and watercourses, including one of the largest rivers in the world, all well stocked with fish. Seventy per cent of the population of close to 80 million live in rural areas, and agriculture is the main economic activity.

Despite its enormous potential, our country has suffered from recurring food insecurity for more than two decades, in the wake of internal and external armed conflict that inflicted serious atrocities and displaced farmers and smallholders from farming and fishing areas.

The democratic learning process has unfolded gradually since the political and armed conflict was resolved with the installation of a transition government in 2003. A democratically elected government took office in 2006, and the voters went to the polls again in November 2011.

Along with the return of peace, agricultural activities are again on the rise. This is attributable in part to the priority our Government attaches to agriculture. The sector has thus benefited from needed equipment and tools, and a budget that is nearing the 10 per cent recommended by the African Union at the Maputo Summit – as well as financial support from development partners, with IFAD occupying a prominent place.

I should like to congratulate and thank IFAD for its preparation of two country strategies – and for the design, in record time, of three projects now in implementation and a fourth at the concept phase. All of these projects target high-potential agricultural areas that became seriously impoverished during the period of conflict. They are intended to reactivate farming, livestock raising and fishing – involving thousands of young people and women through effective organization of the rural areas concerned.

In fact, young people and women account for a very high proportion of the population in rural and periurban areas, and hold significant development potential. All they seek is support to enable them to take charge of their own lives and thus bring about a considerable reduction in unemployment, malnutrition and insecurity.

A new aspect of the focus on production and productivity that we have been applying with IFAD support is now being consolidated in the field. This entails looking to value chains to provide smallholders with storage and processing solutions so that they can add value to their products and access local, subregional and international markets.

IFAD's support for this new dimension of action in our country warrants further development – to position farmers better by ensuring that their products meet market standards and consumer needs.

As I said at the beginning of this statement, the Democratic Republic of the Congo has more than 80 million hectares of land. This land, if cultivated in a rational and environmentally friendly way, could feed a large part of Africa, if not the world, since our country straddles several continental organizations, including the Economic Community of Central African States, the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa and the Southern Africa Development Community.

Concrete steps have already been taken to attract sector investment and reactivate agriculture while guaranteeing the rights of smallholder farmers.

Among these, on 24 December 2011 we promulgated the law on the underlying principles of agriculture, which sets forth guidelines on agricultural financing, taxation and access to farmland. In addition, we have signed the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) and are currently finalizing the National Plan for Investment in Agriculture (PNIA) and producing documentation in connection with the agricultural and rural policy note and related sector strategies – as well as the law on seed and plant variety protection.

Concern has been expressed during this session at side events on the region, on such issues as achieving food security in sub-Saharan Africa through conservation agriculture. This is of particular interest to us in view of a life-scale experience we are carrying out in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. It is taking place on two sites on the outskirts and about 140 km from the Congolese capital in a central region of the country – and I should like to share it with you today.

Farmers, including retired city dwellers, are settling on vast areas of poor, sandy soil, with each farm family occupying plots of 20 to 30 hectares to practise agroforestry. The farmers alternate acacia and cassava crops, followed by charcoal production. This experience has enabled farmers to settle, has regenerated forest in locations that were previously arid, and has improved cassava yields while producing charcoal that generates income for farmers and is used as a source of energy by their households.

In conclusion, allow me once again to reiterate my appreciation to IFAD for its support for the development of agriculture in our country, particularly in the poorest areas showing clear potential.

Statement of the representative for Estonia

Thank you very much for having given me the opportunity to first of all thank all members for unanimously accepting the Estonian membership application.

Estonia has put the application for membership forward for various reasons.

First of all, we believe in the mission of IFAD. It is necessary and possible to work together in order to reduce rural poverty as quickly and as much as possible.

Although not a primary problem for Estonia, rural poverty exists and needs to be addressed where necessary.

We are joining IFAD because we are convinced that it is an effective organization, offering synergy in bringing together donor financing and recipients' willingness to improve, and acquiring consolidated know-how.

We are joining IFAD because we would like to add our humble contribution in financing and knowledge to reduce rural poverty.

We are joining very clearly as donors and as an OECD member country with a clear commitment to regular contribution.

We think that as a country with a recent past of transition to a market economy, we can bring some very specific knowledge that could be of help.

We would be interested in working through different forms of collaboration, drawing on IFAD's full flexibility and our wide area of expertise.

Let me conclude by wishing the Governing Council success in progressing towards our common goal.

Statement of the representative for Guinea

First of all, it gives me great pleasure to acknowledge the excellent cooperation that exists between the Government of the Republic of Guinea and IFAD.

I should also reiterate the gratitude of the Government that I have the honour to represent here, to the President of IFAD and his staff, including my compatriot Mohamed Beavogui, who served in recent years as Director, West and Central Africa Division with effectiveness and dedication.

Allow me to take this opportunity, on behalf of my Government, to commend him on his impressive promotion and assure his successor Mr Ides de Willebois of our full support.

In its support to Guinea, IFAD has made notable efforts to address the challenge of food insecurity by providing technical and financial assistance to smallholder farmers with the aim of improving the productivity and competitiveness of rural poor people.

Therefore, my Government has committed to making a substantial increase in its contribution under the Ninth Replenishment of IFAD's Resources.

Guinea's new agricultural policy builds its strategies around the main concerns of smallholder farmers with a view to strengthening their food security, increasing rural incomes, and banishing the spectre of poverty so prevalent in the country's rural areas – a phenomenon present in the majority of developing countries.

To achieve this, development initiatives will entail prioritizing good agricultural practice aimed at boosting agricultural productivity, while supporting sound natural resource management that respects the environment. This will entail the use of research systems and reliable guidance in the provision of technologies adapted to the needs of smallholders.

To capitalize on the country's significant hydro-agriculture potential, in 2011 the Government of Guinea launched a proactive programme of direct support to smallholder farmers, with the aim of reducing the annual deficit of 300,000 tons of rice and replenishing food security stocks.

The programme focuses on water management, availability of improved seed varieties, good quality fertilizer, appropriate phytosanitary products and effective training to promote sustainable smallholder agriculture that can meet the food and nutritional needs of the population.

Naturally the planned actions will be undertaken in the framework of participatory and sustainable development, while enhancing synergies with partner institutions and public and private stakeholders.

This will entail balancing the imperatives of food security and environmental conservation to achieve sustainable development that ensures the well-being of the ever-growing population, as globally we work towards feeding the 9.1 billion people estimated to be living in the world by 2050.

Natural resource degradation and underinvestment have hindered agricultural growth. In addition, the continuous escalation in food prices is being felt throughout the food supply chain and poses a major problem at the international level in terms of food availability.

As a consequence, it is clear that the international community must take account of a new dimension of sustainable agriculture by ensuring the required support for the smallholders who produce the bulk of the food supply. This will mean helping smallholder farmers contain and manage risk and uncertainty.

May I end my statement, ladies and gentlemen, by thanking IFAD once again for the quality of its cooperation and its particular attention to the concerns of the Government of Guinea in the fight against rural poverty and food insecurity.

Statement of the representative for Haiti

I am honoured and delighted to address this distinguished meeting on behalf of the Republic of Haiti at this thirty-fifth session of IFAD's Governing Council. A sincere thank you to President Kanayo Nwanze for the invitation. Agriculture is one of the pillars of our country's programme, which is perfectly in tune with the theme of this session – Sustainable smallholder agriculture: Feeding the world, protecting the planet.

The Government of Haiti developed the National Food and Nutritional Security Plan 2010-2025 with the aim of eradicating hunger in our country – a strategy that pursues the objective of a Latin America and Caribbean region without hunger. Articulating the priorities set by the new administration, this work benefited from many expert contributions, including from IFAD.

The implementation of this plan calls for a massive effort by both the Government and our partner countries and institutions. All Haitians know that they can rely on your support. They have not forgotten, nor will they ever forget, your responsiveness during our times of adversity – particularly after the four destructive hurricanes that struck within the space of two months in 2008, the earthquake of 12 January 2010 that took the lives of more than 300,000 of Haiti's people and slashed GDP by 9 per cent – and, more recently, Hurricane Tomas, which ravaged lives and property.

For a small country such as Haiti, this has been overwhelming. We have been condemned to the constant pursuit of emergency policy, when such a policy is manifestly limited and fails to generate growth.

The time has come to design a true development policy – one that is fully aligned with the mission pursued by IFAD, which is not fundamentally an emergency donor. We are already working with Fund officials to evaluate the results of the emergency projects we have carried out on the ground. The most promising of these will be selected and scaled up into broader regional programmes.

This is one of the ways we can enable Haiti to develop a sustainable, innovative and competitive kind of agriculture that is respectful of the environment – agriculture that leads to growth and can ensure decent livelihoods for those who choose to live in the countryside.

Along these same lines, we will be participating in the Rio+20 United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development this coming June.

Let us work together towards achieving sustainable smallholder agriculture today, to feed the world tomorrow and protect the planet as we move forward into the future.

Statement of the representative for Japan

It is my honour to participate in the thirty-fifth Governing Council of IFAD.

The number of undernourished people worldwide is estimated to be over 900 million and food prices remain volatile. Although progress of various kinds has been made, the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) is in jeopardy, and the world has witnessed a severe famine in the Horn of Africa. Food security is a crucial and urgent issue as well as a medium- and longer-term challenge.

Under these circumstances, beyond the G-8 framework, the G-20 held their first meeting of agriculture ministers last year. The meeting addressed the need to support smallholder farmers and clearly expressed the expectation of a successful replenishment of IFAD in the Cannes Declaration. Thus, IFAD should meet international expectations, which are becoming higher and higher, as the sole United Nations organization focused on agricultural and rural development for smallholder farmers.

At the same time, IFAD should continue making every effort on the ground to reduce poverty and hunger. Moreover, the Government of Japan believes that IFAD should play a constructive role in international discussions related to Rio+20 and the post-2015 global development agenda.

In the Ninth Replenishment, Japan has pledged to increase its contribution to IFAD by 25 per cent compared to its Eighth Replenishment contribution. This is a clear manifestation of Japan's appreciation of the role of IFAD and its expectations about the Fund's further contribution to international society. I would like to express our wish to continue to strengthen the partnership between Japan and IFAD. We also wish to make a further contribution towards the achievement of the MDGs by ensuring collaboration between Japan's bilateral assistance and multilateral assistance through IFAD, including the promotion of the Coalition for African Rice Development Initiative and South-South cooperation.

Finally, Japan attaches importance to assistance in Africa where progress towards achieving MDGs is lagging and smallholder farmers need further assistance. Japan will host the Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD V) in Yokohama on 1 to 3 June 2013. In the TICAD process, agricultural and rural development is considered one of the major components of economic activities in Africa. Japan aims to make this Conference an opportunity to launch new directions for the development of Africa, reflecting recent drastic changes across the continent. I would like to ask for your cooperation for the success of TICAD V.

Statement of the representative for Lesotho

On behalf of the Lesotho delegation and on my own behalf, I commend the keynote speakers, including President Paul Kagame, President of Rwanda, for their inspiring statements delivered at the opening of this thirty-fifth session of the Governing Council of IFAD.

This year's theme – Sustainable smallholder agriculture: Feeding the world, protecting the planet – resonates concerns raised in various forums that continuously deliberate on strategies to combat poverty and suffering in the world, especially among smallholder farm households. However, to ensure sustainability of smallholder farming, farmers must be empowered by providing support that reduces the risk factor in this subsector, thus encouraging them to invest more. The concept note mentions provision of insurance and/or linking of smallholder farmers with private investors as examples of such supportive mechanisms; more alternatives could be explored to suit individual Member States' needs and capacities.

We have embraced the concept of value chain in agriculture in our National Strategic Development Plan (2012/13 to 2016/17) and are already exploring ways to sensitize relevant government staff and farmers about it.

The New Partnership for Africa's Development/Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme process intends to capacitate us on this system, but we are also looking forward to the forthcoming IFAD Private-Sector Strategy. This strategy, I hope, will help my country to move forward in this sphere because we are currently struggling to link farmers with private investors. The Government is still regarded as the major contributor even though it is obvious that our resource envelope is fast depleting. Regarding farmers' climate change adaptation and mitigation strategies, we have started implementing programmes – though uptake is slow – that use minimum tillage to conserve soil and moisture, and we have established that, if properly implemented, the programmes produce encouraging results. Under severe drought conditions, soil moisture conservation still remains a big challenge. This compels us to recommend planting of drought-resistant, short-season or early-maturing crop varieties to address food security at household level.

On the other hand, we can experience abnormally heavy rains such as was the case for the 2010/11 summer cropping season, which was characterized by torrential rains that hampered crop farming, and also affected the 2011 winter cropping programme due to waterlogging. Unfortunately, the 2011/2012 summer cropping season commenced with a serious dry spell also hampering summer cropping. This situation undoubtedly has affected and will continue to affect our food and nutrition security.

We are aware of the IFAD initiative called the Adaptation for Smallholder Agriculture Programme. The goal, development objectives and outcome of this programme are relevant to enhancing and achieving sustainable smallholder agriculture within the context of climate change. We will explore how we can benefit from this through existing and newly signed programmes with the Fund.

We further echo the resolutions of the Fourth International Agriculture Ministers' Summit, held in Berlin from 19 to 20 January 2012, where Ministers exchanged knowledge and experience on global food security and the alleviation of poverty, focusing on farming with limited resources and sustainable growth. Their discussions included the need to empower small-scale farmers to access resources and encourage public and private investment in agriculture to generate and maintain sustainable growth in agriculture. I believe the ideas discussed in Berlin will be further concretized at the June 2012 Rio+20

United Nations conference. I take note of the Rome-based organizations' submission to the Rio+20 outcome document and commend them for their commitment to work together while supporting us to build more sustainable agriculture and food systems.

We thank IFAD for their continued support – from the 1980s to the present – to enhance our agriculture and reduce poverty levels and food insecurity through projects. We further thank IFAD for its support to the Lesotho National Farmers' Union (LENAFU) under the leadership of the Southern African Confederation of Agricultural Unions. LENAFAU is still young and, to be sustainable, needs all the support it can get from the Government and development partners. We reaffirm our commitment to the recently signed Smallholder Agriculture Development Programme, cofinanced by both IFAD and the World Bank. We commit to integrating the lessons learned during implementation of the now ending Sustainable Agriculture and Natural Resources Programme to enhance our performance.

With reference to some issues on the agenda, I would like to commend IFAD Management on the implementation of the performance-based allocation system, although as a Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security, we are not directly responsible for the achievements of some of the rural sector performance indicators. We hope to perform better in future because we do need IFAD assistance for future programmes. I note the work related to the Consultation on the Ninth Replenishment of IFAD's Resources and commit to continue to contribute financially to the Fund.

In conclusion, I wish to extend our sincere condolences and prayers to all the nations that experienced severe weather conditions and disasters in 2011, which unfortunately destroyed human and animal life, and essential infrastructure. To IFAD and its sister United Nations agencies, I express our heartfelt appreciation for your continued support.

Statement of the representative for Nepal

It is indeed my great pleasure to be here to address this august assembly on behalf of the Government of Nepal and my own behalf in this historic city, Rome.

In these very crucial times, we are gathered here, for the first time in human history, when the number of people suffering from hunger and malnutrition has exceeded one billion. And the situation is more critical and alarming for developing countries, particularly African and South-Asian countries.

I think this is a good initiative and provides a common platform for all country delegates to share their countries' experiences, knowledge, innovative ideas and development issues and challenges in agriculture and the food sector. The developing countries are more vulnerable and food-insecure because of emerging challenges and the depletion of natural resources, particularly land, water and forests. Most farmers in developing countries are smallholders, resource-poor and have limited access to these resources.

For sustainable economic growth, we need a balance between the basic needs of all people and the earth's natural resources capacity. Agricultural production is growing at a much slower pace than the population, particularly in least developed countries, and this makes the situation more vulnerable and challenging.

The current global situation of agriculture is the consequence of low investment, and neglected agriculture and rural development on the development agenda by the international community and development partners. Therefore, there is an urgent need for collaborative efforts to increase investment substantially to address emerging challenges like food insecurity, climate change, linking smallholders to high-value export markets and enhancing competitiveness, and building resilience of smallholder farmers.

The Government of Nepal has initiated some policy reforms, developing, for instance, its Agriculture Development Strategy, which has a long-term, 20-year vision, and formulating a food and nutrition security plan of action to overcome these challenges.

I am confident that this event will be meaningful in identifying lasting solutions and paving the way to the upcoming Rio+20 conference, formulating a smallholder-friendly, "green" economy to overcome the current challenges in the agriculture and the rural development sector.

Statement by the Governor for Niger

I would like to join the eminent speakers at the Council here today in offering, on behalf of His Excellency Mr Issoufou Mahamadou, President of the Republic of Niger, and the Government and people of Niger, my sincere thanks for the invitation to participate in the proceedings of this thirty-fifth session of the Governing Council of IFAD.

In Niger, agriculture is mainly a subsistence activity, and employs 85 per cent of the population. This type of farming is prone to extreme weather events and recurring shocks which increase the vulnerability of the population to cyclical and all too frequent food crises.

For the third time in the last ten years, Niger is experiencing a grain deficit, this time of almost 700,000 tons or 18 per cent of annual consumption. Productivity fell during a rainy season punctuated by drought, flooding and widespread crop infestations.

Since taking office, the President of the Republic has sought to address our underperforming agricultural sector through major reforms that harness all of the country's dynamism and determination to resolve the persistent problem of food insecurity.

I would like to brief you here today on the 3N Initiative (Nigériens Nourrissent les Nigériens) representing one of the main pillars of Niger's renewal programme, which has been entrusted by the people to His Excellency Issoufou Mahamadou, President of the Republic.

The 3N Initiative heralds a green revolution for Niger to provide the country with a long-term solution to the calamitous consequences of weather events and the cruel cycle of famine.

Reforms under the initiative will build national capacity for agro-sylvo-pastoral and fisheries production and strengthen resilience to shocks.

One of the initiative's major thrusts relates to irrigation. Niger possesses vast potential in terms of irrigable land, surface water and groundwater, and in terms of human capital, with 49 per cent of its population made up young people under the age of 35.

The Government of the Seventh Republic has expressed the political will to capitalize fully on this potential to increase crop productivity and create employment.

Following the failed crop season of 2011/2012, a food security emergency programme was launched to develop small-scale irrigation on 87,000 hectares of land. The goal is to produce more than 1,280,000 tons of crops of all types – grains, pulses, tubers, vegetables and fruit – equivalent to about 400,000 tons of grain. Smallholder income is expected to rise to a total of EUR 5.35 million as a result of these activities.

In addition, the 3N Initiative will promote irrigation on 330,000 hectares of land over the next five years. This will include building the Kandadji dam, which will convert 120,000 hectares of valley lands.

Young people and women will receive particular support through development of small individually and community-owned businesses and the provision of packages of inputs, farm equipment for the raising of small livestock and poultry.

May I take this opportunity to commend IFAD on its significant efforts to promote small-scale irrigation in Niger, notably through the Emergency Food Security and Rural Development Project (PUSADER).

PUSADER has allocated CFAF 1,126,677,999, or EUR 1.72 million, to small-scale irrigation that will benefit 2,841 vulnerable households in the regions of Maradi, Tahoua and Tillabéri, with projected total production of 14,408 tons.

The central theme of the thirty-fifth session of the Governing Council of IFAD is fully in line with the current concerns of my country and of the West African Economic and Monetary Union. Despite the efforts made by member countries, the food situation throughout the Union remains a concern. Indeed production fell by 18 per cent with respect to 2010.

To address this situation, the Union's Heads of State have asked our President to chair a high-level committee with the task of drawing up an operational strategy to combat food insecurity within the Union. This committee has just held its first meeting in Niamey, Niger. So, the proceedings of this session are particularly relevant to our country.

This thirty-fifth session comes at a time when the IFAD portfolio in Niger is expanding, and will total US\$100 million once formulation of a new project specifically in support of small-scale irrigation begins in February 2012. This project will target groups living in regions most severely affected by food insecurity, despite their potential in terms of irrigable land and abundant water resources.

Finally, on behalf of the Government and the rural people of Niger, may I express my sincere gratitude to IFAD for its work in our country. I look forward to a successful meeting and thank you for your attention.

Statement by the Alternate Governor for Peru

This thirty-fifth session of the Governing Council is centred around a theme that Peru follows with great interest, and one that is increasingly attracting the attention of governments and international organizations.

In our particular case, the overall objective of Peru's Agrarian Policy 2012-2016 is to enhance development in the agricultural sector, built upon four pillars. Two of these pillars essentially coincide with the core theme of this Governing Council: inclusion and sustainability. In the case of inclusion, the specific goal is to improve production conditions for smallholder farmers. In the case of sustainability, the goal is to achieve sustainable management of the natural resources available within our territory.

To this end, the Government of Peru directs its efforts to promote productive development towards small-scale farms, under a rural development approach. Programmes are being undertaken to provide non-reimbursable financing for business linkages in rural areas, reclamation of irrigation terraces, reforestation campaigns, irrigation projects, and sustainable management initiatives for forest resources and wildlife.

Within this context, IFAD is a potential partner to implement initiatives promoting smallholder agriculture under an environmentally sustainable approach.

The Fund has already carried out successful work in Peru in rural development projects. We are confident, therefore, that the country office soon to be opened in our country will consolidate and intensify our cooperation to the benefit of small-scale sustainable agriculture.

Statement of the Governor for Seychelles

Allow me at the onset to thank the organizers for an excellent preparation and reception to this beautiful city of Rome for this important conference. Your efforts are greatly appreciated.

My attendance here signifies an effective re-engagement of the Republic of Seychelles with IFAD. Past arrears, economic difficulties, and marginalization and stagnation of the agricultural sector meant a minimal interaction between IFAD and Seychelles.

The comprehensive macroeconomic exercise launch under the aegis, and with the guidance and support of the International Monetary Fund, followed by other partners especially when it came to addressing the debt and arrears settlement, has successfully regularized our situation with IFAD as well as with other international financial institutions. Hence Seychelles is now qualified and eligible to effectively engage. Preliminary discussions have been very fruitful and encouraging.

I sincerely wish that the aforementioned constraints were the only factors that have motivated our strong presence. However, other challenges that threaten the very core of our food and nutrition security, such as the scourge of piracy, climate change and its adverse effects on farmers' productivity and the need to seriously invest in the agricultural and fisheries sectors, are the present constraints that we have to overcome. Last, but by no means least, it is the pressure and trends towards market liberalization that are impacting seriously on the competitiveness of local producers.

As I speak to you, two of our local fishermen who left home before Christmas still languish in Somalia after being captured while they were earning a living for their families.

The fishing industry in its entirety has suffered substantial losses in productivity and thus in potential incomes. Armed guards and our fishing industry today go hand in hand. This has had the effect of jacking up the costs of operations and final prices. This is a worrying situation that is affecting the very fabric of our way of life as we have known and lived for generations.

The President of the Republic of Seychelles, Mr James Michel, is presently preparing to return home from the United Kingdom where, at the invitation of Prime Minister Cameron, he addressed the London Conference on Somalia. The fight against piracy was at the top of the conference's agenda. Bilateral agreements have successfully been signed both with the British Government and the President of Somalia for assistance with intelligence so that this scourge can be dealt with where it matters and for the repatriation of convicted Somali pirates. After many interventions, the President of Seychelles is gaining much ground in pressing for burden-sharing in dealing with this international scourge and keeping it on the international agenda as an important issue to be addressed.

Climate change is here! The increases in unpredictable and freak weather patterns have forced us all to think outside the box. We are very receptive to IFAD's "climate-smart investments" initiatives. In 2010, the Seychelles witnessed its worst drought in decades. Once that was over, it was the floods that made the lives of our local farmers even more miserable. Caught between a rock and a hard place, we clearly need climate-smart methods, particularly climate-proof agricultural methods, and to address infrastructure deficiencies through more effective drains, water barrages, more efficient and effective irrigation systems, and more resilient seeds and practices. All this requires significant investments.

In light of the above, giving life to a farmers' and fishers' insurance scheme is now a priority. Irrigation and water management programmes for farmers are well under way, as difficult as they are to set up. Those are only part of our adaptation and mitigation efforts. They are complemented with a training programme, which requires a complete review due to the emerging challenges such as intensification of soil conservation and the further promotion and practice of sustainable agriculture that ensures sustainable incomes.

The strenuous and competitive relations that have historically existed on the coastal strips of the Seychelles islands between agriculture and the tourism sector will see a transformation and a coexisting way forward. Green, organic, healthier, sustainable agrotourism presents an opportunity for the two sectors to coexist, complement and support each other.

For the above to happen, a multifunctional, transformative platform needs to be set to allow innovative approaches and interactions that address crucial elements, from quality and suitability of inputs, to the markets, be they hotels, supermarkets, community stores or district markets. Value-addition – and related business opportunities – is another element that should be seriously considered in order to turn at least some farm produce into commercial, value added end products that would, in a sustainable way, find their pride of place in the markets.

Finally, one of the worries that gives me sleepless nights is the trend to liberalize markets, which has seen the livestock sector in Seychelles almost disappear mainly due to the relatively higher cost of production compared with imported products originating from countries that enjoy better technical know-how, economies of scale and outreach as opposed to one that has slightly more than 50 per cent of its land area as protected and has very limited or no economies of scale.

Although we acknowledge that trade is an essential component of our food security strategy, it is nonetheless extremely worrisome when the totality of the country's livestock farmers stop production to the point that it is no longer viable to run the national abattoir or the hatchery. For a small, isolated, remote island state whose trade route is insecure due to piracy, the situation becomes alarming to the point of being a national security issue.

The domestic and international competition for agricultural land, climate change challenges and efforts to intensify sustainable agricultural practices are elements that cannot be overemphasized and that we can only overcome with solid partnerships such as the one we are re-establishing with IFAD.

It is becoming clear that food and nutrition security should take some precedence. The political leadership of Seychelles is cognizant and fully supportive of the need to increase its efforts to boost the sector given the emerging challenges.

Allow me to add my voice and gratitude to the positive changes that this institution has registered. It will certainly assist us in adapting to what we are experiencing in the form of more droughts, more floods, more boats returning half empty because of the rising sea level and the temperature rise, coral bleaching and piracy. These are unprecedented changes that all our agents for food security in Seychelles – farmers, fishers, traders – have to factor into their operations if they are to stay afloat and in business.

Statement of the representative for Somalia

It is a great honour and pleasure for me to address, on behalf of the Somali Government, this thirty-fifth session of the Governing Council of IFAD.

Somalia is emerging from the worst humanitarian crises in the world. We are very grateful to the international community for their humanitarian assistance and support in the face of drought and famine in the country, which saved thousands of lives.

Although the emergency crisis has actually passed and the alarming food shortage across the country is getting much better, the situation in the camps for displaced persons remains fragile despite the efforts of the international organizations. Many are still in need of continued assistance, including food aid, healthcare, and water and sanitation services.

As the security situation is improving in many parts of the country and many people are now willing to go back, we believe that it is time to put more effort into the return of displaced persons to their places of origin. Their prolonged stay in the camps has had a negative effect, not only on their own social future but also on the economy of the country, which is mainly based on agropastoral activities.

In this regard, I would like to take this opportunity to express our gratitude, on behalf of the Somali Government, to the Turkish Government and many charity organizations for their assistance on this issue. The Somali Government needs more funds, equipment and technical assistance to enable the displaced population to regain their livelihoods once they return to their homelands.

As the theme of this year's Governing Council is "Sustainable smallholder agriculture: Feeding the world, protecting the planet", I would like to bring your attention to a very serious but forgotten issue: the environmental situation in Somalia.

Soil degradation, desertification and climate change impact are advancing at a very alarming rate. The frequent episodes of drought in Somalia are a clear example of the negative impact of climate change.

Over the past twenty years, not a single project, intervention or even study on combating environment degradation has been carried out in Somalia. We need to be helped and assisted by promoting and formulating action plans and strategies for environment sustainability in Somalia.

Statement of the representative for South Sudan

On behalf of my Government and people, I wish to express sincere gratitude and appreciation for the acceptance of the Republic of South Sudan, the world's newest nation, as a non-original member of IFAD.

In my note to President Nwanze confirming my attendance at this very important multisector congress of world leaders, I highlighted the agricultural potential (crop, livestock and fisheries) of South Sudan, emphasizing that my country with its enabling agricultural ecosystem remains unexplored, underdeveloped and natural, with a population of roughly 12 to 15 million people.

The infant Government of the new Republic of South Sudan, has developed policies which:

- Make smallholder agriculture the cornerstone of its socio-economic development and commit its oil revenue to fuel agriculture.
- Gives a new approach aimed at promoting ownership of donor-funded agricultural projects, both crop and livestock, building in exit strategies, and promoting sustainability and development;
- Develop new sector policies, strategic plans and sector development projects designed to empower "smallholder agriculture", and to ensure that the sector is assigned the responsibility for food security and environment protection under its "Vision of transferring towns to the villages".

Although the agriculture and environmental protection sectors are among the priority areas of the infant Government of the Republic of South Sudan, political challenges related to the country's peaceful separation from the Republic of Sudan have drastically affected its resource envelope and hence the budgetary allocation to agriculture and the environment.

I take the opportunity of this momentous gathering to confirm that the Republic of South Sudan strongly supports the theme of this meeting "Sustainable Smallholder Agriculture: feeding the world, protecting the planet". As an infant Government, and a new country, our challenges are many and diverse, and the expectations of our people extremely high. We appeal to IFAD's Governing Council, Member States and the investors present at this meeting to support the efforts of my Government to strengthen and develop agriculture, giving more favourable consideration to the Republic of South Sudan than more mature countries.

Once again, I thank you for approving the non-original membership application of the Republic of South Sudan. At this juncture, I have the pleasure to declare the unwavering commitment of my country to work closely with IFAD and to affirm that the Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, Honourable Nhial Deng Nhial, has expressly assented to IFAD's Instrument of Accession on behalf of my President, His Excellency General Salva Kiir Mayardit.

Statement of the representative of the United Arab Emirates

I am pleased to take this opportunity to commend the IFAD's achievements of past years. We affirm the desire of the United Arab Emirates to strengthen cooperation with the Fund and other partners to enable the Fund to achieve the objectives for which it was established. I also affirm the importance of the Fund's focus on smallholdings, movement toward the most sustainable agricultural practices to effectively help ensure global food security, agricultural development in poor states, efforts to support women in rural areas and concern with lowering unemployment in poor areas. I also affirm the importance of strengthening cooperation among the developing countries and cooperation with all institutions and organizations to limit the rise in food prices, as agriculture and food are two tools for achieving food security, providing jobs for young people, and lowering food prices. I also commend the Fund's participation in the Debt Initiative for Heavily Indebted Poor Countries.

Rapid technological developments and multiple applications of technology in all aspects of life are key features of modern civilization. The United Arab Emirates has therefore devoted special attention, through its Ministry of Environment and Water, to the agricultural sector. Despite its harsh desert environment, lack of water resources and scarce rainfall, the United Arab Emirates has brought about an agricultural renaissance thanks to God and the strong determination and apposite directives of its discerning leadership.

Regarding food security, all measures have been taken to ensure the sustainable development of plant, animal and fish resources and to meet the basic food needs of the entire population at all times. Attention has also been given to water security, which is a primary foundation for sustainable agricultural development.

The United Arab Emirates is favourably situated geographically, serving as a global trade centre. It features developed infrastructure and hosts international research centers concerned with agricultural development. Sustainable agricultural development is a primary pivot of its activities, and it exports its agricultural products to international markets.

Regarding environmental protection, natural resource scarcity and climate change, the United Arab Emirates considers sustainability to be of particular importance, as sustainability is closely linked to agriculture and to rural development. In the coming decades, every country will need to increase its agricultural production. Agricultural methods for food production will therefore have to be developed. In this regard, the Ministry of Environment and Water has adopted current agricultural techniques, for example the installation of modern irrigation networks to control water consumption. It is also pursuing modern agricultural production methods, such as hydroponics, and it has established laws and regulations restricting the use of insecticides and chemical fertilizers.

To sustain and protect the environment from degradation and to strengthen food security, the private sector and smallholders must be encouraged to adopt green agriculture, which enables agricultural expansion, particularly as food prices have continued to rise from one year to the next. Support for the capacities of smallholders and their tireless efforts will ensure that they achieve prosperity for their communities and improve food security for the world in the coming decades. Investment in agriculture in rural areas must be increased. Accordingly, in connection with this session's theme, "Feeding the world and protecting the planet", we support both increased production and environmental protection.

Based on the prudent directives of the United Arab Emirates's discerning leadership, organizations and institutions such as the Red Crescent, the Abu Dhabi Fund for Development and charitable associations have established projects and contribute to agricultural development in rural areas in various countries in the world. They also provide assistance to distressed populations; dig wells; and build schools, field hospitals and aid centers to alleviate the suffering of victims of disasters and crises.

In this connection, we call upon IFAD to join with international and regional multilateral organizations that have declared their resolve to participate in the Deauville Partnership to support the Arab countries undergoing democratic change. We also call on IFAD to participate in establishing the joint coordinating platform approved by the aforesaid organizations in their joint communiqué of 10 September 2011 with a view to identifying opportunities for cooperation in financing, providing technical assistance and developing analytical policies concerning investment opportunities in those countries, and extending all types of support to the Arab countries undergoing democratic transformation.

I reiterate my thanks and appreciation to the Council Chairperson, the President of the Fund, and all those who helped prepare and participated in this meeting, and wish this session every success.

Statement of the representative for the United Kingdom

Not only is the theme (and guest list) of this Governing Council important, we have also come together to approve a record Ninth Replenishment. The United Kingdom was pleased to pledge a contribution of US\$82.9 million or £51.133 million – that is an increase of over 50 per cent in pounds sterling.

We do so as a result of our commitment to food security and recognition of IFAD as an institution that has a strong focus on delivering results.

We very much welcome the announcements here at the Governing Council, including from Algeria, Burkina Faso, Cote d'Ivoire, Kenya and others, demonstrating the strong sense of shared ownership for which IFAD is renowned. We look forward to all other members joining together to ensure that IFAD can maintain its level of programming so desperately needed by the communities with which IFAD works.

But, as we have heard here, the challenges just keep growing. Agricultural production is already at risk from existing climate variability – we have only to look at examples such as the recent drought in the Horn of Africa, floods in Pakistan and a drought in Mexico - and future climate change will increase these risks, especially for smallholder farmers in developing countries.

The United Kingdom therefore welcomes IFAD's new initiative, the Adaptation for Smallholder Agriculture Programme - endorsed by us here at the Governing Council - to help poor farmers adapt and build resilience to current and future climate risks. We look forward to supporting this programme with others, and to seeing IFAD implement it, integrating climate issues across the organization in all that it does and demonstrating the leadership needed to raise awareness and understanding for "Feeding the world, protecting the planet".

For an institution like IFAD, with its strong focus on results, business as usual is simply not an option. Sustainable impact will depend on how IFAD responds to climate issues. Programme investment will be inefficient if we do not adequately mainstream key cross-cutting issues of climate and gender. As Prime Minister Monti highlighted yesterday, we need an integrated approach – combined with strong global institutions.

We want to see IFAD continue to grow as a strong institution and be at the vanguard in all areas. We thank the President for his leadership and commitment to the ongoing change and reform agenda, ensuring that IFAD is driven by results – and delivering them effectively and efficiently. We support IFAD's focus on value for money and channelling as much of our resources as possible into programmes that can truly help people transform their lives, their communities, their countries.

Of course, IFAD works through partnership, including with the other Rome agencies, where - with new leadership - there is an opportunity to renew collaboration and strengthen coordination.

The President mentioned IFAD's staff in his speech yesterday. We would like to reiterate his words: they are IFAD's most valuable resource. We commend them for their commitment and tireless work as IFAD strives for ever greater effectiveness in its programmes and to provide leadership across the international system, setting an example in results, efficiency and transparency.

We look forward to continuing to support IFAD.

Statement of the representative for Uruguay

Uruguay has, over the years, developed a very interesting and fruitful collaboration with IFAD, in particular with respect to the promotion of financing for the rural and agricultural projects which the Fund carries out in many developing countries, including our own.

At this thirty-fifth session of the Governing Council, Uruguay would like to confirm its willingness to cooperate actively with the work being done by that organization. We commend IFAD for the highly successful project that served as the basis for the Uruguay Rural Programme – which enabled our country to lower the incidence of rural poverty from 32 per cent in 2005 to less than 7 per cent in 2010.

Uruguay would like to see future programmes with IFAD targeting the issues of rural smallholder families with a closer focus on the development of capabilities – to position those families within production value chains in a framework of competitiveness accompanied by social integration and environmental sustainability. Along with the development of agriculture at the national level, this approach would work towards meeting the new challenges posed by the need to compete with excellence.

Our country will deliver on its pledge to contribute to the Ninth Replenishment of IFAD's Resources as soon as possible, and arrangements in this regard are currently being made with the national authorities.

Uruguay would like to state that it is both necessary and appropriate for future programmes with IFAD to contemplate social policy together with the integration of technology innovation. To this end, we will need to maintain a frank, open and fruitful dialogue that recognizes the importance of South-South cooperation, understanding that this is a valid instrument for the provision of technical assistance.

Chapter 4

Statements and special addresses



His Excellency Paul Kagame,
President of the
Republic of Rwanda



His Excellency Mario Monti,
President of the Council of Ministers of
the Italian Republic



Mr Kanayo F. Nwanze, President of IFAD



His Excellency Joseph Nyuma Boakai,
Vice-President of the
Republic of Liberia



His Excellency Andrea Riccardi,
Minister for International Cooperation and
Integration Policies of the Italian Republic

Statement by the Chairperson, Her Excellency Marie-Josée Jacobs, opening the thirty-fifth session of the Governing Council

Mr President,
Excellencies,
Distinguished Governors,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a pleasure for me – and an honour for my country – to be invited to chair this thirty-fifth session of the Governing Council of IFAD.

Today, 167 Member States are represented on the Governing Council and soon two new members will join us in supporting IFAD in its work towards freeing the world of poverty and hungry.

Distinguished Governors,

Since our last Council a year ago, we have witnessed great changes throughout the world. We have seen political shifts in the southern Mediterranean and beyond. Humanitarian crises and natural disasters have struck the Horn of Africa, and now the Sahel once again, as well as the serious economic and financial crisis across the industrialized world.

In this ever-changing global context, rural poor people are faced with long-term challenges. The most vulnerable, who bear the brunt of them, are thereby condemned to lives of poverty and hunger.

Climate change and its impact, food insufficiency and insecurity, natural resource degradation; day by day these daunting challenges erode the gains made by development, calling for renewed and steadfast efforts.

In 2011, the population of our planet reached 7 billion, and is expected to rise to 9 billion by 2050. Already, 1.4 billion people in developing countries are living in extreme poverty. Disturbingly, the World Food Programme cited that a sad record was reached in 2011: 1 billion people are now undernourished worldwide.

Yet, rural areas possess the capacity to resolve a large part of humanity's food problems. Four fifths of the world's food needs are met by smallholder farmers living in developing countries. This means that rural development is a critical factor in overcoming global hunger and poverty. Agro-ecological and climate-sensitive development can contribute to the sustainable mitigation of the effects of climate change, while safeguarding biodiversity and the environment.

We need to boost our investment in productive and sustainable agriculture as a medium- and long-term response to improving the living conditions of a large number of people.

Particular attention must be paid to women and the crucial role they play in agriculture as agents of change. Governments need to make this issue a priority, and development partners must support their efforts. For this to happen, we need partners with extensive expertise in rural development and with the capacity to manage and disseminate knowledge.

IFAD is one a key actor in this regard. Indeed, IFAD's specific mandate is to improve food security and nutrition and work with poor groups – both men and women – to enable them to escape from poverty.

Today, sustainable agricultural development has become an imperative. We must also seek to guarantee the right to food by raising productivity and increasing produce quality and quantity as well as diversifying agriculture in a way that respects the environment. I am pleased to note that agriculture will also be a key theme at the Rio+20 United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development scheduled to take place in four months' time.

We must make concrete and sustainable investments in agriculture that prioritize food security and sovereignty. In addition, we need to focus on building production capacity in developing countries. I commend IFAD on choosing this subject as the main theme of this session.

I am happy to note that a growing number of IFAD Member States are committed to taking determined action in the area of agricultural development. This is borne out by their support for the Ninth Replenishment of IFAD's Resources. Despite a challenging global economic and financial environment, IFAD has again succeeded in increasing the level of pledges. This Replenishment will enable the Fund to scale up its operations and will multiply the assistance needed to provide the Fund with the capacity to support States in achieving the Millennium Development Goals.

However, our continued efforts are needed to enable IFAD to enhance its impact in order to deliver on the commitments undertaken to improving the effectiveness of development assistance.

Mr President,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Major efforts are still needed to meet the needs of the overwhelming number of people suffering from hunger and poverty. IFAD's support is needed more than ever before in responding to the needs of these rural poor people, which at times appear endless.

True to its founding spirit and the importance of its mandate, the Fund must continue to prioritize operations in developing countries, where aid remains a fundamental necessity.

I am convinced that this thirty-fifth session of the Governing Council will meet with success and that it will enable us to move forwards in our shared endeavour to reduce poverty and malnutrition in the world.

Thank you for your attention.

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 Paul Kagame, President of the Republic of Rwanda

Your Excellency,

It is a great honour to welcome you to the thirty-fifth session of the Governing Council of IFAD. Allow me, on behalf of all the Member States, to express our sincere appreciation of your acceptance to inaugurate today's session.

As President of the Republic of Rwanda, you have shown a strong commitment to eliminating poverty and hunger. It gave me great satisfaction to read recently that Rwanda had cut poverty by 12 percentage points in five years, reducing the proportion of the population living in poverty to 45 per cent. That impressive figure translates roughly into one million Rwandans emerging from poverty.

And just as importantly, Rwanda's efforts to promote climate-smart agriculture and to support every farmer, however small, are exemplary for countries in Africa and in the rest of the developing world. IFAD is proud to be associated with these endeavours.

Your experience and perspective will help shape the discourse over the coming days and beyond, as we at IFAD strive to create prosperous, sustainable rural environments.

May I once again express our gratitude for your presence here today.

We very much look forward to your statement.

Keynote address by His Excellency Paul Kagame, President of the Republic of Rwanda

Honourable Joseph Nyuma Boakai, Vice-President of the Republic of Liberia,
Madam Chairperson,
Honourable Governors,
Mr President,
Distinguished dignitaries,
Ladies and gentlemen,

Thank you for inviting me to join this important discussion on increasing food production and promoting sustainable use of the earth's natural resources.

According to the most recent figures from the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), it is evident that food production is not keeping up with the rapidly growing world population. It is therefore fitting that the Governing Council of IFAD is drawing our attention to this urgent concern. The situation is even more pressing when we consider that the majority of those affected are low-income smallholder farmers in the developing world.

However, there is reason to remain optimistic because experience in some parts of the world indicates that, with the right policies and adequate investment, we can increase food production while protecting our environment.

We have to admit that for much of the developing world – certainly for my country, Rwanda – agriculture is going to be smallholder-based for some time and will mostly be carried out in fragile environments susceptible to climate change.

It is therefore imperative that affected countries, and the institutions that they partner with, be bold and try what has not been done before. We must learn from what has worked and adapt these models to suit smallholder farmers.

To illustrate, let me draw from our experience in Rwanda. Over the last five years, a significant increase in output from smallholder farms has had a noticeable impact on the lives of our citizens. Agricultural GDP has grown at an average of 8 per cent, ensuring food security and higher incomes for farmers. This has directly resulted in over 1 million Rwandans moving above the poverty line in the same period.

We have also worked to mitigate Rwanda's specific challenges of high population growth and density, steep hills, heavy rainfall and frequent tilling of the same, often fragmented, land. Conservation of the environment is such an important issue for us that it is one of the benchmarks of governance for which leaders at all levels are held accountable.

If Rwanda has managed to gain these modest results and in difficult conditions, how much more could be achieved in less fragile conditions and with increased investment in opportunities that exist in many parts of Africa?

The first part of the answer lies with individual countries that must design and implement suitable policies for increasing the productivity of smallholder farmers and work with them towards eliminating poverty.

In addition to what we in government need to do, the quality of collaboration we develop with our partners is critical. I wish to acknowledge IFAD's role as a strong partner in our own agricultural programmes, supporting us on many poverty reduction initiatives, and in key export crops such as tea and coffee. Let me also take this opportunity to thank other Rome-based institutions (especially FAO and the World Food Programme), the Bill

& Melinda Gates Foundation, and other friends and good partners of Rwanda for backing our programmes.

The reality in most developing countries is that smallholder agriculture remains the source of livelihood and food supply for the majority of the population. In that sense, every farmer counts. None is too small to be ignored.

That is why in Rwanda we have identified this sector as key to growth and developed programmes targeting the smallest of smallholder farmers. This choice is producing results because Rwandans have taken ownership of their development agenda while forging partnerships for progress. The ultimate goal is transformation from subsistence to market-oriented production.

Let me single out two such programmes that have had a major impact on food production and living standards. The one cow per poor family programme, a home-grown initiative to which IFAD has contributed, has improved nutrition, raised incomes, enhanced soil fertility and, through the pass-on scheme, is also rebuilding our social support fabric.

In Rwanda, it is impossible to expand arable land. Yet we need to protect our hard-earned food security, as well as advance commercial agriculture. This is why we have adopted a land consolidation and crop intensification programme for optimal land use and increased yields.

These initiatives have resulted in a dramatic increase in output for crops grown on consolidated land. For example, between 2007 and 2010, production of maize tripled and that of both wheat and cassava more than doubled.

Our experience has also shown that yields can be even higher and more sustainable when environmental conservation is integrated with agricultural activity. We are therefore investing in hillside terracing to reduce erosion and conserve moisture; rehabilitation of degraded forests; and, concurrently, reclamation of marshlands for both agriculture and the protection of wetlands.

Distinguished ladies and gentlemen,

While we can scale up what has worked and learn from successful models, a lot more remains to be done.

We cannot, for instance, talk of sustaining production levels if we continue to depend solely on rainfed agriculture. In order to break the cycle of drought and famine that afflicts large parts of our continent, we will have to intensify irrigation while managing our water resources better.

It is equally important that we ensure that farmers have access to essential inputs, such as fertilizers, improved seeds and professional advice, and to markets for their produce.

Similarly, we need to invest more in research and new technologies to raise production and for value addition, especially to staple food crops. At the same time, we must make available sufficient resources to strengthen rural financial systems for farmers.

It is gratifying to note that there are a growing number of success stories of smallholder farmers in other countries in Africa. This means that there is a future for this kind of agriculture and, crucially, that it is possible to eliminate the unacceptable tragedy of malnourished and starving people.

The countries that have made progress in these areas have done so because they have the right policies, ensure participation of citizens and enjoy the support of development partners. It is clear that this support has been beneficial where it has come in to reinforce national priorities, as IFAD has done in Rwanda. In my view, partnerships that respect the choices people make and produce results should be encouraged, strengthened and emulated.

Ultimately, long-term solutions to investment in agriculture will come from a greater involvement of the private sector – in technology, production, marketing and research.

In conclusion, if we are to meet the twin objectives of feeding a growing population and protecting the environment, we will have to do what we know works. And that is targeted support and investment in smallholder farming to raise agricultural productivity, contribute to food security and reduce poverty, while protecting our planet.

I thank you for your kind attention and wish you fruitful deliberations.

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

On behalf of everyone at IFAD – here at headquarters and in the field – I warmly welcome you to the thirty-fifth session of our Governing Council.

In this period of economic uncertainty for so much of the world, at a time when global financial crisis is hitting so many national budgets, we are grateful for your unwavering support.

You have proven that you have the perseverance, the determination and the patience to invest in long-term growth when you decided on a substantial increase of IFAD's programme of work for the ninth replenishment.

We are grateful for the faith you have shown in IFAD and your belief in what we do. Not only did we receive considerable support from our traditional development partners, we also received significant contributions from middle income countries, emerging economies, and from countries that are more often aid recipients than contributors.

The theme of this year's Governing Council is "Sustainable smallholder agriculture: Feeding the World, protecting the planet".

It was chosen in support of the upcoming Rio+20 conference, and reflects the impact of environmental degradation on agriculture and smallholder farmers, which climate change is magnifying at an alarming rate.

In recognition of this, and to help implement IFAD's environment policy and climate change strategy, we have developed a ground-breaking initiative: the Adaptation for Smallholder Agriculture Programme -- or ASAP – which will help channel finance into climate-smart, sustainable investments in poor smallholder communities.

Climate change is just one of the challenges that we will face head-on in the years ahead. But thanks to the transformations that have occurred over the past three years, IFAD stands ready to deliver on its promises.

When you elected me three years ago to lead IFAD, I promised to consolidate and deepen the change and reform process. I promised to make IFAD an ever-stronger ally for poor rural people. And I promised to keep agriculture at the top of national and international agendas.

Today, IFAD is a transformed institution. We are delivering more results, reaching more people. We are more efficient, more effective and more transparent than at any other point in our history.

The numbers speak for themselves. We have surpassed our efficiency targets for IFAD8.

Our efficiency ratio, a measurement of the administration budget against spending on loans and grants, will drop to 12.5 per cent in 2012. Our target was 13.5 per cent.

Today, 67 per cent of our workforce is assigned to programmes. Our target was 65 per cent.

And projects are being implemented more quickly, with less time from approval to first disbursement. In turn, our project participants are reached faster and their lives transformed more quickly.

Our organization has been strengthened, restructured and revitalized.

Our new office of Strategy and Knowledge Management is a powerful tool to ensure that our work is guided by state-of-the-art thinking.

Our new office for Partnership and Resource Mobilization will help us promote agricultural development and enlist the participation of other institutions.

Our new Ethics Office is helping us adhere to the best ethical practices of international financial institutions.

As an international financial institution, we are aware of the importance of strong financial oversight.

Last year, we established a separate Financial Operations Department, headed by a Chief Financial Officer. We reorganized the Controller and Financial Services Division and strengthened our Treasury Services Division.

We have adopted a results-based budgeting system. We are conducting mid-year budget reviews, and our medium-term plan will further improve our accountability.

We have further improved our financial oversight by bringing in new external auditors for the first time in IFAD's history.

And last year, also for the first time, our replenishment consultations were headed by an external chair.

We have also continued to expand our country presence, with the number of staff in country offices reaching 64 by the end of 2011. At the end of last year, IFAD was financing 240 programmes and projects in 94 countries and one territory.

Consider that four years ago, only 18 per cent of the projects we financed were directly supervised by us. By July 2011, this had risen to 93 per cent.

Direct supervision at the country level has helped us deliver a larger programme of loans and grants. It has helped us reach more people and it has strengthened the quality of our work on the ground. It has also deepened our policy dialogue with governments. We have found that countries with IFAD country offices perform better than countries without.

IFAD's ability to scale up means we are reaching more people, changing more lives. In 2010, 43.1 million people obtained services through IFAD-supported projects, compared with 29.2 million in 2007.

All of these measures have made us more agile, more effective and more consistent in our ability to deliver results. This is not simply our judgement. It is also the judgement of IFAD's Independent Office of Evaluation, and of reviews and assessments by third parties, including the Australian, British and Swedish governments, the Brookings Institution, the OECD/DAC, and the Multilateral Organisation Performance Assessment Network [MOPAN].

The work we have been doing to make IFAD an effective instrument for leveraging resources is paying off. For every dollar contributed to IFAD during our Eighth Replenishment, we mobilized another six dollars for rural development programmes.

I would like to take a moment to thank all IFAD staff, here at headquarters and in the field. They are our greatest and most precious resource. It is their dedication, their

commitment and their professionalism that have made the dramatic changes at IFAD possible. And it is their commitment and professionalism that will allow us to deliver on our more ambitious programme of work in the years ahead.

Wherever you are: In Brazil, India, Kenya, Senegal, Viet Nam or here in Rome, I salute you all!

Ladies and Gentlemen,

We have stayed true to IFAD's mandate and mission; we have stayed true to IFAD's values. We have stayed true to IFAD's modus operandi of partnership, and working from the bottom up. Our efforts enable poor rural people to grow and sell more food, increase their incomes and manage their own lives.

The changes we have introduced will allow us to do more and to do it better. They will allow us to scale up, and to be more effective and more efficient at the same time. They will allow us to help in transforming more lives.

This is an exciting time to be working in rural development, and to be working at IFAD.

Our growing programme of work has made us a significant player in rural and agricultural development.

Our experience and knowledge, based on almost 35 years of working in remote areas where few development partners and international financial institutions have ventured, sets us apart from others in our field.

Our voice – and the voice of poor rural people around the world – is growing louder.

At the World Economic Forum in Davos, at G-8 and G-20 meetings and at the Durban climate change conference last December and the Rio+20 conference this summer – we have continually raised the issue that is close to our heart. Smallholder farmers can feed themselves and they can help feed the world.

And our message is being heard. The time has come for smallholders to play their rightful role in contributing to economic growth and food security.

Simply stated, agriculture is a growth industry. With the world population expected to pass 9 billion by 2050, demand for food is guaranteed to rise in the coming years.

Our job is to make it possible for small farmers, and everyone living in rural areas, to be part of this growth industry by realising their potential. As more people migrate to the cities, those who stay behind will become even more important, because agriculture is primarily a rural activity.

When these farmers are recognized as small entrepreneurs, when they have access to better resources and incentives, and when they have access to markets and an enabling environment, they can transform their communities, their own lives, and indeed the world. We should remember that some 2 billion people live and work on the world's small farms.

Let me give you three quick examples – and what I am going to tell you is not what my staff has reported back to me, but what I have seen myself.

In Kenya, I met Jane Njaguara, who is able to send her children to school thanks to the profits from her dairy business, that started with just one goat. She now employs others, providing income and opportunities for her community.

And in the South Gansu province of China, an area that suffers from frequent drought similar to the harsh conditions in many parts of Africa, farmers are able to feed themselves and their families. And they are also increasing their incomes.

In the village of Jiao He, I met a farmer named Li Guo Chin whose income was less than \$2 a day in 2006. Today, his gross income has risen to about \$35-a-day.

And in Guatemala I met Pedro Tun. Mr Tun is a smallholder farmer and president of a producers' association.

With the backing of an IFAD-supported project they were able to buy irrigation equipment, build a new storage facility and work with private-sector partners to bring their produce to new markets. Today, they sell to some of the biggest retailers in the world, including Wal-Mart of the U.S.

These are the people we work with. Small agricultural activities have made it possible for them to feed their families, buy medication, educate their children, rebuild their homes and invest in their businesses.

What has impressed me the most in all of the programmes and rural communities I have visited, is the resilience of the people; the desire, the commitment and the ability of people to transform their own lives.

What does the future look like?

The IFAD9 consultations have given us a road map to 2015, and we are already heading down the road.

We will consolidate our country presence. And we will consolidate our institutional reform, especially of Human Resources.

Our job audit will strengthen the alignment between jobs and IFAD's strategic objectives.

Our corporate-level efficiency review – which I believe is the first of its kind for any IFI or UN agency – will allow us to provide our Members with even more value for money.

With a significantly improved Results Measurement Framework we will demonstrate our commitment to delivering results. We will be able to provide a broader and more in-depth assessment of development impact – in particular, the number of people we lift out of poverty.

And we will sharpen the focus on IFAD's scaling up objectives.

We will also be expanding our partnerships with the private sector, making smallholder farmers more visible business partners in their efforts to feed the world.

The Adaptation for Smallholder Agriculture Programme will make IFAD a leader in climate-smart funding for smallholders.

And we will expand our presence in fragile states and the remote areas of developing countries where IFAD has always worked.

The period of our Ninth Replenishment coincides with the final years of the global campaign to achieve the Millennium Development Goals. The work that we do in the coming years will contribute directly towards meeting the first goal, of halving the

proportion of people living in extreme poverty and hunger. We expect to reach 80 to 90 million people by the end of IFAD9, in 2015.

It will contribute to the third goal of gender equality and the seventh goal of protecting the environment. And it will contribute indirectly towards most of the other MDGs, because poverty and hunger are at the root of so many of the world's problems.

At every forum, at every conference, every meeting and every summit, we will continue to be the voice of the smallholder farmer, fisherperson, pastoralist, the landless farm worker, and of women and youth.

In virtually all rural societies, women are the primary caregivers. But they are also, increasingly, the farmers and the agricultural workers. They will be our primary target.

We must also look to the needs of young people. We must harness their tremendous energy and provide opportunities for them, particularly in rural areas.

We will need the young people of today to be the farmers of tomorrow. And by creating a range of employment options for young people in rural areas, we can help stem the exodus of people to cities, and abroad.

As we work to implement our IFAD9 goals, we will do so in partnership.

Those of you who attended the Farmers' Forum earlier this week will have had a chance to meet some of our most important partners – farmers from developing countries. Our biennial Farmers' Forum brings together leaders of farmers' organizations from around the world to network with each other and with IFAD staff and partners.

We will also continue to forge stronger bonds with our sister agencies, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the World Food Programme (WFP), here in Rome.

I am looking forward to working with my new colleagues – José Graziano da Silva at FAO, and Ertharin Cousin when she moves to the World Food Programme in April.

We will capitalize on our strengths and synergies along the continuum from humanitarian assistance to development, as we work together to improve food security and eliminate poverty and hunger.

I know the year ahead will not be easy. The economic uncertainty that plagued so many countries last year looks set to continue. I know that many of our Members have pressing short-term domestic needs.

But I am confident that you will continue to have the determination to continue to invest in the long-term.

Agriculture and rural development is essential for lasting food and nutrition security. It is a pathway to employment, wealth creation and economic growth. It is the basis for social cohesion, gender empowerment and equality. It is the foundation for global peace and security.

Together, we have the ability to create a better future for millions of people. Let us prove that we have the perseverance and determination to make a difference.

Thank you.

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 Mario Monti, Prime Minister of the Italian Republic

Your Excellency,

It is an honour and a pleasure to welcome you on your first visit to IFAD headquarters. Allow me, on behalf of all the Member States, to express our sincere appreciation for your participation at the thirty-fifth session of our Governing Council.

Your presence here today is an important symbol of Italy's commitment to keeping agriculture at the heart of the international agenda. Rome, as the global hub for food security, is the place we at IFAD – and our colleagues at FAO and WFP – call home. But in addition to being a host, Italy has been a steadfast friend and partner for IFAD. Indeed, even in these difficult times, the Ninth Replenishment of IFAD's Resources has been a great success, and Italy's role was crucial in this success.

Allow me to say that we appreciate the strong start that your government has shown in multilateral action and allow me to thank you for the vote of confidence that you have given to IFAD. We are most honoured by your presence here today.

Keynote address by His Excellency Mario Monti, Prime Minister of the Italian Republic

President Nwanze,
Madam Chairperson,
Honourable Ministers and Governors,
Distinguished Delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is an honour for me to address the Governing Council of IFAD at a time in which food security is once again at the centre of the global agenda.

In recent years, the global community has invested a lot of attention and energy in the resolution of the economic and financial crisis. Yet, we must not lose sight of the fact that we are confronted with a much wider and deeper crisis, which is at the same time an energy crisis and a food security crisis. The rise in energy prices and the pressure on the global food system are a signal that we are putting unsustainable pressure on the world's natural resources.

The 2007 food crisis, which had a dramatic impact on the world's most vulnerable countries and populations, preceded the economic and financial crisis.

While agricultural commodity prices have had ups and downs since then, the problems that led to that crisis have not gone away. The long-term picture remains a reason of concern. The world will need to feed a growing population in the next decades. We need to find innovative and bold solutions to the conflicting needs of demographic change, job creation and environmental sustainability. Food security must remain a priority issue for the international community.

For Italy, food security is an obvious policy priority. Italy has an important agricultural sector and we are very much aware of the importance of sustainable agriculture for economic development, social cohesion and protection of biodiversity. This is why Italy is proud to host, in Rome, the United Nations food and agricultural hub. Indeed, the theme of the **2015 EXPO "Feeding the Planet, Energy for Life"** is an indication of our awareness that in this increasingly globalized world, the right of every individual to a healthy and nutritious diet must be guaranteed.

Mr President,

In recent years, following the food commodity crisis of 2007 and 2008, our country has contributed greatly to bringing this crucial issue back onto the international political agenda.

On the occasion of our presidency of the **G-8 in 2009**, in the town of L'Aquila, a food security initiative was launched in which more than **40 countries** and international organizations agreed to mobilize **US\$20 billion** over three years in order to help farmers in poor countries boost their productivity.

Furthermore, the principles laid out in L'Aquila were subsequently approved at the World Summit on Food Security in November 2009 and are now known as the **Five Rome Principles for Sustainable Global Food Security**. Thanks to the renewed attention of the international community, the same World Summit saw the approval of the reform of the Committee on Food Security and the creation of a high-level panel of experts, thereby giving life to a more coordinated system of global governance.

Again **during our presidency of the G-8, Italy organized the first ever G-8 Agriculture Ministers' summit.**

We highlighted on that occasion the risk that unless structural changes were made, food crises would not only have grave social and economic repercussions, but could also seriously affect political stability worldwide.

Mr President,

Two years on, food security is back at the top of our agendas with all its humanitarian, development and security implications in evidence.

Food prices reached new heights in 2011, coupled with the humanitarian crisis in the Horn of Africa. **Last year's riots in North Africa and the Middle East** were not triggered by economic hardship alone, but it is no mere coincidence that the popular uprisings occurred following a sudden increase in food prices and in particular in **the price of wheat.**

The truth is that inflation in agricultural prices brings about an exponential rise in political, economic and social vulnerability and instability, especially in countries where a large part of household income is spent on feeding the family. A hungry world is an unjust world. It is also an instable world.

In Paris, in July 2011, the **G-20 Agriculture Ministers launched an Action Plan on Food Price Volatility and Agriculture** to strengthen the long-term response to food insecurity. An Agricultural Market Information System (AMIS) was established, a decision that I consider extremely positive for the role it can play in improving market transparency.

This mechanism, housed in FAO, not only could be very useful in reducing price volatility, but also serves as an example of the new partnerships that need to be created in order to deal with global challenges such as ending poverty and food insecurity.

In fact, besides G-20 countries, **AMIS engages all relevant international organizations** and is open to collaboration with the main countries involved in producing, exporting and importing grain and oilseed, as well as representatives from major commodity exchange markets and the private sector.

Mr President,

In such a challenging international context, continuing collaboration between the Rome-based agencies is indeed critical. It is, however, not enough.

The international community has to do more to promote a sustainable global food system and balanced development of the agricultural sector. Indeed, **it is recognized that agricultural development is two to four times more effective at reducing hunger and poverty than growth in any other sector.**

For economic development and food security to go hand-in-hand, there is a need for a **comprehensive approach** cutting across interrelated policies, countries and institutions and calling for new ways of working and cooperating among governments, the private sector and civil society. The Rome-based agencies must be at the forefront of these new partnerships. They must reinforce their cooperation in order to contribute to the success of the renewed Committee on World Food Security.

Mr President,

IFAD's focus on smallholders means that its operations must engage two important categories: **the private sector** and **women**.

In sub-Saharan Africa, agriculture is mostly a smallholder activity. Therefore the private sector has a critical role in enhancing productivity. But in order to do so, an enabling environment needs to be created to allow smallholder farmers - who account for the bulk of agriculture producers - to gain better access to markets and value chains.

An integrated approach to development is needed, including improved national and regional policies, better access to land, water, credit, education, and research on seeds and fertilizers. **Private-sector investments can effectively contribute to increased productivity only if all, or most of these elements are in place.**

Women make up a significant portion of the agricultural workforce in developing countries.

Giving women equal access to agricultural resources and inputs is one of the most powerful ways of reducing poverty and hunger. Large gender gaps exist in access to credit and land tenure, and these are at odds with women's potential and their contribution to agriculture.

In dedicating the upcoming International Women's Day 2012 to the objective "Empower Rural Women - End Hunger and Poverty", the Secretary-General of the United Nations reminds us that according to FAO estimates, if women had the same access to productive resources as men, they could increase yields on their farms by 20-30 per cent, lifting 100-150 million people out of hunger. **I strongly encourage IFAD to continue to focus on this important dimension in all of its activities.**

Mr President,

We cannot have strong action on food security without strong global institutions. The successful results of the Ninth Replenishment of IFAD's Resources, which saw a 25 per cent increase on previous figures, is a strong indication of the support that IFAD and its President enjoy.

Italy has done its part. We have decided on a 10 per cent increase in despite our severe domestic budget constraints. This is **a clear sign of our intention to continue supporting IFAD's mandate** and remain fully committed to its strategy.

Within all the international forums, notably the G-8/G-20, Italy will also continue to stress that we should not forget our common responsibility for fighting hunger and promoting a sustainable and fair global food system.

I wish you, Mr President, and all the members of the Governing Council, a fruitful debate and every success in your future activities.

Message of Her Excellency Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, President of the Republic of Liberia, delivered on her behalf by His Excellency Joseph Nyuma Boakai, Vice-President of the Republic of Liberia

Mr President,
Distinguished Governors,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Thank you, Mr Nwanze and members of the Governing Council of IFAD, for the kind invitation extended to Her Excellency Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, President of the Republic of Liberia, to join you and to serve as keynote speaker at the opening of the thirty-fifth session of the Governing Council of this august body. Permit me to convey the highest regards from President Sirleaf who, I assure you, would have wished to participate in this important meeting personally, but unfortunately could not because of previous commitments at home. For the honour you have bestowed not only on her, but also on our country, Liberia, I am here as her proxy.

Distinguished ladies and gentlemen, Liberia welcomes the convening theme of the thirty-fifth session of the Governing Council, "Sustainable Agriculture: Feeding the world and protecting the planet". As you may know, food security is a critical pillar of our administration's development agenda, and it is a personal passion of mine. Currently, my Government is promoting the policy "Ending Hunger in Liberia". This is a critical development agenda in our work and it will continue to remain important throughout the second term of our administration.

As Liberia looks forward to strengthening its engagement with IFAD, our primary goal is to ensure not only that we broaden and deepen our ties in the agriculture sector, but also that our partnership is making a real difference in our fight against hunger in Liberia and on our common planet.

Distinguished ladies and gentlemen, Liberia is deeply troubled by the threat to agriculture activities and the fluctuation in climatic conditions, coupled with the rising number of hungry people in our world today. According to the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), nearly 1 billion people are feared hungry. In just 13 years, an additional 1 billion people will be added to the world's population.

While many regions of the world have made impressive strides in reducing poverty in the last few decades, the global financial crisis and the rise in food prices have combined to push millions more families back into poverty.

Looking ahead, the problem of food insecurity will only deepen. That is because, by the year 2050, to feed 9 billion people, food production will have to increase by 70 per cent. This means that the developing countries will need to increase the arable land area for farming by 12 per cent to achieve this goal.

We know that our world can feed all of its people now and in the future, and end hunger if we do the right things now.

Therefore,

1. We must identify and accept those fundamental changes that must be made in mainstreaming our thinking on the problems. This will include making a clear distinction between our goal of ending hunger and malnutrition, and placing the food security of our individual countries and that of our world on a sustainable path.

2. We must create conducive conditions for smallholder farmers to contribute to increasing food availability by 70 per cent by 2050 – which is what will be required to feed a growing, more urbanized population.
3. We must take bold, appropriate and timely actions that will include measures to enhance production. And we must ensure that smallholders are both protected from the threats of climate change, and promoted as custodians of natural resources so that they share the responsibility for protecting the planet.

Distinguished ladies and gentlemen, smallholder farmers have learned to adapt to environmental change and climatic variations. However, the increased pace of changes and climate fluctuations imply that smallholder farmers often do not have the capacity to withstand these shocks. In Africa alone, by the year 2020, climate change will expose from 75 million to 250 million more people to increased water stress.

Because we exist in the rainforest, Liberia too is particularly vulnerable to climate change. Communities in Liberia have limited adaptive capacity due to widespread poverty. About 95 square kilometres of coastal land could potentially be inundated with a one-metre rise in the sea level.

Liberia is meeting these challenges by strengthening institutions and community organizations after 14 years of civil war to respond with equal might to this risk, which includes:

1. Establishment of legislation and guidelines;
2. Establishment of forests for protection of watersheds and wetlands; and
3. Implementation of programmes for soil and water conservation.

Additionally, we have prepared the Liberia Agriculture Sector Investment Programme with three key priorities:

1. Improving food and nutrition security;
2. Enhancing agricultural productivity; and
3. Promoting competitiveness and linkages to markets, and strengthening human and institutional capacities.

In 2003, Liberia joined other governments in signing the Maputo Declaration on Agriculture and Food Security as well as the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme, which encouraged Member States to allocate 10 per cent of the national budget to agriculture and to strive towards an agricultural growth rate of 6 per cent.

I know that this world body has been working very hard as a voice for market-based approaches to managing the impact of rising food prices. But we know what the consequences are, because during the last major rise in food prices in 2007 and 2008, they were grave. For hundreds of millions of people, the staples of life, such as rice, wheat or corn, were suddenly out of reach. People who were already vulnerable fell into an even greater danger zone.

Now, thankfully, the situation we face today in Liberia regarding access to food is not yet as serious. But I come before you to reinforce what we are already doing, because we must act now effectively and cooperatively to roll back the adverse impact of rising food prices and protect smallholder farmers in rural communities. We cannot keep falling back on emergency food aid, just putting on a Band-Aid, to keep moving forward.

Liberia must and we will redouble our commitment to sustainable agriculture and food security to protect the most vulnerable in our society. Because of the lessons we learned from the effect of 14 years of war on our agriculture sector, we are embracing smart

policies as a response to food shortages and the rising prices, especially in our staple food, rice. While there have been negative consequences for our people from the rise in food prices, we are convinced that it will have a positive effect on our policy of Ending Hunger in Liberia by motivating farmers to grow and sell more.

So the lessons from the past have strengthened us to embrace better policies and enlist the support of the world bodies to build a sustainable, mechanized agricultural response to hunger in Liberia.

Now, we are well aware that some policies and approaches may be difficult to implement. We face many traditional challenges and superseded approaches to farming – slash and burn, shifting cultivation, women-dominated farming – all of which contribute to an unsustainable agriculture environment. We know that it will not be easy to part with the familiar. But we cannot let the complexity inhibit us. We cannot let the timeline of change deter us.

Distinguished delegates, it is fair to say about my own country and people that we are resilient and prepared to replace the old mode of rudimentary farming with new mechanized farming of variety crops for sustainable growth and development. So, we need to do all we can together to find the best ways for this new paradigm shift to work more efficiently and deliver results for vulnerable communities.

Mr President, my Government is committed to ending hunger in Liberia and achieving the aims of strengthening the entire agricultural chain, from improving the quality of seeds, to connecting farmers to local markets, to connecting local markets to regional and global ones, to encouraging crop diversity and health education so that people get the nutrition they need to thrive. But to capitalize on our potential, our farmers need better seeds (particularly those suitable for a wet weather environment), fertilizers and technologies, as well as companies that can connect farmers with export markets.

In our engagement with your organization, IFAD has proved to be a crucial ally. In 2009, after 20 years, IFAD re-engaged with Liberia. The IFAD-funded project in Liberia has a focus on “making markets work” for the rural poor, building and maintaining roads, and developing processing and storage facilities. IFAD has also supported skills development for small farmers and building resilience and sufficiency at the community level. Under this much-cherished Agriculture Sector Rehabilitation Project, our farmers who participate in community-based organizations are reimbursed with seeds or livestock. This is creating a virtuous cycle of benefits in our rural communities, while at the same time ensuring strengthened community-based organizations.

My government appreciates your support in revitalizing smallholder tree crops and strengthening farmers’ cooperatives, which will play a crucial role in ensuring sustained incomes for farmers.

There are many challenges ahead of us in the developing community. However, if we work as a cooperative community, and encourage smallholders to do the same, we can meet these challenges. We have to ensure that farmers are organized, that they understand the risks posed by both climate change and food price volatility, and provide them with the opportunity to grow more, sell more, eat better and live longer.

Thank you.

Keynote address by His Excellency Andrea Riccardi, Minister for International Cooperation and Integration Policies, the Italian Republic

It is an honour to be here today to address this distinguished assembly. You perform a very important role in persuading an often distracted global public opinion that poverty and hunger are realities that we must continually tackle – not as a one-off emergency but, regrettably, as a undeniable constant in the chronicle of our times.

Vertiginous change and geopolitical challenges demand, indeed monopolize, our attention. Upheaval in the Middle East and the Arab world, turbulence in an African continent beset by poverty alongside opportunities created by a wealth of natural and human resources – and also the rising stars of Asia and Latin America. So many changes; there is no end to them. And it is fitting that we pay attention to these realities. Certainly I – as a passionate observer of the unfolding events of our times – would not refute that.

And yet, within this tumultuous and fascinating picture, there are facts that must not be neglected. Recent famines in the Horn of Africa and the Sahel are peremptory reminders that food security is a priority for the global agenda. Sadly, hunger continues to be a reality. We must not forget this, or take it off our agenda for political action. There are many priorities for all our countries – including Italy, now in the throes of an economic crisis. But food security, combating hunger: this is the priority of all priorities. Indeed – as President Monti has confirmed – the food crisis is even more serious than the financial one. I recently visited Niger, where I saw with my own eyes the daunting efforts facing a small country to overcome the challenges of hunger, migration, fundamentalist pressures, instability. The President of Niger, Mahamadou Issoufou, assured me that he does not wish the next drought to be synonymous with famine. There is a strong will among the region's countries to seek sustainable ways to guarantee food security for their people.

We know that if we are to feed a global population that will reach nine billion by the year 2050, we need to boost agricultural production by 70 per cent. That is a formidable challenge – and one that we need to start working on today. Only with forward-looking preventive action will we be able to meet such prodigious demand for food.

Combating hunger also means – and let us not forget this – investing in peace. It is a striking fact that the maps of hunger and war often overlap. Ridding the world of hunger will free the world from the poison of war. A recent study by IFAD together with the International Food Policy Research Institute examined the links between rural development, food security and conflict. They reached a compelling conclusion: social conflict is more likely to occur when the benefits of economic growth fail to reach the poorest members of society. And poverty is attributable primarily to underinvestment in agriculture. So agriculture is the quintessential sector for combating poverty. I for one have been convinced for many years, not only that war engenders poverty, but that hunger and poverty engender war and violence.

President Nwanze, allow me to thank you for the invitation to address this assembly. I can assure you that Italy follows IFAD's work very closely and that the Italian Government has a clear interest in your organization. The increase in Italy's contribution to the Ninth Replenishment of IFAD's Resources is a tangible sign of trust. The message is unequivocal, at a time when our country has unfortunately had to cut resources in a number of cooperation sectors. Furthermore, public opinion in Italy follows IFAD's actions with great interest – as you will have observed during your time here.

Your role of supporting smallholder farmers in developing countries is among the most effective responses in combating hunger. Such support targets four fifths of the true

protagonists in the fight against hunger and poverty – women in particular. The United Nations has aptly dedicated the eighth of March this year to the role of rural women. These women hold enormous potential to change the course of history for the agricultural world. We must fight, every day and in every way, to avoid the catastrophes that attract public opinion only once it is too late.

IFAD has kept faith in its mission even during the years when support for smallholders waned worldwide. IFAD is quite unique in its dual nature, adding value by combining the experience and competence of an international financial institution with the inclusiveness of a United Nations agency.

Within the G-20 sphere, Italy has endorsed a major plan of action on food price volatility and agriculture. It is crucial that we take timely steps to mitigate the fluctuations in food prices that lead to hunger, malnutrition and social unrest in many countries. But the plan does not call for immediate action alone. We cannot limit ourselves to emergency measures. All too often firefighters arrive after the fact, when the fire has already taken many human lives. And sometimes the fires cannot be extinguished.

We need to work on medium- and long-term measures as well. IFAD is increasingly qualified as one of the key actors on food security, boosting agricultural productivity and, not least, identifying ways to raise incomes for rural people. It also focuses on non-agricultural activities. In many parts of the world jobs need to be created for women and young people who otherwise have no option but to migrate to towns and cities.

So we need to think about a future for the rural world whereby new relationships are forged between town and countryside.

I am not an expert in agriculture or rural development. My perspective is that of someone who has spent most of his life seeking to understand the human condition and help those who are marginalized. I consider IFAD to be part of the heritage of humanity because of the vision it nurtures, at a time when we are often muddling through with no vision for the future. And the vision is this: to enable poor rural people to achieve a better standard of living and greater food security. This means livelihoods for millions of women and men, a revitalized rural world and avoiding human desertification in the countryside – and yes, this kind of desertification exists as well!

As Minister for International Cooperation and Integration, I commend IFAD's initiative to leverage migrants' remittances – the investments of the diaspora – to combat rural poverty. Remittances are the world's greatest resource for cooperation. I have undertaken to work towards lowering taxes on remittances in consideration of their significant impact in many parts of the world today.

Agriculture can offer a sustainable way out of poverty for many smallholder farmers – but if they are to take that way out, they need access to sufficient water. They need secure land tenure and use; they need money and credit to buy fertilizers and farm equipment. They need functioning markets. When they are landless, they need jobs so that they can make a living. Otherwise, they will be trapped in the vicious cycle of poverty – dying of hunger or malnutrition in the most tragic instances. We need an ambitious policy, one that goes beyond helping out in emergencies. We need a vision for the future. And so I am delighted to be giving the floor later to Bill Gates, who will help us imagine a world in which investing in agriculture can markedly reduce poverty.

In my capacity as Minister for International Cooperation and Integration of Italy, I consider it a priority for my country to forge a new political culture of development aid. We have faced difficult times in the past, and do so again today. At such times we are tempted to close ranks, perhaps even to say "now that we are poorer and in crisis, we can't afford to think about the rest of the world". On the contrary, I am convinced that

even at difficult times countries such as Italy should build cooperation into their vision for the future, as part of living responsibly in our globalized world. This is the goal I work towards every day.

If we are to be credible in our own eyes, as well as those of the world, we must invest more resources and more ideas. We shall do our best to increase resources – but Italy, as IFAD's second largest donor, is already doing its part in this regard.

When it comes to contributing ideas, here are just some of the areas where we can do more and better: coming up with technological innovations to improve nutrition, developing farmers' associations, supporting fragile states – indeed, in the last instance, agriculture is a vital reality.

Expo 2015 in Milan, on the theme "Feeding the Planet, Energy for Life", will coincide with the deadline set to achieve the Millennium Development Goals. This is an ideal time to summarize the initiatives under way to halve the number of people living with hunger. Allow me to draw your attention to this important event.

Hunger is not only a humanitarian issue but also an economic one. Not to address it would be a serious error. If we fail to protect children during the critical period of growth and development, a whole generation could be destroyed. The adverse impact could delay a country's economic development for decades. It is just as absurd to imagine that an economy can be reactivated when most of its workers are malnourished – or worse, suffering the double affliction of malnutrition and AIDS. Ensuring minimum standards of nutrition is a key objective of a developing country's policy.

In closing, I should like to draw your attention to the need to promote rural people's legal rights – civil registration above all, but also land tenure and access to credit. This begins with the right to exist – civil records are now often lacking for children – leading gradually to other rights and, ultimately, the right to a decent life free of poverty and hunger.

IFAD's focus on access to safe water takes on special significance in view of the upcoming World Water Forum to be held in Marseilles. We support the African Development Bank in its efforts to promote safe water access in Africa.

As a Roman, I see your presence here as a reminder of this city's universal vocation. As the historian Theodor Mommsen said, to be in Rome calls for cosmopolitan purposes. You represent a great cosmopolitan purpose. It is my hope that this city and all of Italy will rise to the challenge to better interact with that cosmopolitan and globalized world that you represent, and do their part to fulfil the destiny of mankind.

Synthesis of Deliberations of the Fourth Global Meeting of the Farmers' Forum

We, the participants in the fourth global meeting of the Farmers' Forum, representing millions of small- and medium-scale family farmers, pastoralists and artisanal fishers (including rural youth), reiterate our appreciation of the Farmers' Forum process and its contribution to bringing the voice of smallholder farmers into the country strategies and programmes of IFAD. There are encouraging achievements in the coverage and diversity of our partnerships in country programmes. There is considerable potential to build upon and improve what has been achieved. Yet a lot more needs to be done. This is of utmost urgency, given the challenges that we face.

Demands on agriculture are ever increasing. Natural resources – land, seeds, water, fisheries, pastures – are being depleted and contaminated, while competition for these resources is becoming ever more fierce. A serious threat to the future of agriculture is that young people face great hardship in building a dignified life in the rural areas. More often than not, they are given no viable alternative but to abandon their villages and migrate to cities or abroad.

Five hundred million smallholder and family farms produce four-fifths of the food consumed in the developing world. Sustainable smallholder and family agriculture is, therefore, the foundation of food security, poverty reduction and sustainable management of natural resources.

We call upon IFAD to:

Establish, together with other development partners (such as the European Commission and bilateral donors), a dedicated grant window, within its grant programme, to provide direct and inclusive support to the organizations representing small scale rural producers, family farmers, pastoralists and artisanal fishers (FOs).

Direct country teams to systematically and actively engage the participation of FOs in the design, implementation, and monitoring and evaluation of country strategic opportunities programmes (COSOPs), programmes and projects. FOs have the ability and expertise to carry out diverse roles. IFAD should support initiatives for the creation and strengthening of existing spaces for dialogue between FOs and governments at the regional level.

Institutionalize the participation of FOs in the monitoring and evaluation systems so that they can influence projects and have access to key information. Develop indicators to assess impact of IFAD support extended to FOs from the grassroots level up to the national level.

Strengthen knowledge management and support FOs capacity for knowledge management to enhance their organizational and professional capacity for better service provision and income generation. Identify good practices carried out by family farmers and their organizations and increase investments (finance, technology, capacity building) in their scaling up and replication.

Support the implementation of voluntary guidelines on small-scale fisheries and responsible governance of land tenure and fisheries at the national level and facilitate FO participation in these processes.

Support FO engagement in Rio+20 processes by providing information on events and financial support for participation and the organizing of side events. Similarly, support FOs' engagement and activities to maximize opportunities to promote smallholder agriculture and family farming in preparation for and during the 2014 International Year of Family Farming.

Hold a special session on small-scale fisheries during the next global meeting of the Farmers' Forum to promote understanding of their role in food security and increase the recognition and visibility of their sector before policymakers.

In the years of the global meeting of the Farmers' Forum, invite FO representatives to participate as resource persons in the Executive Board meetings when the Synthesis of Deliberations is submitted for information. Their participation will enrich the Executive Board informal seminars when policies and decisions of interest to FOs are discussed.

We call upon governments to:

Recognize the importance of smallholder and family farming by mainstreaming them into the policy and programming framework of their countries, including integration into the educational system.

Increase and uphold public investments in smallholder agriculture – with a special focus on women and youth – to develop entrepreneurial capacities and create viable livelihoods in the rural areas. Develop policies and programmes to provide smallholder farmers and the landless with secure access to land, long-term financing, markets and vocational and entrepreneurial training.

Implement favourable policies on trade and agriculture to safeguard smallholders from the risks of world market dynamics. Propose dialogue and a concrete action plan with FOs in every country as part of the preparatory activities for the International Year of Family Farming.

Recognize FOs as legitimate stakeholders and economic actors. Put in place or strengthen existing mechanisms for their representation in the development and evaluation of policies and programmes to enhance accountability and ensure that these benefit smallholder farmers, especially women and youth.

Adopt and implement the voluntary guidelines on responsible governance of land tenure and fisheries and small-scale fisheries.

In the context of Rio+20, recognize that sustainable development must be centered on the development of smallholder family agriculture, by and with rural women, men and youth, fishers and herders.

We call upon our organizations to:

Commit to work together, in solidarity and mutual trust, to promote our common agenda and reinforce our influence at all levels. Immediate global opportunities to do so are the Rio+20 Summit and the International Year of Family Farming.

Build our organizations as strong and credible institutions capable of influencing our governments and other stakeholders, supported by evidence-based research, studies and knowledge.

Enhance our institutional capacity, with participatory monitoring and evaluation systems, to assess and report on our impact and effectiveness to our members and partners.

Create space for young women and men and ensure their representation in leadership and decision-making and foster intergenerational dialogue and knowledge sharing. Support them to build their own organizations and strive to develop models that will enhance the image of farming and inspire young people to become active forces in the development of our rural worlds.

Establish a quota of at least 30 per cent of young farmer representatives (half of them women) for the next global meeting of the Farmers' Forum in consultation with

organizations representing youth farmers. Most importantly, youth should be represented in the Forum Steering Committee.

The Youth Forum held in Rome that brought together our young women and men in agriculture has generated great enthusiasm for their potential to contribute to new and better rural realities in a developing world. Their declaration provides concrete recommendations to all development actors and shall be made available in its entirety.

Statement by the President of the International Fund for Agricultural Development, Mr Kanayo F. Nwanze to the closing session of the thirty-fifth session of the Governing Council

Madam Chairperson,
 Excellencies,
 Distinguished Governors,
 Guests,
 Ladies and Gentlemen,

In a few minutes our Chairperson, Her Excellency Marie-Josée Jacobs, will officially bring this thirty-fifth session of IFAD's Governing Council to a close. But before she does, I would like to thank everyone for their active participation.

Your energy and your commitment – to IFAD, to food security and to rural development – give me hope for the future.

For the past two days, there has been a steady buzz of conversation and activity as ministers and governors mingled with farmers, IFAD staff and other development professionals. We conducted the official business of the Governing Council, but we also shared experiences and ideas on how to feed the world and protect the planet.

As His Excellency Mario Monti, the Italian Prime Minister, said on this very stage yesterday – and Minister Andrea Riccardi reiterated today – the global food security crisis is wider and deeper than the financial and economic crisis.

There were heated debates during some of our panel sessions, but one thing all of us can agree on is that there is only one way to ensure sustainable food security and lasting poverty reduction. And that is to focus on the small farmers who live in developing countries.

As His Excellency Paul Kagame, President of Rwanda, said "every farmer counts. None is too small to be ignored."

The world's 500 million small farms support some 2 billion people. They are the main source of food and livelihoods in most developing countries.

As we work to support small farmers, and all poor rural people, we will continue to work with our traditional partners. We will also expand our engagement with the private and philanthropic sectors. Partners like Bill Gates, who gave such a thought-provoking presentation this morning, bring a fresh perspective to our work.

We will continue to play to our strength, of knowing and responding to the reality on the ground.

There is no magic bullet, no secret formula that will eliminate poverty and guarantee sustainable food security overnight.

There are many solutions, but each must be targeted to the conditions of a specific region, or even a specific village. Each must reflect the needs and desires of local communities. We must build their capacity and empower them from the ground up.

As we look to the medium and the long term, for lasting food security for all, we will invest in innovation, research and infrastructure that enable farmers to store and sell, as well as grow.

We will not measure our results by higher yields alone but by reduced poverty, improved nutrition and healthy ecosystems.

As Dr Lindiwe Majele Sibanda said yesterday, you can't eat tomatoes for breakfast, lunch and dinner. Farming, no matter how small, is a business. And farmers need to make a profit from their business so they can eat a balanced diet, manage their land sustainably, educate their children and invest in their businesses.

At this time when our planet needs to support more life on limited arable land, we will ensure that the agricultural development we support is sustainable – ecologically as well as economically.

Some of the problems we see with production systems of today stem from the unsustainable practices of the past. In the context of climate change, it is even more important that we support sustainable intensification of smallholder systems.

In all of our efforts we will count on you, our partners, to lend your voice and your support for food security, rural development and poverty reduction – not just for today and tomorrow, but for the generations to come.

Thank you.

Statement by the Vice-Chairperson, His Excellency Miguel Ruiz Cabañas Izquierdo, closing the thirty-fifth session of the Governing Council

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

We have reached the conclusion of the thirty-fifth session of the Governing Council. We have had the privilege of listening to the words of President Nwanze who today and yesterday has repeated his personal commitment and the commitment of all IFAD staff to this cause, which is the rural development of the poor in developing countries.

I think the Governing Council has been extremely intense, extremely rich. We had the privilege and the honour to have His Excellency Paul Kagame, President of the Republic of Rwanda and also to listen to His Excellency Mario Monti, President of the Council of Ministers and Minister for Economy and Finance of the Italian Republic. We had the privilege to listen to His Excellency Joseph Nyuma Boakai, Vice-President of Liberia and the Minister for International Cooperation and Integration Policies of Italy, His Excellency Andrea Riccardi, and also the various Ministers in this extremely diverse panel, Nigeria, Turkey and Bolivia, three Ministers who shared with us their knowledge and know how. We also had the participation of two fresh points of view such as those of Dr Lindiwe Majele Sibanda and Bill Gates, who suggested new points of view, new ideas that I am sure will be taken up in the debates of the Executive Board and other organizations in Rome.

I would also like to welcome two new states, Estonia and South Sudan, and the best thing is that we discussed all the subjects on our agenda, nothing was left out.

I would especially like to stress that the main objective of this Governing Council was that of animating and strengthening the Ninth Replenishment and it was a success. To date 49 countries have made pledges for the Ninth Replenishment for a sum that is already close to US\$1 billion. In the last few days, ten countries have made new pledges for around US\$90 million. I think that is proof of what we have seen here today: this is an IFAD that has known how to restructure, how to show that it is more dynamic and now it is receiving the support of governments, civil society, and other international associations. I think that this is good news for all of us.

I would like to contribute to the food security of everyone and would like to close this session as it is 1.30 p.m. We will close the meeting.



Enabling poor rural people
to overcome poverty

الخامسة والثلاثين لمجلس المحافظين

Delegations at the thirty-fifth session of the Governing Council

Délégation à la trente-cinquième session du Conseil des gouverneurs

Delegaciones en el 35º período de sesiones del Consejo de Gobernadores

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Chairperson: Marie-Josée Jacobs
Président: (Luxembourg)
Presidente:

نائب الرئيس:

Vice-Chairpersons: Bambang Brodjonegoro (Indonesia)
Vice-Présidents: Miguel Ruiz Cabañas Izquierdo
Vicepresidentes: (Mexico)

الدول الأعضاء

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| Alternate Governor | Abdul Razak AYAZI Agricultural Attaché Alternate Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan to IFAD Rome |

ALBANIA

| | |
|---------------------|--|
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* تشير علامة * كل مرة تظهر فيها في القائمة، على التكليف مقصور على هذه الدورة فقط.

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ALBANIA (cont'd)

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Director
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Tirana

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First Secretary
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of the Republic of Albania to the
United Nations Food and
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Rome

ALGERIA

Gouverneur Rachid BENAÏSSA
Ministre de l'agriculture et
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République algérienne démocratique
et populaire auprès des organisations
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Rome

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Chef de Cabinet du Ministre de l'agriculture
et du développement rural
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et financières internationales
Ministère des affaires étrangères
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Représentant permanent suppléant de
la République algérienne démocratique
et populaire auprès des organisations
spécialisées des Nations Unies
Rome

ALGERIA (cont'd)

Nawal BENBACHIR
Sous-directeur
Direction générale des relations économiques
et financières extérieures
Ministère des finances
Alger

Fatiha DJEHICHE
Inspectrice
Ministère de l'agriculture et
du développement rural
Alger

Abdelkader BENKHEIRA
Sous-directeur des reboisements
Ministère de l'agriculture et
du développement rural
Alger

Fatiha BAGHOUS
Sous-directrice de la coopération
Ministère de l'agriculture et
du développement rural
Alger

Karima BOUBEKEUR
Secrétaire
Représentant permanent suppléant de
la République algérienne démocratique
et populaire auprès des organisations
spécialisées des Nations Unies
Rome

Youcef IKHLEF
Conseiller
Ministère de l'agriculture et
du développement rural
Alger

ANGOLA

José Amaro TATI
Secrétaire d'Etat de l'agriculture
Ministère de l'agriculture, développement rural
et pêches
Luanda

Joao Marciiano CHILALA
Conseiller
Chargé d'affaires, a.i.
Ambassade de la République d'Angola
Rome

ANGOLA (cont'd)

Tomás Pedro CAETANO
 Directeur générale de l'Institut des forêts
 Ministère de l'agriculture, développement rural
 et pêches
 Luanda

Manuel DOMINGOS
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 de la République d'Angola
 auprès du FIDA
 Rome

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 Chef du Département des pêches
 Ministère de l'agriculture, développement rural
 et pêches
 Luanda

Ferreira DA CONCEIÇÃO
 Consultant du Cabinet du Secrétaire d'État
 Ministère de l'agriculture, développement rural
 et pêches
 Luanda

Rosalinda LOMBENDO PAULINO
 Secrétaire
 Ministère de l'agriculture, développement rural
 et pêches
 Luanda

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Gobernador*

Daniela ALVAREZ
 Secretaría de Política y Planificación del Desarrollo
 Ministerio de Economía y Finanzas Públicas
 Buenos Aires

Gustavo O. INFANTE
 Ministro
 Representante Permanente Adjunto
 de la República Argentina
 ante la FAO, FIDA y PMA
 Roma

ARGENTINA (cont'd)

Jorge NEME
 Coordinador Ejecutivo del Programa de
 Servicios Agrícolas Provinciales
 Subsecretaría de Política Agropecuaria y Alimentos
 Ministerio de Agricultura, Ganadería y Pesca
 Buenos Aires

Agustín ZIMMERMANN
 Secretario
 Representante Permanente Alternativo
 de la República Argentina
 ante la FAO, FIDA y PMA
 Roma

ARMENIA

Alternate Governor

Zohrab V. MALEK
 Ambassador
 Permanent Representative of the
 Republic of Armenia to the United Nations
 Food and Agriculture Agencies
 Rome

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Günther SCHÖNLEITNER
 Director
 Head of the Division for
 International Financial Institutions
 Federal Ministry of Finance
 Vienna

Alternate Governor

Klaus OEHLER
 Deputy Director
 International Financial Institutions
 Federal Ministry of Finance
 Vienna

Adviser

Hannes MACHOR
 Counsellor
 Embassy of the Republic
 of Austria
 Rome

AZERBAIJAN

Bahram ALIYEV
 Deputy Minister for Agriculture
 Baku

AZERBAIJAN (cont'd)

Alternate Governor*

Vaqif SADIQOV
 Ambassador
 Permanent Representative of the
 Republic of Azerbaijan to the United Nations
 Agencies for Food and Agriculture
 Rome

Husniyya MAMMADOVA
 Deputy Head of Department of
 Economic Cooperation and Development
 Ministry of Foreign Affairs
 Baku

Vuqar MEHDIYEV
 Deputy Director
 State Agency for Agricultural Credits
 Ministry of Agriculture
 Baku

Fuad FARZALIBAYOV
 Second Secretary
 Deputy Permanent Representative of the
 Republic of Azerbaijan to the United Nations
 Agencies for Food and Agriculture
 Rome

BANGLADESH

Alternate Governor

Monzur HOSSAIN
 Secretary
 Ministry of Agriculture
 Dhaka

Masud BIN MOMEN
 Ambassador
 Permanent Representative
 of the People's Republic
 of Bangladesh to IFAD
 Rome

Sultana AFROZ
 Economic Counsellor
 Alternate Permanent Representative
 of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
 to IFAD
 Rome

BELGIUM

Gouverneur

Vincent MERTENS DE WILMARS
Ambassadeur
Représentant permanent de la
Belgique auprès des organisations
des Nations Unies
Rome

Martine VAN DOOREN
Ministre Conseiller
Représentant permanent adjoint de
la Belgique auprès des organisations
des Nations Unies
Rome

Pieter VERMAERKE
Attaché
Programme des Nations Unies et
Institutions Bretton Woods
Bruxelles

Marc HEIRMAN
Conseiller
Représentant permanent suppléant de
la Belgique auprès des organisations
des Nations Unies
Rome

Lieselot GERMONPREZ
Assistante
Représentation permanente de la
Belgique auprès des organisations
des Nations Unies
Rome

BELIZE

Nunzio Alfredo D'ANGIERI
Ambassador of Belize to Italy
Rome

Dora MELÉNDEZ QUIÑÓNEZ
Assistant to the Ambassador
Embassy of Belize
Rome

BENIN

Marie Rosemonde DEFFON YAKOUBOU
 Ambassadeur
 Représentant permanent de la
 République du Bénin auprès
 du FIDA
 Rome

BHUTAN

| | |
|---------------------|---|
| Governor | Pema GYAMTSHO Minister for Agriculture and Forests Thimphu |
| Alternate Governor* | Mr SANGAY Program Director Agriculture, Marketing and Enterprise Promotion Program Ministry of Agriculture and Forests Thimphu |
| Adviser | Pema THINLEY Senior Planning Officer Policy and Planning Division Ministry of Agriculture and Forests Thimphu |

BOLIVIA (PLURINATIONAL STATE OF)

| | |
|---------------------|---|
| | Nemesia ACHACOLLO TOLA Ministra de Desarrollo Rural y Tierras La Paz |
| Gobernador | Grover Alberto TERAN GAMBOA Embajador Representante Permanente del Estado Plurinacional de Bolivia ante los Organismos de las Naciones Unidas Roma |
| Gobernador Suplente | Eduardo UGARTECHE PAZ SOLDÁN Consejero Representante Permanente Alternativo del Estado Plurinacional de Bolivia ante los Organismos de las Naciones Unidas Roma |

BOLIVIA (PLURINATIONAL STATE OF) (cont'd)

Roxana OLLER CATOIRA
 Segundo Secretario
 Representante Permanente Alterno
 del Estado Plurinacional de Bolivia
 ante los Organismos de las
 Naciones Unidas
 Roma

BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

Alternate Governor

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

Suad ČAMDŽIĆ
 Advisor to the Minister
 Ministry of Agriculture, Water Management and
 Forestry of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina
 Sarajevo

Halil OMANOVIĆ
 Director
 Project Coordination Unit for Agriculture Projects
 Ministry of Agriculture, Water Management and
 Forestry of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina
 Sarajevo

Radenko JEFTIĆ
 Director
 Project Coordination Unit for Agriculture Projects
 Ministry of Agriculture, Water Management and
 Forestry of the Republika Srpska
 Bijelina

Mile BANJAC
 Engineer for Rural Infrastructure
 Ministry of Agriculture, Water Management and
 Forestry of the Republika Srpska
 Bijelina

BOTSWANA

Christiaan de GRAAFF
 Minister for Agriculture
 Gaborone

BOTSWANA (cont'd)

Michael MANOWE
Agricultural Attaché
Ministry of Agriculture
Gaborone

BRAZIL

Alternate Governor

Carlos Augusto VIDOTTO
Secretary for International Affairs
Ministry of Planning, Budget and Management
Brasilia, D.F.

Cláudia Angélica VASQUES SILVA
First Secretary
Alternate Permanent Representative
of the Federative Republic of Brazil
to the United Nations Food and
Agricultural Agencies
Rome

BURKINA FASO

Tibila KABORE
Secrétaire général
Ministère de l'économie et des finances
Ouagadougou

Saïdou ZONGO
Premier Conseiller
Chargé d'affaires, a.i.
Ambassade du Burkina Faso
Rome

Laurent Diandioua COULIDIATI
Conseiller chargé des questions agricoles
Représentant permanent adjoint
du Burkina Faso auprès
du FIDA
Rome

Jacques ZIDA
Conseiller technique du
Ministre de l'économie et des finances
Ouagadougou

BURUNDI

| | |
|----------------------|---|
| Gouverneur | Tabu Abdallah MANIRAKIZA Ministre des finances et de la planification du développement économique Bujumbura |
| Gouverneur suppléant | Odette KAYITESI Ministre de l'agriculture et de l'élevage Bujumbura |
| | Joseph NTIRANDEKURA Conseiller technique du Ministre des finances et de la planification du développement économique Bujumbura |
| | Rénovat NDAYIRUKIYE Ambassadeur Représentant permanent de la République du Burundi auprès des organisations spécialisées des Nations Unies Rome |
| | Macaire NAHIMANA Premier Conseiller Représentant permanent suppléant de la République du Burundi auprès des organisations spécialisées des Nations Unies Rome |

CAMEROON

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|----------------------|---|
| Gouverneur | Clémentine ANANGA MESSINA Ministre déléguée auprès du Ministre de l'agriculture et du développement rural Yaoundé |
| Gouverneur suppléant | Dominique AWONO ESSAMA Ambassadeur Représentant permanent de la République du Cameroun auprès du FIDA Rome |
| | Médi MOUNGUI Deuxième Conseiller Représentant permanent adjoint de la République du Cameroun auprès du FIDA Rome |

CAMEROON (cont'd)

Patrick MVONDO NNA
 Directeur des études, programmes
 et coopération
 Ministère de l'agriculture et du
 développement rural
 Yaoundé

CANADA

| | |
|---------|--|
| | James Arthur FOX Ambassador Permanent Representative of Canada to IFAD Rome |
| Adviser | Ann Adair HEUCHAN Minister Counsellor Deputy Permanent Representative of Canada to IFAD Rome |
| Adviser | Debra PRICE Counsellor Deputy Permanent Representative of Canada to IFAD Rome |
| Adviser | Brad PATERSON Advisor Permanent Representation of Canada to the United Nations Food and Agriculture Agencies Rome |

CAPE VERDE

| | |
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| Gouverneur | José Eduardo BARBOSA Ambassadeur Représentant permanent de la République du Cap-Vert auprès des organisations spécialisées des Nations Unies Rome |
| Gouverneur suppléant | Sónia Cristina MARTINS Conseiller Représentant permanent adjoint de la République du Cap-Vert auprès des organisations spécialisées des Nations Unies Rome |

CHAD

Gouverneur

Djimé ADOUM
Ministre de l'agriculture et de l'irrigation
N'Djaména

Hassan TCHONAÏ ELIMI
Ambassadeur
Représentant permanent de
la République du Tchad
auprès du FIDA
Berlin

CHILE

Rodrigo GUZMÁN
Primer Secretario
Representación Permanente
de la República de Chile
ante el FIDA
Roma

CHINA

WU Jinkang
Deputy Director-General
International Department
Ministry of Finance
Beijing

LI Xinhai
Counsellor
Deputy Permanent Representative
of the People's Republic of China
to the United Nations Food and
Agriculture Agencies
Rome

YE Jiandi
Director
International Department
Ministry of Finance
Beijing

SUI Li
Second Secretary
Alternate Permanent Representative
of the People's Republic of China
to the United Nations Food and
Agriculture Agencies
Rome

CHINA (cont'd)

REN Yi
Third Secretary
Alternate Permanent Representative
of the People's Republic of China
to the United Nations Food and
Agriculture Agencies
Rome

COLOMBIA

Gobernador

Juan Manuel PRIETO MONTOYA
Embajador
Representante Permanente de
la República de Colombia ante
los Organismos Especializados de
las Naciones Unidas
Roma

Gobernador Suplente

María Victoria SALCEDO BOLIVAR
Consejero
Representante Permanente Alterno
de la República de Colombia ante
los Organismos Especializados de
las Naciones Unidas
Roma

COMOROS

Djaza Ahmed MOHAMED
Conseiller spécial
Vice-présidence en charge du
Ministère de la production, de l'environnement,
de l'énergie, de l'industrie et de l'artisanat
Moroni

Mohamed HALIFA
Délégué en charge
de l'agriculture et de la pêche
Ministère de la production, de l'environnement,
de l'énergie, de l'industrie et de l'artisanat
Moroni

CONGO

Gouverneur

Rigobert MABOUNDOU
Ministre de l'agriculture et de l'élevage
Brazzaville

CONGO (cont'd)

Gouverneur suppléant

Mamadou KAMARA DEKAMO
Ambassadeur
Représentant permanent de
la République du Congo
auprès du FIDA
Rome

Jem AYOULOVE
Ministre Conseiller
Représentant permanent suppléant
de la République du Congo
auprès du FIDA
Rome

Marc MANKOUSSOU
Conseiller
Représentant permanent suppléant
de la République du Congo
auprès du FIDA
Rome

Jean BAKADISSA
Attaché au Génie rural et au machinisme agricole
Cabinet du Ministre de l'agriculture
et de l'élevage
Brazzaville

Irène Patricia LOUMETO BOUTOTO
Attaché aux relations publiques
Cabinet du Ministre de l'agriculture
et de l'élevage
Brazzaville

COSTA RICA

Gobernador*

Fernando Felipe SÁNCHEZ CAMPOS
Embajador
Representante Permanente de
la República de Costa Rica
ante los Organismos de las
Naciones Unidas
Roma

Gobernador Suplente*

Orlando GUZMÁN VÁSQUEZ
Segundo Secretario
Representante Permanente Alternativo
de la República de Costa Rica
ante los Organismos de las
Naciones Unidas
Roma

CÔTE D'IVOIRE

Janine TAGLIANTE-SARACINO
Ambassadeur
Représentant permanent de la
République de Côte d'Ivoire
auprès du FIDA
Rome

Lida Lambert BALLOU
Conseiller
Représentant permanent adjoint
de la République de Côte d'Ivoire
auprès du FIDA
Rome

Aminata FOFANA KONE
Conseiller
Chargée des affaires sportives
et touristiques
Ambassade de la République
de Côte d'Ivoire
Rome

Marie Hortense GUEI SEKOUET
Chargée d'Etudes
Ambassade de la République
de Côte d'Ivoire
Rome

CUBA

Gobernador Suplente

Milagros Carina SOTO AGÜERO
Embajadora
Representante Permanente de
la República de Cuba
ante el FIDA
Roma

Asesor

Silvia María ALVAREZ ROSSELL
Primer Secretario
Representante Permanente Adjunto
de la República de Cuba
ante el FIDA
Roma

Asesor

Luís Alberto MARIN LLANES
Tercer Secretario
Representante Permanente Alterno
de la República de Cuba
ante el FIDA
Roma

CYPRUS

Alternate Governor
 Christina PITTA
 Agricultural Attaché
 Alternate Permanent Representative
 of the Republic of Cyprus to the
 United Nations Food and
 Agriculture Agencies
 Rome

DEMOCRATIC PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF KOREA

HAN Tae Song
 Ambassador
 Permanent Representative of the
 Democratic People's Republic of Korea
 to IFAD
 Rome

KIM Hyo Sik
 Counsellor
 Deputy Permanent Representative of the
 Democratic People's Republic of Korea
 to IFAD
 Rome

PANG Kwang Hyok
 Counsellor
 Deputy Permanent Representative-designate
 of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea
 to IFAD
 Rome

Adviser
 KIM Chol Min
 Attaché
 Alternate Permanent Representative of the
 Democratic People's Republic of Korea
 to IFAD
 Rome

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

Gouverneur suppléant
 Hubert ALI RAMAZANI
 Secrétaire général à l'agriculture,
 pêche et élevage
 Kinshasa-Gombe

Albert TSHISELEKA FELHA
 Ambassadeur
 Représentant permanent de
 la République démocratique
 du Congo auprès du FIDA
 Rome

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO (cont'd)

Olivier NGABU BURA
 Responsable des études de la
 coopération bi et multilatérales
 Ministère des finances
 Kinshasa-Gombe

Placide A MUKELANGE
 Directeur du Bureau de
 liaison projets FIDA/RDC
 Ministère de l'agriculture
 Kinshasa-Gombe

DENMARK

Birger RIIS-JØRGENSEN
 Ambassador
 Permanent Representative
 of the Kingdom of Denmark
 to IFAD
 Rome

Alternate Governor

Maj HESSEL
 Minister Counsellor
 Deputy Permanent Representative
 of the Kingdom of Denmark
 to IFAD
 Rome

Adviser

Signe Kolbye SØRENSEN
 Attaché
 The Royal Danish Embassy
 Rome

DJIBOUTI

Gouverneur*

Amareh ALI SAID
 Ministre délégué du Budget
 Djibouti

Idriss ABDYOU ALI
 Secrétaire général
 Ministère de l'agriculture,
 de la pêche, de l'élevage et
 des ressources halieutiques
 Djibouti

DJIBOUTI (cont'd)

Djama Mahamoud DOUALEH
 Conseiller technique du Cabinet
 du Ministre de l'agriculture
 de la pêche, de l'élevage et
 des ressources halieutiques
 Djibouti

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

Gobernador

Mario ARVELO CAAMAÑO
 Embajador
 Representante Permanente de la
 República Dominicana ante
 el FIDA
 Roma

Gobernador Suplente*

María Cristina LAUREANO PEÑA
 Primera Secretaria
 Misión Permanente de la
 República Dominicana ante los
 Organismos de las Naciones Unidas
 Roma

ECUADOR

Gobernador

Carlos VALLEJO LÓPEZ
 Embajador
 Representante Permanente
 de la República del Ecuador
 ante el FIDA
 Roma

Asesor

José Antonio CARRANZA
 Primer Secretario
 Representante Permanente Alternativo
 de la República del Ecuador
 ante el FIDA
 Roma

EGYPT

Alternate Governor*

Mohamed Farid MONIB
 Ambassador
 Permanent Representative of
 the Arab Republic of Egypt to
 the United Nations Food and
 Agriculture Agencies
 Rome

EGYPT (cont'd)

Essam Osman FAYED
 Minister Plenipotentiary
 Head of the Agricultural Office
 Deputy Permanent Representative
 of the Arab Republic of Egypt to
 the United Nations Food and
 Agriculture Agencies
 Rome

Fatma Hussein SABER
 Third Secretary
 Alternate Permanent Representative
 of the Arab Republic of Egypt to
 the United Nations Food and
 Agriculture Agencies
 Rome

EL SALVADOR

Gobernador

Aida Luz SANTOS DE ESCOBAR
 Embajadora de la República
 de El Salvador ante el
 Gobierno Italiano
 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 Suplente*

Diosdado Sergio OSA MONGOMO
 Vice Ministro de Agricultura y Bosques
 Malabo

Crisantos OBAMA ONDO
 Representante Permanente de la
 República de Guinea Ecuatorial
 ante los Organismos de las
 Naciones Unidas
 Roma

Mateo NSOGO NGUERE MICUE
 Coordinador
 Ministerio de Agricultura y Bosques
 Malabo

ERITREA

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Arefaine BERHE
Minister for Agriculture
Asmara

Mustafa NUR HUSSIEN
Governor of the Debub Region
Mendefera

Alternate Governor
Zemedo TEKLE WOLDETATIOS
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of
the State of Eritrea to IFAD
Rome

Yohannes TENSUE
First Secretary
Alternate Permanent Representative
of the State of Eritrea to IFAD
Rome

ETHIOPIA

Abreha Ghebrai ASEFFA
Minister Plenipotentiary
Deputy Permanent Representative
of the Federal Democratic Republic
of Ethiopia to IFAD
Rome

Kassa TASISSA
Counsellor
Embassy of the Federal Democratic
Republic of Ethiopia
Rome

FIJI

Peceli Vuniwaqa VOCEA
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of
the Republic of Fiji to IFAD
Brussels

FINLAND

Alternate Governor*

Christian LINDHOLM
 Counsellor
 Unit for Development
 Financing Institutions
 Ministry of Foreign Affairs
 Helsinki

Adviser

Merja Ethel SUNDBERG
 Minister Counsellor
 Permanent Representative
 of the Republic of Finland
 to the United Nations Food
 and Agriculture Agencies
 Rome

Adviser

Suvi TURJA
 Programme Officer
 Embassy of the Republic
 of Finland
 Rome

FRANCE

Gouverneur*

Alain DAMAIS
 Chef du Bureau de l'aide au
 développement et des institutions
 multilatérales de développement
 Direction générale du Trésor et de
 la politique économique (DGTPE)
 Ministère de l'économie, des
 finances et de l'industrie
 Paris

Pierre-Eloi BRUYERRE
 Adjoint au Chef du Bureau de l'aide au
 développement et des institutions
 multilatérales de développement
 Direction générale du Trésor et de
 la politique économique (DGTPE)
 Ministère de l'économie, des
 finances et de l'industrie
 Paris

Cécile HUMBERT-BOUVIER
 Conseillère économique
 Adjointe au chef du Service
 économique régional
 Ambassade de France
 Service économique
 Rome

FRANCE (cont'd)

Bérengère QUINCY
 Ambassadrice
 Représentante permanente de
 la République française
 auprès de l'OAA
 Rome

Marianne CHAUMEL
 Attachée
 Représentation permanente de
 la République française
 auprès de l'OAA
 Rome

GABON

Gouverneur suppléant*

Charles ESSONGHÉ
 Ambassadeur
 Représentant permanent de
 la République gabonaise
 auprès du FIDA
 Rome

Louis Stanislas CHARICAUTH
 Conseiller
 Représentant permanent suppléant
 de la République gabonaise
 auprès du FIDA
 Rome

GEORGIA

Alternate Governor

Konstantin KOBAKHIDZE
 Vice-Minister for Agriculture
 Tbilisi

Konstantine GABASHVILI
 Ambassador
 Permanent Representative
 of Georgia to IFAD
 Rome

Natia SULAVA
 First Counsellor
 Deputy Permanent Representative
 of Georgia to IFAD
 Rome

GERMANY

| | |
|---------------------|---|
| | Friedrich-Karl BRUNS Ambassador Permanent Representative of the Federal Republic of Germany to IFAD Rome |
| Alternate Governor* | Rolf-Dieter DRESCHER Head of Division Regional Development Banks and Funds Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development Berlin |
| | Michael BAUER First Counsellor Alternate Permanent Representative of the Federal Republic of Germany to IFAD Rome |
| | Anna Magdalena RIEM Member of the Permanent Representation of the Federal Republic of Germany to FAO and the other International Organizations Rome |
| GHANA | |
| Governor | Kwesi AHWOI Minister for Food and Agriculture Accra |
| Alternate Governor* | Evelyn Anita STOKES-HAYFORD Ambassador Permanent Representative of the Republic of Ghana to IFAD Rome |
| Adviser | Samuel DAPAAH Technical Adviser Ministry of Food and Agriculture Accra |
| Adviser | Nii QUAYE-KUMAH Minister Counsellor Alternate Permanent Representative of the Republic of Ghana to IFAD Rome |

GREECE

| | |
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| Governor | Michael CAMBANIS Ambassador Permanent Representative of the Hellenic Republic to IFAD Rome |
| Alternate Governor | Nike Ekaterini KOUTRAKOU Minister Counsellor Deputy Permanent Representative of the Hellenic Republic to IFAD Rome |
| | Sarandis ANDRIKOPOULOS Special Advisor Embassy of the Hellenic Republic Rome |

GRENADA

| | |
|--------------------|---|
| Alternate Governor | Stephen FLETCHER Ambassador of Grenada Brussels |
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GUATEMALA

| | |
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| Gobernador | Alfredo TRINIDAD VELÁSQUEZ Embajador Representante Permanente de la República de Guatemala ante los Organismos de las Naciones Unidas Roma |
| Gobernador Suplente | Ileana RIVERA DE ANGOTTI Ministro Consejero Representante Permanente Adjunto de la República de Guatemala ante los Organismos de las Naciones Unidas Roma |

GUINEA

| | |
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| Gouverneur | Jean Marc TELLIANO Ministre de l'agriculture Conakry |
|------------|--|

GUINEA (cont'd)

| | |
|-----------------------|---|
| Gouverneur suppléant* | Jean Baptiste GROVOGUI Conseiller politique Chargé d'affaires, a.i. Ambassade de la République de Guinée Rome |
| Conseiller | Mohamed DIOUMESSI Conseiller technique Ministère de l'agriculture Conakry |
| Conseiller | Mamba KOUROUMA Conseiller Chargé des projets et programmes Ministère de l'agriculture Conakry |
| Conseiller | Abdoulaye TRAORE Conseiller économique Représentant permanent adjoint de la République de Guinée auprès du FIDA Rome |

HAITI

| | |
|--|---|
| | Hérbert DOCTEUR Ministre de l'agriculture, des ressources naturelles et du développement rural Port-au-Prince |
| | Jean Robert JEAN-NOEL Membre du Cabinet du Ministre de l'agriculture, des ressources naturelles et du développement rural Port-au-Prince |
| | Anthony DESSOURCES Directeur du Project de développement de la petite irrigation (PPI-2) Ministère de l'agriculture, des ressources naturelles et du développement rural Port-au-Prince |
| | Carl Benny RAYMOND Conseiller Chargé d'affaires, a.i. Ambassade de la République d'Haïti Rome |

HAITI (cont'd)

Marie-Laurence DURAND
Premier Secrétaire
Représentant permanent suppléant
de la République d'Haïti
auprès du FIDA
Rome

HONDURAS

Gobernador*

Mayra Aracely REINA DE TITTA
Ministro
Representante Permanente Alterno
de la República de Honduras
ante los Organismos de las
Naciones Unidas
Roma

HUNGARY

Governor

Zoltán KÁLMÁN
Head of Department
Department of International Relations
Ministry of Rural Development
Budapest

Alternate Governor

Balázs HAMAR
Counsellor
Permanent Representative of
Hungary to the United Nations
Food and Agriculture Agencies
Rome

ICELAND

Gudni BRAGASON
Minister Plenipotentiary
Permanent Representative of
the Republic of Iceland to the
United Nations Food and
Agriculture Agencies
Reykjavík

INDIA

Debabrata SAHA
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of
the Republic of India to the
United Nations Food and
Agriculture Agencies
Rome

Shobhana Kumar PATTANAYAK
Minister (Agriculture)
Alternate Permanent Representative of the
Republic of India to the United Nations
Food and Agriculture Agencies
Rome

INDONESIA

Governor

Bambang BRODJONEGORO
Director
International Relation Policy
Fiscal Policy Office
Ministry of Finance
Jakarta

Mr ADRIYANTO
Deputy Director
International Relation Policy
Fiscal Policy Office
Ministry of Finance
Jakarta

Mochamad IMRON
Head of Sub-Division for
International Fund Contribution
Fiscal Policy Office
Ministry of Finance
Jakarta

Agus Prihatin SAPTONO
Counsellor for Multilateral Affairs
Alternate Permanent Representative
of the Republic of Indonesia
to IFAD
Rome

Hamim HAMIM
Agricultural Attaché
Alternate Permanent Representative
of the Republic of Indonesia
to IFAD
Rome

IRAN (ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF)

Seyed Morteza ZAREI
Agricultural Attaché
Alternate Permanent Representative
of the Islamic Republic of Iran to
the United Nations Food and
Agriculture Agencies
Rome

Alireza MOHAJER
Attaché
Alternate Permanent Representative
of the Islamic Republic of Iran to
the United Nations Food and
Agriculture Agencies
Rome

IRAQ

Alternate Governor

Hassan JANABI
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of
the Republic of Iraq to IFAD
Rome

Alaa AL-MASHTA
Technical Assistant
to the Ambassador
Permanent Representation of
the Republic of Iraq to the
United Nations Food and
Agriculture Agencies
Rome

IRELAND

Alternate Governor

Jarlath O'CONNOR
First Secretary
Deputy Permanent Representative
of Ireland to the United Nations
Food and Agriculture Agencies
Rome

ISRAEL

Daniel CARMON
Director-General
Israel's Agency for the International
Development Cooperation (MASHAV)
Jerusalem

ISRAEL (cont'd)

Ilan FLUSS
 Director
 Policy Planning and External
 Relations Department
 Israel's Agency for International
 Development Cooperation (MASHAV)
 Jerusalem

Tamar Michele ZIV
 Minister Counsellor
 Economic and Scientific Affairs
 Deputy Permanent Representative of
 Israel to the United Nations Food and
 Agriculture Agencies
 Rome

Giovanna Elisabetta LA ROCCA
 Economic Officer
 Permanent Representation of
 Israel to the United Nations Food and
 Agriculture Agencies
 Rome

ITALY

Governor

Vieri CERIANI
 Under-Secretary of State
 Ministry of Economy and Finance
 Rome

Pietro SEBASTIANI
 Ambassador
 Permanent Representative of
 the Italian Republic to IFAD
 Rome

Elisabetta BELLONI
 Director-General
 Directorate General for
 Development Cooperation
 Ministry of Foreign Affairs
 Rome

Stefania BAZZONI
 Director
 Service in charge of Multilateral
 Development Banks (Office X)
 Directorate General for International
 Financial Relations (Directorate III)
 Department of the Treasury
 Ministry of Economy and Finance
 Rome

ITALY (cont'd)

Marco RICCI
Multilateral Affairs Coordinator
Directorate General for
Development Cooperation
Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Rome

Claudio MISCIA
First Counsellor
Deputy Head of Mission
Alternate Permanent Representative
of the Italian Republic to IFAD
Rome

Rita Giuliana MANNELLA
Counsellor
Directorate General for
Development Cooperation
Ministry of Foreign Affairs
of the Italian Republic
Rome

Claudia MORDINI
Adviser
Service in charge of Multilateral
Development Banks (Office X)
Directorate General for International
Financial Relations (Directorate III)
Department of Treasury
Ministry of Economy and Finance
Rome

Stefano MARGUCCIO
First Secretary
Alternate Permanent Representative
of the Italian Republic to IFAD
Rome

JAPAN

Governor

Masaharu KOHNO
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of Japan
to the United Nations Food and
Agriculture Agencies
Rome

JAPAN (cont'd)

Hideya YAMADA
Minister Counsellor
Deputy Permanent Representative
of Japan to the United Nations
Food and Agriculture Agencies
Rome

Masaya KITAO
Counsellor
Financial attaché
Embassy of Japan
Rome

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 Cooperation
Amman

KAZAKHSTAN

Nurlan ZHALGAZBAYEV
Minister Counsellor
Alternate Permanent Representative of
the Republic of Kazakhstan to IFAD
Rome

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

Daniyar KOPISHEV
Attaché
Alternate Permanent Representative of
the Republic of Kazakhstan to IFAD
Rome

KENYA

Romano M. KIOME
Permanent Secretary
Ministry of Agriculture
Nairobi

Alternate Governor

Josephine Wangari GAITA
Ambassador
Permanent Representative
of the Republic of Kenya to
the United Nations Food and
Agriculture Agencies
Rome

Jacinta Muthoni NGWIRI
Agricultural Attaché
Alternate Permanent Representative
of the Republic of Kenya to
the United Nations Food and
Agriculture Agencies
Rome

KIRIBATI

Governor

Tiarite KWONG
Minister for Environment, Lands
and Agricultural Development
Tarawa

Mweia TEBUBUA
Deputy Secretary
Ministry of Environment, Lands
and Agricultural Development
Tarawa

Kinaai KAIRO
Director for Agriculture
Ministry of Environment, Lands
and Agricultural Development
Tarawa

KUWAIT

Waleed AL-BAHAR
Regional Manager for Eastern and
Southern Asia and Pacific Countries
Operations Department
Kuwait Fund for Arab
Economic Development
Kuwait City

LAO PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC

| | |
|---------------------|---|
| Governor | Phouphet KHAMPHOUNVONG Minister for Finance Vientiane |
| Alternate Governor* | Phouangparisak PRAVONGVIENGKHAM Vice-Minister for Agriculture and Forestry Vientiane |
| Adviser | Thipphakone CHANTHAVONGSA Director-General External Finance Department Ministry of Finance Vientiane |
| Adviser | Linkham DOUANGSAVANH Director National Agriculture and Forestry Research Institute Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry Vientiane |
| Adviser | Alad CHANTHAVONG Deputy Director-General External Finance Department Ministry of Finance Vientiane |
| Adviser | Rithikone PHOUMMASACK Director Division External Finance Department Ministry of Finance Vientiane |
| Adviser | Khonesavanh VONGXAY Program Coordinator Soum Son Seun Jai Program Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry Vientiane |
| Adviser | Syseng KHOUNSY Project Director Northern Region Sustainable Livelihoods Project Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry Vientiane |
| Adviser | Vinoth VANSY Project Director Sustainable Natural Resources Management and Productivity Enhancement Project Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry Vientiane |

LAO PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC (cont'd)

| | |
|---------|---|
| Adviser | Khouanchai SIPHAKANLAYA President Lao Consulting Group Vientiane |
| Adviser | Khamphong VAYAKONE Technical Officer Planning Department Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry Vientiane |

LEBANON

| | |
|------------|--|
| | Hussein AL HAJJ HASSAN Ministre de l'agriculture Beyrouth |
| | Karim KHALIL Premier Secrétaire Chargé d'affaires, a.i. Ambassade de la République libanaise Rome |
| Gouverneur | Gloria ABOUZEID Président du Comité exécutif Plan vert Beyrouth |
| | Mohammad EL-KHANSA Conseiller du Ministre de l'agriculture Beyrouth |
| | Ali YASSINE Directeur-général, a.i. Ministère de l'agriculture Beyrouth |

LESOTHO

| | |
|---------------------|---|
| Alternate Governor* | Liteboho MOFUBETSOANA Acting Permanent Secretary Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security Maseru |
|---------------------|---|

LESOTHO (cont'd)

| | |
|---------|--|
| Adviser | Jonas Sponkie MALEWA Ambassador Permanent Representative of the Kingdom of Lesotho to IFAD Rome |
| Adviser | Mathoriso MOLUMELI Chief Economic Planner Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security Maseru |
| Adviser | Malikopo Patricia RAKOOTJE First Secretary Alternate Permanent Representative of the Kingdom of Lesotho to IFAD Rome |

LIBERIA

| | |
|----------|--|
| | Frederick CHERUE Chairman of the Senate Committee on Agriculture Monrovia |
| Governor | Florence CHENOWETH Minister for Agriculture Monrovia |
| | Mohammed S. SHERIFF Minister Plenipotentiary Permanent Representative of the Republic of Liberia to the United Nations Agencies for Food and Agriculture Rome |
| | Wesley JOHNSON Ambassador of the Republic of Liberia London |
| | Anthony K. SELMAH Minister Counsellor Press and Public Affairs Embassy of the Republic of Liberia London |

LIBYA

Governor*

Abuzkhar Ahmed ALI MOHAMED
Vice-Minister for Agriculture
Tripoli

Abdalla A. M. ZAIED
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of Libya
to the United Nations Food and
Agriculture Agencies
Rome

Hussin ALI TIBAR
Agricultural Bank
Tripoli

Talal Ali MARAI
Counsellor
Deputy Permanent Representative of
Libya to the United Nations Food
and Agriculture Agencies
Rome

Mahmud S.O. SAWAN
Third Secretary
Alternate Permanent Representative of
Libya to the United Nations Food and
Agriculture Agencies
Rome

LUXEMBOURG

Gouverneur

Marie-Josée JACOBS
Ministre de la coopération et de
l'action humanitaire
Luxembourg-Ville

Jean-Louis WOLZFELD
Ambassadeur
Représentant permanent du
Grand-Duché de Luxembourg
auprès du FIDA
Rome

Léon DELVAUX
Directeur adjoint de la
Coopération au développement
Ministère des affaires étrangères
et de l'immigration
Luxembourg-Ville

LUXEMBOURG (cont'd)

Richard PHILIPPART
Attaché
Représentant permanent suppléant
du Grand-Duché de Luxembourg
auprès du FIDA
Rome

Michel GRETHEN
Premier Secrétaire
Représentant permanent adjoint
du Grand-Duché de Luxembourg
auprès du FIDA
Rome

Patrice SCHMITZ
Chef du Bureau multilatéral
Direction de la Coopération
au développement
Ministère des affaires étrangères
et de l'immigration
Luxembourg-Ville

MADAGASCAR

Gouverneur

RAVATOMANGA Rolland
Ministre de l'agriculture du
Gouvernement de Transition
d'Union Nationale
Antananarivo

Josiane RAVOLOLONDRIAKA RATSIMBAZAFY
Conseiller
Ambassade de la République
de Madagascar
Rome

Vohangy Arijona RAONIAINJAKA
Directeur de l'appui à l'organisation
des filières
Ministère de l'agriculture
Antananarivo

Monsieur MONJA
Conseiller
Représentant permanent adjoint
de la République de Madagascar
auprès du FIDA
Rome

MALAWI

Brave Rona NDISALE
 Ambassador
 Permanent Representative of
 the Republic of Malawi to the
 United Nations Food and
 Agriculture Agencies
 Brussels

MALAYSIA

Alternate Governor*

Halimah ABDULLAH
 Ambassador
 Permanent Representative of
 Malaysia to the United Nations Food
 and Agriculture Agencies
 Rome

Adviser

Shariffah Norhana SYED MUSTAFFA
 Minister Counsellor
 Alternate Permanent Representative
 of Malaysia to the United Nations
 Food and Agriculture Agencies
 Rome

Adviser

Amir Hamzah HARUN
 Assistant Agricultural Attaché
 Alternate Permanent Representative
 of Malaysia to the United Nations
 Food and Agriculture Agencies
 Rome

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

Yaya Nouhoum TAMBOURA
 Commissaire à la sécurité alimentaire
 Bamako

MALI (cont'd)

Aissata TRAORE DIALLO
Point focal des projets et programmes FIDA
Commissariat à la sécurité alimentaire
Bamako

Mohamed TIESSA FARMA MAIGA
Premier Conseiller
Ambassade de la République du Mali
Rome

Bah KONIPO
Deuxième Conseiller
Représentant permanent adjoint
de la République du Mali
auprès du FIDA
Rome

Ukunda Gemma SHEMA
Secrétaire traductrice
Ambassade de la République du Mali
Rome

MAURITANIA

Gouverneur

Sidi Ould TAH
Ministre des affaires économiques
et du développement
Nouakchott

Gouverneur suppléant

Moctar Ould DAHI
Ambassadeur
Représentant permanent de
la République islamique de
Mauritanie auprès du FIDA
Rome

Mohamed Lemine OULD AHMED
Conseiller du Ministre des affaires
économiques et du développement
Nouakchott

MAURITIUS

Governor

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

MAURITIUS (cont'd)

Alternate Governor* Denis CANGY
 Consul of the Republic
 of Mauritius
 Rome

MEXICO

Gobernador Miguel RUIZ CABAÑAS IZQUIERDO
 Embajador
 Representante Permanente de
 los Estados Unidos Mexicanos
 ante el FIDA
 Roma

Gobernador Suplente* Emma Maria José RODRIGUEZ SIFUENTES
 Ministro
 Representante Permanente Alterno
 de los Estados Unidos Mexicanos
 ante el FIDA
 Roma

Asesor Alan ROMERO ZAVALA
 Segundo Secretario
 Representante Permanente Alterno
 de los Estados Unidos Mexicanos
 ante el FIDA
 Roma

Asesor Claudia Cecile DE MAULEÓN
 Asesora
 Embajada de los Estados Unidos
 Mexicanos
 Roma

MONGOLIA

DAVAADORJ Khishigdelger
 Minister Counsellor
 Embassy of Mongolia
 Rome

MOROCCO

Hassan ABOUYOUB
 Ambassadeur
 Représentant permanent
 du Royaume du Maroc
 auprès du FIDA
 Rome

MOROCCO (cont'd)

Loubna CHAMIM
 Chef de la division de la coopération
 Direction des stratégies et des statistiques
 Ministère de l'agriculture
 et de la pêche maritime
 Rabat

Jaouad ZHAR
 Chef du service des relations avec
 les organismes financiers internationaux
 Direction du Trésor et des finances extérieures
 Ministère de l'économie et
 des finances
 Rabat

Mohammed LAKHAL
 Ministre plénipotentiaire
 Représentant permanent suppléant
 du Royaume du Maroc
 auprès du FIDA
 Rome

MOZAMBIQUE

Governor*

Gabriel MUTHISSE
 Deputy Minister for Fisheries
 Maputo

Carla Elisa MUCAVI
 Ambassador
 Permanent Representative of
 the Republic of Mozambique to
 the United Nations Food and
 Agriculture Agencies
 Rome

Alternate Governor*

Waldemar Fernando de SOUSA
 Member of the Board
 Central Bank of Mozambique
 Maputo

Adviser

Mario Saraiva NGWENYA
 Minister Counsellor
 Alternate Permanent Representative
 of the Republic of Mozambique to
 the United Nations Food and
 Agriculture Agencies
 Rome

MOZAMBIQUE (cont'd)

| | |
|---------|---|
| Adviser | Mahomed RAFIQUE JUSOB MAHOMED Member of the Board Fund for Economic Rehabilitation (FARE) Maputo |
| Adviser | Adriano Isaias UBISSE Director for Investment and Cooperation Ministry of Planning and Development Maputo |
| Adviser | Albertina ALAGE Deputy Director Ministry of Agriculture Maputo |
| Adviser | Luís João MATSINHE Adviser Ministry of Finance Maputo |
| Adviser | Marcelino Galufu PISSA Adviser Department of Monitoring and Evaluation Direction of Investment and Cooperation Ministry of Planning and Development Maputo |
| Adviser | Anchia Nhaca Guebuza Espirito SANTO Foreign Cooperation Officer Central Bank of Mozambique Maputo |

MYANMAR

| | |
|-----------|--|
| Governor* | Tint SWAI Ambassador Permanent Representative of the Union of Myanmar to the United Agencies for Food and Agriculture Rome |
| Adviser | Than SAIN Counsellor Alternate Permanent Representative of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to the United Nations Food and Agriculture Agencies Rome |

MYANMAR (cont'd)

Adviser
 Thein Min HTUN
 First Secretary
 Alternate Permanent Representative of
 the Republic of the Union of Myanmar
 to the United Nations Food and
 Agriculture Agencies
 Rome

NAMIBIA

Alternate Governor
 Petrus N. IILONGA
 Deputy Minister for Agriculture,
 Water and Forestry
 Windhoek

Desmond R. TSHIKESHO
 Under-Secretary for Agriculture
 Ministry of Agriculture, Water
 and Forestry
 Windhoek

Eugene KANGUATJIVI
 Agricultural Economist
 Ministry of Agriculture, Water
 and Forestry
 Windhoek

NEPAL

Alternate Governor
 Nathu Prasad CHAUDHARY
 Secretary
 Ministry of Agriculture and
 Cooperatives
 Kathmandu

Mahendra Nath POUDEL
 Senior Agricultural Economist
 Ministry of Agriculture and
 Cooperatives
 Kathmandu

NETHERLANDS

Alternate Governor
 Gerda VERBURG
 Ambassador
 Permanent Representative
 of the Kingdom of the Netherlands
 to the United Nations Agencies
 for Food and Agriculture
 Rome

NETHERLANDS (cont'd)

Adviser
 Ronald ELKHUIZEN
 Counsellor
 Deputy Permanent Representative
 of the Kingdom of the Netherlands
 to the United Nations Organizations
 for Food and Agriculture
 Rome

Adviser
 Erlijne WISSELS
 Policy Adviser
 International Financial
 Institutions Division
 United Nations and International
 Financial Institutions Department
 Ministry of Foreign Affairs
 The Hague

Adviser
 Jan VAN DER VELDE
 Intern
 Permanent Representation
 of the Kingdom of the Netherlands
 to the United Nations Organizations
 for Food and Agriculture
 Rome

NEW ZEALAND

Adviser
 Claudia GROSSO
 Policy Support Officer
 Embassy of New Zealand
 Rome

NICARAGUA

Gobernador
 Mónica ROBELO RAFFONE
 Embajadora
 Representante Permanente de
 la República de Nicaragua
 ante los Organismos de las
 Naciones Unidas
 Roma

Gobernador Suplente*
 Junior Andrés ESCOBAR FONSECA
 Agregado
 Representante Permanente Alternativo
 de la República de Nicaragua
 ante los Organismos de las
 Naciones Unidas
 Roma

NIGER

Oua SAIDOU
Ministre de l'agriculture
Niamey

Amadou TOURÉ
Ambassadeur
Représentant permanent
de la République du Niger
auprès du FIDA
Rome

Moudy MAMANE SANI
Conseiller Technique du
Ministre de l'agriculture
Niamey

Mahaman SANI ABDOU
Directeur général de l'agriculture
Ministère de l'agriculture
Niamey

Hassane HAROUNA MAÏGA
Conseiller
Représentant permanent adjoint
de la République du Niger
auprès du FIDA
Rome

NIGERIA

Governor

Akinwunmi Ayo ADESINA
Minister for Agriculture and
Rural Development
Abuja

Yaya O. OLANIRAN
Minister
Permanent Representative of
the Federal Republic of Nigeria to
the United Nations Food and
Agriculture Agencies
Rome

M.C.C. ENEH
Director
Department of Agriculture
Federal Ministry of Agriculture
and Rural Development
Abuja

NIGERIA (cont'd)

Daniel Machica DAUDU
Director
Rural Development Department
Federal Ministry of Agriculture
and Rural Development
Abuja

Adetunji Adeleke OREDIPE
Special Assistant to the
Minister for Agriculture
and Rural Development
Abuja

Okon Stephen ANIETIE
Special Assistant
to the Permanent Secretary
Federal Ministry of Agriculture
and Rural Development
Abuja

Munir Abiodun ALAO
Director
International and Economic
Relations Department
Federal Ministry of Finance
Abuja

Agnes A. AREMU
Deputy Director
International and Economic
Relations Department
Federal Ministry of Finance
Abuja

Matazu Ibrahim ABUBAKAR
Principal Administrative
Officer (Agriculture)
Federal Ministry of Finance
Abuja

Okai Akwu IKANI
Personal Assistant
to the Permanent Secretary
Federal Ministry of Agriculture
and Rural Development
Abuja

Remi OKUBOYEJO
Personal Assistant
to the Minister for Agriculture
and Rural Development
Abuja

NIGERIA (cont'd)

Musibau Olumuyiwa AZEEZ
Technical Assistant
to the Permanent Secretary
Federal Ministry of Agriculture
and Rural Development
Abuja

Abiodun WALI
Clerk on IFAD Matters
Embassy of the Federal
Republic of Nigeria
Rome

NORWAY

Governor

Astrid Helle AJAMAY
Deputy Director-General
Section for United Nations Policy
and Gender Equality
Department for United Nations,
Peace and Humanitarian Affairs
Royal Norwegian Ministry
of Foreign Affairs
Oslo

Jostein LEIRO
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of the
Kingdom of Norway to IFAD
Rome

Per MOGSTAD
Senior Adviser
Royal Norwegian Ministry
of Foreign Affairs
Oslo

Tonje LIEBICH LIE
Second Secretary
Deputy Permanent Representative of
the Kingdom of Norway to IFAD
Rome

OMAN

Governor

Isshaq AL-ROQQEISHY
Under-Secretary
Ministry of Agriculture
Muscat

OMAN (cont'd)

Alternate Governor

Said Nasser AL-HARTHY
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of the
Sultanate of Oman to IFAD
Rome

Rasmi MAHMOUD
Coordinator with the United Nations
Food and Agriculture Agencies
Rome

Suleiman AL-SALMY
Assistant Director-General of
Planning and Investment
Development
Ministry of Agriculture
and Fisheries
Muscat

PAKISTAN

Tehmina JANJUA
Ambassador
Permanent Representative
of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan
to the United Nations Food and
Agriculture Agencies
Rome

Zulfiqar Haider KHAN
Counsellor (Agricultural)
Alternate Permanent Representative
of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan
to the United Nations Food and
Agriculture Agencies
Rome

Khalid MEHBOOB
Adviser
Alternate Permanent Representative
of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan
to the United Nations Food and
Agriculture Agencies
Rome

Idriana BONOMO
Secretary to the
Alternate Permanent Representative
of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan
to the United Nations Food and
Agriculture Agencies
Rome

PANAMA

Gobernador Suplente

Guido Juvenal MARTINELLI ENDARA
Embajador
Representante Permanente
de la República de Panamá
ante el FIDA
Roma

PAPUA NEW GUINEA

Peter PULKIYE MAGINDE
Ambassador of the Independent
State of Papua New Guinea
Brussels

PARAGUAY

Gobernador

Dionisio BORDA
Ministro de Hacienda
Asunción

Andrés WEHRLE
Viceministro de Agricultura
Ministerio de Agricultura
y Ganadería
Asunción

Verónica SERAFINI
Coordinadora
Unidad de Economía Social
Ministerio de Hacienda
Asunción

Jaime ESCOBAR
Jefe de Gabinete
Ministerio de Hacienda
Asunción

Lorena Noemi PATIÑO CARDOZO
Segunda Secretaria
Representante Permanente Alternativa
de la República del Paraguay
ante el FIDA
Roma

PERU

| | |
|----------------------|---|
| Gobernador | César Rolando CASTILLO RAMÍREZ Embajador Representante Permanente de la República del Perú ante los Organismos de las Naciones Unidas Roma |
| Gobernador Suplente* | Carla Stella MARIS CHIRINOS LLERENA Consejera Representante Permanente Alternativa de la República del Perú ante los Organismos de las Naciones Unidas Roma |

PHILIPPINES

| | |
|---------------------|---|
| Governor* | Virgilio A. REYES JR. Ambassador Permanent Representative of the Republic of the Philippines to IFAD Rome |
| Alternate Governor* | Lupino J. LAZARO Special Agriculture Representative Embassy of the Republic of the Philippines Rome |
| Adviser | Leila C. LORA-SANTOS First Secretary and Consul Alternate Permanent Representative of the Republic of the Philippines to IFAD Rome |
| Adviser | Esteban N. PAGARAN Assistant Agricultural Attaché Alternate Permanent Representative of the Republic of the Philippines to IFAD Rome |

PORTUGAL

Alternate Governor*

Rosa Maria CAETANO
 Director for International Affairs
 Office for Economic Policy and
 International Affairs (GPEARI)
 Ministry of Finance and
 Public Administration
 Lisbon

Adviser

Ana BARRETO
 Desk Officer
 Division for Bilateral Affairs
 Office for Economic Policy and
 International Affairs (GPEARI)
 Ministry of Finance and
 Public Administration
 Lisbon

Adviser

José Egídio BARBEITO
 Counsellor (Agriculture)
 Deputy Permanent Representative
 of the Portuguese Republic to the
 United Nations Agencies for Food
 and Agriculture
 Rome

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 IFAD
 Rome

Abdulla Jassim M. AL-MAADADI
 Minister Plenipotentiary
 Alternate Permanent Representative
 of the State of Qatar to IFAD
 Rome

Ali Mohammed AL NAMMAA
 Department of International Cooperation
 Ministry of Environment
 Doha

Misfr Mohammed AL HAJRI
 Ministry of Environment
 Doha

QATAR (cont'd)

Akeel HATOOR
 Adviser
 Embassy of the State
 of Qatar
 Rome

REPUBLIC OF KOREA

KIM Jong-Jin
 Assistant Minister for Trade
 Ministry of Food, Agriculture,
 Forestry and Fisheries
 Gwacheon

CHUNG BokChul
 Director
 Multilateral Cooperation Division
 Ministry of Food, Agriculture,
 Forestry and Fisheries
 Gwacheon

SONG Jae-Won
 Deputy-Director
 International Development and
 Cooperation Division
 Ministry of Food, Agriculture
 Forestry and Fisheries
 Gwacheon

Alternate Governor

PARK Sujin
 First Secretary
 Alternate Permanent Representative of the
 Republic of Korea to the United Nations
 Food and Agriculture Agencies
 Rome

REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA

Governor

Viorel GUTU
 Deputy Minister for Agriculture
 and Food Industry
 Chişinău

Victoria CHITII
 First Secretary
 Alternate Permanent Representative
 of the Republic of Moldova to the
 United Nations Food and
 Agriculture Agencies
 Rome

ROMANIA

| | |
|----------------------|--|
| Gouverneur | Octavian Liviu BUMBU Secrétaire d'État Ministère de l'agriculture et du développement rural Bucarest |
| Gouverneur suppléant | Razvan Victor RUSU Ambassadeur Représentant permanent de la Roumanie auprès du FIDA Rome |
| | Dorinela COJOCARENAU Conseillère Affaires européennes et internationales Ministère de l'agriculture et du développement rural Bucarest |
| | Daniela ROMANESCU Conseillère Affaires européennes et internationales Ministère de l'agriculture et du développement rural Bucarest |
| | Alina POPESCU Première Secrétaire Représentante permanente adjointe de la Roumanie auprès du FIDA Rome |

RWANDA

| | |
|--|---|
| | Jacques KABALE NYANGEZI Ambassador Permanent Representative of the Republic of Rwanda to IFAD Paris |
| | Ernest RUZINDAZA Permanent Secretary Ministry of Agriculture and Animal Resources Kigali |

RWANDA (cont'd)

Alex KANYANKOLE
Director-General
National Agriculture Export
and Promotion Board (NAEB)
Ministry of Agriculture
and Animal Resources
Kigali

Francesco ALICICCO
Honorary Consul of the
Republic of Rwanda
to Italy
Rome

SAUDI ARABIA

Governor

Fahad bin Abdulrahman BALGHUNAIM
Minister for Agriculture
Riyadh

Waleed bin Abdelkarim EL KHEREIJI
Director-General
Grain Silos and Flour Mills Organization
Riyadh

Mishal bin Abdallah AL SHETRI
Director-General
Office of the Minister for Agriculture
Riyadh

AbdelAziz bin Saud AL SARHAN
Director-General
General Department of Public Relations
and International Cooperation
Ministry of Agriculture
Riyadh

Bandar bin Abdel Mohsin AL-SHALHOOB
Minister Plenipotentiary
Permanent Representative of the
Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to FAO
Rome

Fahd bin Abdallah AL HARBI
Director-General
External Relations and
International Cooperation
Ministry of Agriculture
Riyadh

SAUDI ARABIA (cont'd)

Tareq AbdulKarim A. ALDRIWEESH
 First Secretary
 Alternate Permanent Representative
 of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia
 to FAO
 Rome

SENEGAL

Gouverneur suppléant

Papa Cheikh Saadibou FALL
 Ambassadeur
 Représentant permanent de
 la République du Sénégal
 auprès du FIDA
 Rome

Mamadou DIALLO
 Directeur de l'agriculture
 Ministry of Agriculture
 Dakar

Fatoumata Diene GUEYE
 Premier Conseiller
 Ambassade de la République
 du Sénégal
 Rome

SEYCHELLES

Governor*

Peter SINON
 Minister for Investment,
 Natural Resources and Industry
 Victoria

Alternate Governor*

Manuela DESAUBIN-STRAVENS
 Advisor to the Minister for Investment,
 Natural Resources and Industry
 Victoria

SIERRA LEONE

Governor

Joseph Sam SESAY
 Minister for Agriculture, Forestry
 and Food Security
 Freetown

SIERRA LEONE (cont'd)

Festus A. TARAWALIE
 Assistant to the
 Minister for Agriculture, Forestry
 and Food Security
 Freetown

SOMALIA

Alternate Governor

Ibrahim Hagi ABDULKADIR
 Ambassador
 Permanent Representative of the
 Somali Republic to the United Nations
 Food and Agriculture Agencies
 Rome

SOUTH AFRICA

Alternate Governor

Langa ZITA
 Director-General
 Department of Agriculture,
 Forestry and Fisheries
 Pretoria

Governor

Thenjiwe Ethel MTINTSO
 Ambassador
 Permanent Representative of the
 Republic of South Africa to the United Nations
 Food and Agriculture Agencies
 Rome

Simpfiwe NGQANGWENI
 Director
 Agro-processing Support
 Department of Agriculture,
 Forestry and Fisheries
 Pretoria

Matlho MOLEMA
 First Secretary (Economic Diplomacy)
 Embassy of the Republic of South Africa
 Rome

SPAIN

Gobernador

Alfonso LUCINI MATEO
 Embajador
 Representante Permanente de España
 ante los Organismos de las
 Naciones Unidas
 Roma

SPAIN (cont'd)

Francisco CAPOTE
Primer Secretario
Embajada de España
Roma

SRI LANKA

Governor

John Asitha Ivon PERERA
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of the
Democratic Socialist Republic
of Sri Lanka to IFAD
Rome

Alternate Governor

Gothami INDIKADAHENA
Minister (Commercial)
Alternate Permanent Representative
of the Democratic Socialist Republic
of Sri Lanka to IFAD
Rome

Angelo PERERA
Officer
Embassy of the Democratic
Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka
Rome

SUDAN

Alternate Governor*

Gafar Ahmed Abdalla OMER
State Minister for Agriculture
Khartoum

Amira Daoud HASSAN GORNASS
Ambassador of the Republic of The Sudan
to Italy
Rome

Mohamed Eltayeb ELFAKI ELNOR
Counsellor (Agricultural Affairs)
Permanent Representative of the
Republic of The Sudan to IFAD
Rome

Abla Malk Osman MALK
Director
International and Regional Organizations Directorate
Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation
Khartoum

SUDAN (cont'd)

Faiza Awad MOHAMED
 Director-General
 International Financial Cooperation Directorate
 Ministry of Finance and National Economy
 Khartoum

Mohamed Elhag SIR ELKAHATIM
 National Coordinator for IFAD Funded Projects
 Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation
 Khartoum

SWAZILAND

Sibusiso L. MSIBI
 Counsellor
 Permanent Mission of the
 Kingdom of Swaziland
 Chambesy

SWEDEN

Amalia GARCIA-THÄRN
 Minister
 Permanent Representative
 of the Kingdom of Sweden
 to IFAD and WFP
 Rome

Margaretha ARNESSON-CIOTTI
 Programme Officer
 Royal Swedish Embassy
 Rome

SWITZERLAND

Gouverneur

Michel MORDASINI
 Vice-Directeur et
 Chef du domaine Coopération globale
 Direction du développement et de la coopération (DDC)
 Département fédéral des affaires étrangères
 Berne

Conseiller

Christina E. GRIEDER
 Ministre
 Représentant permanent de
 la Confédération suisse auprès
 de la FAO, du FIDA et du PAM
 Rome

SWITZERLAND (cont'd)

Conseiller

Alexandre GHÉLEW
 Conseiller
 Chargé de programme
 Section Programme global Sécurité alimentaire
 Direction du développement et de la coopération (DDC)
 Département fédéral des affaires étrangères
 Berne

SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC

Hasan KHADDOUR
 Ambassador
 Permanent Representative of
 the Syrian Arab Republic
 to IFAD
 Rome

Ammar AWAD
 Counsellor
 Alternate Permanent Representative
 of the Syrian Arab Republic
 to IFAD
 Rome

Essam AL SHAHIN
 Third Secretary
 Alternate Permanent Representative
 of the Syrian Arab Republic
 to IFAD
 Rome

THAILAND

Governor*

Jirawan YAMPRAYOON
 Inspector-General
 Ministry of Agriculture and
 Cooperatives
 Bangkok

Olan PITUCK
 Inspector-General
 Ministry of Agriculture and
 Cooperatives
 Bangkok

THAILAND (cont'd)

Alternate Governor

Tritaporn KHOMAPAT
 Minister (Agricultural)
 Permanent Representative of the
 Kingdom of Thailand to the
 United Nations Food and
 Agriculture Agencies
 Rome

Sirilak SUWANRANGSI
 Director
 Bureau of Foreign Agricultural Affairs
 Ministry of Agriculture and
 Cooperatives
 Bangkok

Kasem PRASUTSANGCHAN
 Senior Policy and Plan Analyst
 Ministry of Agriculture and
 Cooperatives
 Bangkok

Sairak CHAILANGGAR
 Counsellor (Agriculture)
 Deputy Permanent Representative of
 the Kingdom of Thailand to the
 United Nations Food and
 Agriculture Agencies
 Rome

Piyawat NAIGOWIT
 Second Secretary (Agriculture)
 Alternate Permanent Representative of
 the Kingdom of Thailand to the
 United Nations Food and
 Agriculture Agencies
 Rome

THE FORMER YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA

Magdalena DIMOVA
 First Secretary
 Chargé d'affaires, a.i.
 Embassy of The former Yugoslav Republic
 of Macedonia to the Holy See
 Rome

TOGO

Gouverneur

Kossi Messan EWOVOR
Ministre de l'agriculture,
de l'élevage et de la pêche
Lomé

Calixte Batossie MADJOLBA
Ambassadeur
Représentant permanent de la
République togolaise
auprès du FIDA
Paris

Gouverneur suppléant

Akla-Esso M'Baw AROKOUM
Directeur de l'agriculture
Ministère de l'agriculture,
de l'élevage et de la pêche
Lomé

Pakponedong K. ALI-TILOH SOLITOKÉ
Deuxième Secrétaire
Chargée des dossiers du FIDA
Ambassade de la République togolaise
Paris

TONGA

Siale Vuki Bain VETE
First Secretary
Alternate Permanent Representative
of the Kingdom of Tonga to IFAD
London

TUNISIA

Gouverneur*

Mohamed BEN SALEM
Ministre de l'agriculture
Tunis

Gouverneur suppléant*

Naceur MESTIRI
Ambassadeur
Représentant permanent de
la République tunisienne
auprès des organisations
des Nations Unies
Rome

TUNISIA (cont'd)

| | |
|------------|---|
| Conseiller | Abdallah ZEKRI Directeur général de la coopération multilatérale Ministère de l'investissement et de la coopération internationale Tunis |
| Conseiller | Hafed KHLIF Directeur de la Coopération Internationale Ministère de l'agriculture Tunis |
| Conseiller | Hazar SASSI NAILI Conseiller Ambassade de la République tunisienne Rome |

TURKEY

| | |
|--------------------|---|
| Governor | Mehmet Mehdi EKER Minister for Food, Agriculture and Livestock Ankara |
| Alternate Governor | Hakki AKIL Ambassador Permanent Representative of the Republic of Turkey to the United Nations Food and Agriculture Agencies Rome |
| | Masum BURAK Vice Director-General Agricultural Research Directorate-General Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Livestock Ankara |
| | Gürsel KÜSEK Vice Director-General Agriculture Reform Directorate-General Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Livestock Ankara |
| | Güher ÇELTEC Deputy Director-General Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Livestock Ankara |

TURKEY (cont'd)

Mehmet Erkan AYTUN
Counsellor
Alternate Permanent Representative
of the Republic of Turkey to the
United Nations Food and
Agriculture Agencies
Rome

Makbule KOÇAK
Counsellor
Alternate Permanent Representative
of the Republic of Turkey to the
United Nations Food and
Agriculture Agencies
Rome

Deniz BERBER
Head
European Union and
Foreign Relations Department
Ministry of Agriculture
Ankara

Emin GÜRE
Counsellor
Alternate Permanent Representative
of the Republic of Turkey to the
United Nations Food and
Agriculture Agencies
Rome

Volkan COŞKUN
Chief of Cabinet of the Minister
Ministry of Food, Agriculture
and Livestock
Ankara

Gülbüz ÖZTÜRK
Press Counsellor of the Minister
Ministry of Food, Agriculture
and Livestock
Ankara

Ayniye Sula ÖZEVREN
Engineer at the Agriculture Reform Department
Agricultural Reforms Directorate-General
Ministry of Food, Agriculture
and Livestock
Ankara

UGANDA

Zerubabel Mijumbi NYIIRA
Minister of State for Agriculture
Entebbe

Juliet Betty KULUBYA KAJUMBA
Counsellor
Alternate Permanent Representative
of the Republic of Uganda to IFAD
Rome

Robert SABIITI
First Secretary (Agricultural Attaché)
Alternate Permanent Representative
of the Republic of Uganda to IFAD
Rome

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

Governor*

Abdulaziz Nasser AL-SHAMSI
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of
the United Arab Emirates
to the United Nations Food
and Agriculture Agencies
Rome

Majed Ali Ahmed OMRAN AL SHAMSI
Director
Department of International
Financial Relations
Ministry of Finance
Abu Dhabi

Yousuf Mohammed BIN HAJAR
Deputy-Director
Department of International
Financial Relations
Ministry of Finance
Abu Dhabi

Mohammed AL MANSOORI
Diplomatic Attaché
Embassy of the United Arab Emirates
Rome

Obeid Ali Mirghani HASSAN
Coordinator for the United Nations
Food and Agriculture Agencies
Embassy of the United Arab Emirates
Rome

UNITED KINGDOM

Governor James HARVEY
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of the United Kingdom
of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to
the United Nations Food and
Agriculture Agencies
Rome

Alternate Governor Elizabeth NASSKAU
First Secretary
Deputy Permanent Representative of
the United Kingdom of Great Britain and
Northern Ireland to the United Nations
Food and Agriculture Agencies
Rome

UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA

Governor Jumanne MAGHEMBE
Minister for Agriculture, Food
Security and Cooperatives
Dar es Salaam

Alternate Governor Wilfred J. NGIRWA
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of the
United Republic of Tanzania
to IFAD
Rome

Emmanuel M. ACHAYO
Director of Policy and Planning
Ministry of Agriculture, Food
Security and Cooperatives
Dar es Salaam

Suleiman SHEHE
Ministry of Agriculture and Natural
Resources of Zanzibar
Zanzibar City

Twalib MBAGA
Private Assistant to the Minister
Ministry of Agriculture, Food
Security and Cooperatives
Dar es Salaam

UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA (cont'd)

Ayoub J. MNDEME
Agricultural Attaché
Alternate Permanent Representative
of the United Republic of Tanzania
to IFAD
Rome

UNITED STATES

Ertharin COUSIN
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of the
United States of America to the
United Nations Food and
Agriculture Agencies
Rome

Franklin MOORE
Senior Development Counsellor
Alternate Permanent Representative
of the United States of America
to the United Nations Food and
Agriculture Agencies
Rome

Elizabeth PETROVSKI
Finance and Oversight Specialist, USAID
United States Mission to the United Nations
Food and Agriculture Agencies
Rome

Gregory S. GROTH
First Secretary
Alternate Permanent Representative
of the United States of America
to the United Nations Food and
Agriculture Agencies
Rome

Jorge E. SOLARES
Second Secretary
Alternate Permanent Representative
of the United States of America
to the United Nations Food and
Agriculture Agencies
Rome

UNITED STATES (cont'd)

Deborah CRANE
International Economist
Office of Multilateral
Development Banks
Department of the Treasury
Washington, D.C.

Michelle G. LOS BANOS JARDINA
First Secretary (Public Affairs Officer)
Alternate Permanent Representative
of the United States of America
to the United Nations Food and
Agriculture Agencies
Rome

Donna COOKE
Public Affairs Assistant
United States Mission to the
United Nations Agencies for
Food and Agriculture
Rome

Erin SWANSON
Public Affairs Intern
United States Mission to the
United Nations Agencies for
Food and Agriculture
Rome

Lisette Denise ALVAREZ
Intern
United States Mission to the
United Nations Agencies for
Food and Agriculture
Rome

URUGUAY

Gobernador

Gustavo Aníbal ÁLVAREZ GOYOAGA
Embajador
Representante Permanente de la
República Oriental del Uruguay
ante los Organismos de las
Naciones Unidas
Roma

URUGUAY (cont'd)

Gobernador Suplente*

María Marcela DOS SANTOS ROUX
Segundo Secretario
Representante Permanente Alterno de
la República Oriental del Uruguay
ante los Organismos de las
Naciones Unidas
Roma

UZBEKISTAN

Nodira YOKUBOVA
First Secretary
Embassy of the
Republic of Uzbekistan
Rome

VENEZUELA (BOLIVARIAN REPUBLIC OF)

Gobernador Suplente

William CAÑAS DELGADO
Gerente Ejecutivo de Cooperación y
Financiamiento Internacional
Banco de Desarrollo Económico y
Social de Venezuela (BANDES)
Caracas

Gladys Francisca URBANEJA DURÁN
Embajadora
Representante Permanente de
la República Bolivariana de
Venezuela ante los Organismos
de las Naciones Unidas
Roma

Jean Piere MORET
Especialista de la Gerencia
de Cooperación Internacional
y Relaciones Multilaterales
Banco de Desarrollo Económico y
Social de Venezuela (BANDES)
Caracas

Tomás E. CENTENO B.
Apoyo Técnico Complementario
Banco de Desarrollo Económico y
Social de Venezuela (BANDES)
Caracas

VENEZUELA (BOLIVARIAN REPUBLIC OF) (cont'd)

Luis Alberto ÁLVAREZ FERMIN
 Ministro Consejero
 Representante Permanente Alterno
 de la República Bolivariana de
 Venezuela ante los Organismos
 de las Naciones Unidas
 Roma

Manuel CLAROS OVIEDO
 Segundo Secretario
 Representante Permanente Alterno
 de la República Bolivariana de
 Venezuela ante los Organismos
 de las Naciones Unidas
 Roma

VIET NAM

Governor
 TRUONG Chi Trung
 Vice-Minister for Finance
 Hanoi

Adviser
 THOAI Dang Khanh
 Ambassador
 Permanent Representative of the
 Socialist Republic of Viet Nam
 to IFAD
 Rome

Adviser
 NGUYEN Thi Thanh Ha
 Deputy Director-General
 Debts Management and External
 Financial Relations Department
 Ministry of Finance
 Hanoi

Adviser
 NGUYEN Lan Huong
 Head of the Division
 Debts Management and External
 Financial Relations Department
 Ministry of Finance
 Hanoi

Adviser
 NGUYEN Thi Thu Quynh
 Counsellor
 Permanent Representative of the
 Socialist Republic of Viet Nam
 to IFAD
 Rome

YEMEN

| | |
|--------------------|--|
| Governor | Farid Ahmed MUJAWAR Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Sana'a |
| Alternate Governor | Khalid Abdulrahman AL-AKWA Ambassador Permanent Representative of the Republic of Yemen to the United Nations Food and Agriculture Agencies Rome |
| Adviser | Omer Hussein Thebt SABA'A Minister Plenipotentiary Alternate Permanent Representative of the Republic of Yemen to the United Nations Food and Agriculture Agencies Rome |
| Adviser | Ali Abdullah ALI GUNID Advisor to the Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Sana'a |
| Adviser | Abdullah Na'Ami Qutran AL-NA'AMI Third Secretary Alternate Permanent Representative of the Republic of Yemen to the United Nations Food and Agriculture Agencies Rome |

ZAMBIA

| | |
|--|--|
| | Nicholas BANDA Deputy Minister for Agriculture and Livestock Lusaka |
| | Samuel MAPALA Ambassador Permanent Representative of the Republic of Zambia to IFAD Rome |
| | Alick BANDA First Secretary Alternate Permanent Representative of the Republic of Zambia to IFAD Rome |

ZAMBIA (cont'd)

Derrick SIKOMBE
Chief Agriculture Economist
Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock
Lusaka

ZIMBABWE

Seiso MOYO
Deputy Minister for Agriculture, Mechanisation
and Irrigation Development
Harare

Mary Sibusisiwe MUBI
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of the
Republic of Zimbabwe to the United Nations
Food and Agriculture Agencies
Rome

R.J. MUZAMHINDO
Principal Director
Ministry of Agriculture, Mechanization
and Irrigation Development
Harare

Irene BOSHA
Counsellor
Alternate Permanent Representative
of the Republic of Zimbabwe to the United Nations
Food and Agriculture Agencies
Rome

مراقبون من الدول الأعضاء بالأمم المتحدة

OBSERVERS FROM UNITED NATIONS MEMBER STATES

OBSERVATEURS D'ÉTATS MEMBRES DES NATIONS UNIES

OBSERVADORES DE LOS ESTADOS MIEMBROS DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS

AUSTRALIA

Bob QUIGGIN
Acting Assistant Director-General
Economics, Rural Development,
Infrastructure and Research
Australian Agency for International
Development (AusAID)
Canberra

Kristina GILL
Adviser (Development Cooperation)
Australian Embassy
Rome

CZECH REPUBLIC

Jiří MUCHKA
Permanent Representative of
the Czech Republic to FAO
Rome

ESTONIA

Ruve SCHANK
Minister Counsellor
Permanent Representative of
the Republic of Estonia
to FAO
Rome

Siim TIIDEMANN
Head of Department
Ministry of Agriculture
Tallin

LITHUANIA

Petras ZAPOLSKAS
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of the
Republic of Lithuania to FAO
Rome

SAN MARINO

Daniela ROTONDARO
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of the
Republic of San Marino
to FAO
Rome

Marina EMILIANI
Counsellor
Deputy Permanent Representative
of the Republic of San Marino
to FAO
Rome

SLOVAKIA

Denisa MEDVEDOVÁ
Counsellor
Permanent Representative of the
Slovak Republic to FAO and WFP
Rome

UKRAINE

Yana SKIBINETSKA
First Secretary
Alternate Permanent Representative
of Ukraine to FAO
Rome

الكرسي الرسولي

HOLY SEE

SAINT-SIÈGE

SANTA SEDE

Luigi TRAVAGLINO
Nonce Apostolique
Observateur permanent du
Saint-Siège auprès du FIDA
Rome

Vincenzo BUONOMO
Observateur permanent suppléant
du Saint-Siège auprès du FIDA
Rome

Lelio BERNARDI
Conseiller
Mission permanente d'observation
du Saint-Siège auprès des Institutions
des Nations Unies pour l'alimentation
et l'agriculture
Rome

SOVEREIGN ORDER OF MALTA

ORDRE SOUVERAIN DE MALTE

SOBERANA ORDEN DE MALTA

Giuseppe BONANNO DI LINGUAGLOSSA
Ambassadeur de l'Ordre Souverain
Militaire Hospitalier de Saint-Jean
de Jérusalem de Rhodes et de Malte
Observateur permanent auprès du FIDA
Rome

Claude FORTHOMME
Conseiller technique
Représentation de l'Ordre Souverain
Militaire Hospitalier de Saint-Jean
de Jérusalem de Rhodes et de Malte
auprès des Agences des Nations Unies
Rome

REPRESENTATIVES OF THE UNITED NATIONS AND SPECIALIZED AGENCIES
REPRÉSENTANTS DES NATIONS UNIES ET INSTITUTIONS SPÉCIALISÉES
REPRESENTANTES DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS Y ORGANISMOS ESPECIALIZADOS

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)

Garry SMITH
Principal Adviser
Investment Centre Division
Technical Cooperation Department
Rome

Mariam AHMED
Chief
United Nations Relations and
Rome-based Collaboration Branch
Office of Corporate Communications
and External Relations
Rome

Guy EVERS
Chief
Africa Service
Investment Centre Division
Technical Cooperation Department
Rome

Claudio GREGORIO
Chief
Investment Centre Division
Rome

Laurence PIT
Programme Officer (Investments)
Investment Centre Division
Technical Cooperation Department
Rome

Ida CHRISTENSEN
Rural Sociologist
Investment Centre Division
Technical Cooperation Department
Rome

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) (cont'd)

Charlotta JULL
Legal Specialist
Investment Centre Division
Technical Cooperation Department
Rome

World Food Programme (WFP)

Amir ABDULLA
Deputy Executive Director
External Relations
Chief Operating Officer
Rome

Mohamed EL-KOUHENE
Deputy Director
External Relations
Rome

Rossella FANELLI
External Relations Officer
Rome

Sarah LONGFORD
Senior Programme Adviser
Purchase for Progress
Rome

Mary Ellen MCGROARTY
Senior Programme Adviser
Purchase for Progress
Rome

Lena SAVELLI
Assistant to the Deputy
Executive Director
External Relations
Rome

Maria SFARRA
Donor Relations Officer
Rome

Marta LAURIENZO
Donor Relations Officer
Rome

المراقبون من المنظمات الحكومية الدولية

OBSERVERS FROM INTERGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

OBSERVATEURS DES ORGANISATIONS INTERGOUVERNEMENTALES

OBSERVADORES DE LAS ORGANIZACIONES INTERGUBERNAMENTALES

African Development Bank (AfDB)

Dougou KEITA
Manager
Agriculture and Agro-Industry Division
Tunis

Arab Authority for Agricultural Investment and Development (AAAID)

Ali Bin Saeed AL SHARHAN
President
Khartoum

Abdel Khader AHMED
Head of the Development Department
Khartoum

Arab Bank for Economic Development in Africa (BADEA)

Abdulmagid H. BURAWI
Senior Project Officer
Operations Department
Khartoum

Arab Center for the Studies of Arid Zones and Dry Lands (ACSAD)

Wael SEIF
Director
Water Department
Damascus

Asian Development Bank (AsDB)

Naomi CHAKWIN
Resident Director-General
European Representative Office
Frankfurt

Central American Bank for Economic Integration (CABEI)

Angel MURILLO SÁNCHEZ
Especialista en Agronegocios
Gerencia de Países y Proyectos
Tegucigalpa

European Union (EU)

Lawrence ARGIMON-PISTRE
Ambassadeur
Représentant permanent de l'Union européenne
auprès du Saint-Siège, de l'Ordre de Malte
et les organisations des Nations Unies
Rome

Lourdes MAGAÑA DE LARRIVA
Conseillère
Délégation de la Union européenne auprès
du Saint-Siège, de l'Ordre de Malte et
les organisations des Nations Unies
Rome

Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA)

Alfredo MENA
Representante en Haiti
Pétion-Ville

International Center for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas (ICARDA)

Mahmoud SOLH
Director-General
Aleppo

Kamel SHIDEED
Assistant Director-General
International Cooperation
and Communication
Aleppo

International Grains Council (IGC)

Etsuo KITAHARA
Executive Director
London

International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI)

Jimmy SMITH
Director-General
Nairobi

International Organization for Migration (IOM)

Jose Angel OROPEZA
Regional Representative for
Mediterranean Region
Rome

International Rice Research Institute (IRRI)

Corinta QUIJANO GUERTA
Director for External Relations
Metro Manila

West African Development Bank (BOAD)

Patrice GBAGUIDI
Directeur du développement rural
et des infrastructures
Lomé

المراقبون من المنظمات غير الحكومية

OBSERVERS FROM NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

OBSERVATEURS DES ORGANISATIONS NON GOUVERNEMENTALES

OBSERVADORES DE LAS ORGANIZACIONES NO GUBERNAMENTALES

Africare

Kwasi AMPOFO
Chief Agronomist
Office of Agriculture and
Food Security
Washington, D.C.

**Agricultural Cooperative Development International/Volunteers in Overseas
Cooperation Assistance (ACDI/VOCA)**

Susan G. SCHRAM
Vice-President
Outreach and Cooperative Programs
Washington, D.C.

Ali EL-SAIED
Senior Business Intelligence Adviser
Washington, D.C.

Human Appeal International (HAI)

Obaid Mohammed Juma AL MATROOSHI
Vice Secretary-General
Ajman

Bashar Mah'd Abdel AL JAMAL
Director
Australia Office
Lakemba

Talla LEYE
Director
Senegal Office
Dakar

Mahmoud ASFA
Director
Italy Office
Milan

International Commission on Irrigation and Drainage (ICID)

Lucio UBERTINI
Vice-President
Perugia

International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movements (IFOAM)

Andre LEU
President
Bonn

Oxford Committee for Famine Relief (OXFAM)

Luca CHINOTTI
GROW Campaign Policy Adviser
Rome

Rotary International (RI)

Marco Claudio RANDONE
Primary Rotary International
Representative to IFAD
Rome

Antonio LICO
Alternate Rotary International
Representative to IFAD
Rome

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Date: 22 February 2012
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Enabling poor rural people
to overcome poverty

Agenda and programme of events

Note to Governors

Focal points:

Technical questions:

Paolo Ciocca
Secretary of IFAD
Tel.: +39 06 5459 2254
e-mail: p.ciocca@ifad.org

Dispatch of documentation:

Kelly Feenan
Head, Governing Bodies Office
Tel.: +39 06 5459 2058
e-mail: gb_office@ifad.org

Governing Council — Thirty-fifth Session
Rome, 22-23 February 2012

For: Approval

Agenda

1. Opening of the session
2. Adoption of the agenda
3. Election of the Bureau of the Governing Council
4. Applications for non-original membership
5. Statement of the President of IFAD
6. General statements
7. Report on the Eighth Replenishment of IFAD's Resources
8. Ninth Replenishment of IFAD's Resources
9. Consolidated financial statements of IFAD for 2010
10. IFAD's capital and administrative budgets and the budget of the Independent Office of Evaluation of IFAD for 2012
11. Revision of the Financial Regulations of IFAD
12. Report on the special expenditure for the Voluntary Separation Programme for IFAD for 2011
13. Election of members and alternate members of the Executive Board
14. Progress report on implementation of the performance-based allocation system
15. Istanbul Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011-2020
16. Other business

Programme of events

Wednesday, 22 February 2012

Morning session

9 a.m. to 1.30 p.m.

| | |
|-------------------------|--|
| 9 a.m. – 9.15 a.m. | Commencement of consideration of agenda items |
| 9.15 a.m. – 9.30 a.m. | Inaugural ceremony – Keynote speaker His Excellency Paul Kagame, President of the Republic of Rwanda |
| 9.30 a.m. – 9.45 a.m. | Statement of the President of IFAD |
| 9.45 a.m. – 11.30 a.m. | High-level panel discussion: “Feed the world, protect the planet” |
| 11.30 a.m. – 11.50 a.m. | General statements |
| 11.50 a.m. – 12.15 p.m. | Inaugural ceremony – Keynote speaker His Excellency Mario Monti, Prime Minister of the Italian Republic |
| 12.15 p.m. – 1.30 p.m. | General statements and continuation of consideration of agenda items |

Afternoon session

3 p.m. to 7 p.m.

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|--------------------|--|
| 3 p.m. – 3.15 p.m. | Keynote speaker – His Excellency Joseph Nyuma Boakai, Vice-President of the Republic of Liberia on behalf of Her Excellency Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, President of the Republic of Liberia |
| 3.15 p.m. – 4 p.m. | Centre-stage event: “What promise will Rio herald for agriculture?” A conversation with Dr Lindiwe Majele Sibanda, Chief Executive Officer, Food, Agriculture and Natural Resources Policy Analysis Network |
| 4 p.m. – 6 p.m. | Regional side events (in parallel): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Achieving food security in sub-Saharan Africa through conservation agriculture • Community and Participatory Management of Natural Resources: Experiences from Mesoamerica’s Indigenous Peoples and Forest Communities • Crop for the future: enhancing resilience of smallholder farmers through improved crop varieties in the context of climate change • Investing in green agriculture: the role of the diaspora |
| 6 p.m. – 7 p.m. | General statements |
| 7 p.m. – 9 p.m. | Reception for all delegates |

Thursday, 23 February 2012**Morning session 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.**

| | |
|-------------------------|--|
| 9 a.m. – 9.45 a.m. | General statements |
| 9.45 a.m. – 10 a.m. | Keynote speaker – His Excellency Andrea Riccardi, Minister for International Cooperation and Integration Policies, the Italian Republic |
| 10 a.m. – 11 a.m. | Centre-stage event with Mr Bill Gates, Founder and Co-chair, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. “Sustainable agricultural productivity: The key to poverty reduction” |
| 11 a.m. – 12.45 p.m. | High-level panel with policymakers: “From words to actions: Creating a sustainable future for smallholder farmers” |
| 12.45 p.m. – 12.55 p.m. | President’s concluding remarks |
| 12.55 p.m. – 1 p.m. | Chairperson’s closing statement |
| 1 p.m. – 3 p.m. | Farewell lunch |

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

| Document No. | Agenda Item | Title |
|---------------------------|-------------|---|
| GC 35/L.1 | 2 | Provisional agenda and programme of events |
| GC 35/L.1/Add.1 | 2 | Schedule of work |
| GC 35/L.2 | 4 | Applications for non-original membership |
| GC 35/L.3 | 7 | Report on the status of donor contributions to the Eighth Replenishment of IFAD's Resources |
| GC 35/L.4 + Add.1 + Add.2 | 8 | Report of the Consultation on the Ninth Replenishment of IFAD's Resources |
| GC 35/L.5 | 9 | Consolidated financial statements of IFAD as at 31 December 2010 |
| GC 35/L.6 | 10 | IFAD's 2012 results-based programme of work and administrative and capital budgets, and the Independent Office of Evaluation of IFAD's results-based work programme and budget for 2012 and indicative plan for 2013-2014 |
| GC 35/L.7 | 11 | Revisions to the Financial Regulations of IFAD |
| GC 35/L.8 | 12 | Report on the special expenditure for the Voluntary Separation Programme for 2009-2011 |
| GC 35/L.9 + Add.1 | 13 | Election of members and alternate members of the Executive Board |
| GC 35/L.10 | 14 | Progress report on implementation of the performance-based allocation system |
| GC 35/L.11 | 15 | Istanbul Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011-2020 |
| GC 35/INF.1 + Add.1 | | Thirty-fifth session of the Governing Council - Organizational aspects |
| GC 35/INF.2 | | IFAD's participation in the Debt Initiative for Heavily Indebted Poor Countries |
| GC 35/INF.3 | | Interim progress report on the proceedings of the Emoluments Committee |
| GC 35/INF.4 | | Revision of the Lending Policies and Criteria |

| | |
|-------------------|--|
| GC 35/INF.5 | Financial highlights of the year ended 31 December 2011 |
| GC 35/INF.6 | Order of Speakers |
| GC 35/Resolutions | Resolutions adopted by the Governing Council at its thirty-fifth session |

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E

Enabling poor rural people
to overcome poverty

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

Note to Governors

Focal points:

Technical questions:

Rutsel Silvestre J. Martha
General Counsel
Tel.: +39 06 5459 2457
e-mail: r.martha@ifad.org

Dispatch of documentation:

Kelly Feenan
Head, Governing Bodies Office
Tel.: +39 06 5459 2058
e-mail: k.feenan@ifad.org

Governing Council — Thirty-fifth Session
Rome, 22-23 February 2012

For: Information

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

1. The Governing Council, at its thirty-fifth session, adopted resolutions 164/XXXV, 165/XXXV, 166/XXXV, 167/XXXV, 168/XXXV, 169/XXXV and 170/XXXV.
2. These resolutions are transmitted for the information of all Members of IFAD.

Resolution 164/XXXV

Approval of the Republic of Estonia as a non-original Member of the Fund

The Governing Council of IFAD,

Taking into account articles 3.1(a), 3.2(b) and 13.1(c) of the Agreement Establishing IFAD and section 10 of the By-laws for the Conduct of the Business of IFAD;

Considering that non-original Members of the Fund shall be those other States members of the United Nations or any of its specialized agencies that, after the approval of their membership by the Governing Council, become parties to the Agreement Establishing the International Fund for Agricultural Development by depositing an instrument of accession with the Secretary-General of the United Nations;

Considering that the Republic of Estonia has been a member of the United Nations since 1991 and is a member of numerous of its specialized agencies;

Considering therefore that the Republic of Estonia is eligible for membership in the Fund;

Having considered the application for non-original membership by the Republic of Estonia transmitted to the Council in document GC 35/L.2, and the recommendation of the Executive Board that the Republic of Estonia should be admitted to membership in the International Fund for Agricultural Development;

Taking note of the initial contribution amount proposed by the Republic of Estonia, EUR 45,000, upon approval of its membership application;

Approves the membership of the Republic of Estonia; and

Tasks the President to notify the Secretary-General of the United Nations of this decision.

Resolution 165/XXXV

Approval of the Republic of South Sudan as a non-original Member of the Fund,

The Governing Council of IFAD,

Taking into account articles 3.1(a), 3.2(b) and 13.1(c) of the Agreement Establishing IFAD and section 10 of the By-laws for the Conduct of the Business of IFAD;

Considering that non-original Members of the Fund shall be those other States members of the United Nations or any of its specialized agencies that, after the approval of their membership by the Governing Council, become parties to the Agreement Establishing the International Fund for Agricultural Development by depositing an instrument of accession with the Secretary-General of the United Nations;

Considering that the Republic of South Sudan has been a member of the United Nations since July 2011 and is a member of several of its specialized agencies;

Considering therefore that the Republic of South Sudan is eligible for membership in the Fund;

Having considered the application for non-original membership by the Republic of South Sudan transmitted to the Council in document GC 35/L.2, and the recommendation of the Executive Board that the Republic of South Sudan should be admitted to membership in the International Fund for Agricultural Development;

Taking note of the initial contribution amount proposed by the Republic of South Sudan, US\$10,000, upon approval of its membership application;

Approves the membership of the Republic of South Sudan; and

Tasks the President to notify the Secretary-General of the United Nations of this decision.

Resolution 166/XXXV

Ninth Replenishment of IFAD's Resources

The Governing Council of IFAD,

Recalling the relevant provisions of the Agreement Establishing the International Fund for Agricultural Development ("the Agreement"), in particular articles 2 (Objective and Functions), 4.3 (Additional Contributions), 4.4 (Increases in Contributions), 4.5 (Conditions Governing Contributions), 4.6 (Special Contributions) and 7 (Operations) as well as Governing Council resolution 77/2 (1977), as amended by resolution 86/XVIII (1995) (Delegation of Powers to the Executive Board);

Further recalling Governing Council Resolution 160/XXXIV (2011) on the establishment of the Consultation on the Ninth Replenishment of IFAD's Resources, whereby the thirty-fourth session of the Governing Council, in accordance with article 4.3 of the Agreement, set the Consultation the task of reviewing the adequacy of the Fund's resources and reporting to the Governing Council, **and**, in particular, the requirement for the Consultation to submit a report on the results of its deliberations and any recommendations thereon to the thirty-fifth session and, if required, subsequent sessions of the Governing Council, with a view to adopting such resolutions as may be appropriate;

Having considered that for the purpose of reviewing the adequacy of the Fund's resources, account has been taken of the urgent need to alleviate food insecurity by increasing the flow of external resources for food production, particularly on concessional terms, as well as the Fund's special mandate and operational capacity to effectively channel additional resources to eligible Members;

Having further considered that in determining the level at which the resources of the Fund should be replenished by additional contributions of Members, account has been taken of the announcements of Members' intentions to make additional contributions to the resources of the Fund and the President's undertaking to make every effort to explore the scope for increasing financing from alternative sources and to submit any resulting proposals to the Executive Board for approval;

Having taken into account and agreed on the conclusions and recommendations of the Report of the Consultation on the Ninth Replenishment of IFAD's Resources (GC 35/L.4 + Add.1 + Add.2) regarding the need and desirability of additional resources for the operations of the Fund; and

Acting upon article 4.3 of the Agreement,

Hereby decides:

I. The level of replenishment and call for additional contributions

- (a) **Available resources.** The Fund's resources at the end of the Eighth Replenishment period and the funds to be derived from operations or otherwise accruing to the Fund during the three-year period commencing 1 January 2013 (the replenishment period) are estimated at US\$2.03 billion.
- (b) **Target for contributions.** The target for additional contributions and special contributions from non-Member States is set at the amount of US\$1.5 billion.
- (c) **Call for additional contributions.** Taking into account the conclusions and recommendations of the Report of the Consultation on the Ninth Replenishment of IFAD's Resources (GC 35/L.4) ("the Ninth Replenishment report") regarding the need and desirability of additional resources for the operations of the Fund, Members are hereby invited to make additional contributions to the resources of the Fund in accordance with the terms set forth below.
- (d) **Pledges.** The Fund acknowledges the announcements of the Members' intentions to make additional contributions to the resources of the Fund as set out in annex VI to the Ninth Replenishment report. Members that have not yet formally announced their contributions are invited to do so preferably no later than the last day of the six-month period following the adoption of this resolution. The President shall communicate a revised annex VI to the Ninth Replenishment report to all Members of the Fund no later than 15 days after the above-mentioned date.
- (e) **Structural gap.** While maintaining the target level as specified in subsection I(b), the structural gap may not exceed 15 per cent of such target level. In the event that the structural gap exceeds 15 per cent at the end of the six-month period for the creation of new votes specified in subsection IX(a) of this resolution, the target level specified in subsection I(b) shall be adjusted so that the total amount of the pledges received at that date represents at least 85 per cent of the target level. If such an adjustment becomes necessary, the President will immediately communicate the new target level to the Governors, after which subsection I(b) shall be deemed to have been amended accordingly.

II. Measuring results, effectiveness and efficiency

- (a) During the replenishment period, the Results Measurement Framework set forth in annex II to the Ninth Replenishment report shall constitute a systematic approach to management, monitoring and measurement to ensure that the intended results have the greatest likelihood of being achieved.
- (b) In order to raise the capacity of the Fund to effectively and efficiently manage ongoing operations and deliver the programme of work, the Executive Board and the President shall adopt the measures and undertake the actions set forth in annex I to the Ninth Replenishment report.

III. Contributions

- (a) **Additional contributions.** During the replenishment period, the Fund shall accept from Members:
 - (i) **Core contributions.** Upon their core contributions to the Ninth Replenishment, Members shall receive commensurate contribution votes pursuant to article 6.3(a)(ii)(B) of the Agreement.

- (ii) **Complementary contributions.** Members shall not receive commensurate contribution votes on complementary contributions.
- (b) **Special contributions**
 - (i) During the replenishment period, the resources of the Fund may be increased by special contributions from non-Member States.
 - (ii) The Executive Board may approve related agreements with such States and allow their participation in its meetings, when appropriate.
 - (iii) Special contributions made by any State after the adoption of this resolution shall be converted into additional contributions upon the contributor's accession to the Fund during the replenishment period.
 - (iv) With respect to special contributions from sources other than States, the Executive Board may review and approve related agreements with the contributors. Based on its review of the potential implications, the Executive Board may also consider adopting measures to enable such contributors' participation in its meetings on an ad hoc basis, provided that these measures have no consequences for the governance of the Fund.
- (c) **Conditions governing contributions**
 - (i) In conformity with article 4.5(a) of the Agreement, the foregoing contributions shall be made without restriction as to their use and shall be refunded to contributing Members only in accordance with article 9.4 of the Agreement.
 - (ii) The Governing Council will, if and when proposed, decide upon the use to be made of complementary contributions. When the Governing Council is not in session, the Executive Board shall be allowed to make such decisions.
 - (iii) In application of subsection (c)(ii) above, and without prejudice to the authority to decide on the use of complementary contributions for other purposes, during the replenishment period, the Fund shall accept complementary contributions to support its Adaptation for Smallholder Agriculture Programme.
- (d) **Denomination of contributions.** In accordance with article 5.2(a) of the Agreement, Members shall denominate their contributions in special drawing rights (SDR), in a currency used for the valuation of the SDR, or in the currency of the contributing Member if such currency is freely convertible and the Member did not experience, in the period from 1 January 2009 to 31 December 2010, a rate of inflation in excess of 10 per cent per annum on average, as determined by the Fund.
- (e) **Unpaid contributions.** Those Members that have not yet completed payment of their previous contributions to the resources of the Fund and that have not yet deposited an instrument of contribution or paid their contribution for the Eighth Replenishment are urged to make the necessary arrangements. Upon proposals by the President, the Executive Board shall adopt measures aimed at realizing the settlement of unpaid contributions.
- (f) A Member may increase the amount of any of its contributions at any time.
- (g) **Exchange rates.** For the purposes of section I(b), commitments and pledges made under this resolution shall be valued on the basis of the average month-end exchange rate of the International Monetary Fund over a six-month period preceding the adoption of this resolution between the currencies to be converted into United States dollars (1 April–30 September 2011), rounded to the fourth decimal point.

IV. Instruments of contribution

- (a) **General clause.** Members making contributions under this resolution shall deposit with the Fund, preferably no later than the last day of the six-month period following the adoption of the resolution, an instrument of contribution formally committing to make additional contributions to the Fund in accordance with the terms of this resolution and specifying the amount of their contribution in the applicable currency of denomination.
- (b) **Unqualified contribution.** Except as specified in subsection (c) below, such instrument of contribution shall constitute an unqualified commitment by the concerned Member to pay its payable contribution in the manner and on the terms set forth in this resolution, or as otherwise approved by the Executive Board. For the purpose of this resolution, such contribution shall be called an “**unqualified contribution**”.
- (c) **Qualified contribution.** As an exceptional case, where an unqualified commitment cannot be given by a Member due to its legislative practice, the Fund may accept from that Member an instrument of contribution that expressly contains the qualification that payment of all instalments of its payable contribution, except for the first one, is subject to subsequent budgetary appropriation. Such an instrument of contribution shall, however, include an undertaking by the Member to exercise its best efforts to: (i) arrange such appropriation for the full amount specified by the payment dates indicated in section VII, and (ii) notify the Fund as soon as the appropriation relative to each instalment is obtained. For the purpose of this resolution, a contribution in this form shall be called a “**qualified contribution**”, but shall be deemed to be unqualified to the extent that appropriation has been obtained.
- (d) **Contingent contributions.** The Fund may accept contributions that, in part or in whole, may be contingent upon the completion of specific measures and actions referred to in section II of this resolution.
- (e) **Commensurate modification.** In the case of an undue delay in the deposit of an instrument of contribution or in payment, or of substantial reduction in its contribution by a Member, any other Member that has not waived the right to avail itself of the option of commensurate modification in its instrument of contribution, may, notwithstanding any provision to the contrary in this resolution, at its option, after consultation with the Executive Board, make a commensurate modification, ad interim, in its schedule of payment or amount of contribution. The option of commensurate modification may be exercised with the sole purpose of safeguarding the objectives of the replenishment and avoiding any significant disparity between the relative proportion of Members’ total contributions until such time that the Member whose conduct caused the option to be exercised has acted to remedy the situation on its part or the Member exercising the option revokes its decision taken under this provision.

V. Effectiveness

- (a) **Effectiveness of the replenishment.** The replenishment shall come into effect on the date upon which instruments of contribution or payments made without an instrument of contribution relating to the additional contributions and special contributions from States referred to in section III of this resolution have been deposited with or received by the Fund in an aggregate amount equivalent to at least 50 per cent of the pledges as communicated by the President to Members pursuant to section I(e).
- (b) **Effectiveness of individual contributions.** Instruments of contribution deposited on or before the effective date of the replenishment shall take

effect on that date, and instruments of contribution deposited after such date shall take effect on their respective dates of deposit.

- (c) **Effectiveness of replenishment votes.** The distribution of the Ninth Replenishment votes, as specified in the provisions of section IX below, shall enter into effect six months after the adoption of this resolution. The President shall communicate the distribution of the Ninth Replenishment membership and contribution votes to all Members of the Fund no later than 15 days after the date specified above.
- (d) **Availability for commitment.** As of the effective date of the replenishment, all additional contributions paid to the resources of the Fund shall be considered available for operational commitment under article 7.2(b) of the Agreement and other relevant policies of the Fund.

VI. Advance contribution

Notwithstanding the provisions of section V above, all contributions or parts thereof paid prior to the effective date of the replenishment may be used by the Fund for its operations, in accordance with the requirements of the Agreement and other relevant policies of the Fund, unless a Member specifies otherwise in writing. Any loan and grant commitments made by the Fund on such advance contributions shall for all purposes be treated as part of the Fund's operational programme before the effective date of the replenishment.

VII. Payment of contributions

(a) Unqualified contributions

- (i) **Payment of instalments.** Each contributing Member shall, at its option, pay its unqualified payable contribution in a single sum or in two or maximum three instalments. Instalment payments in respect of each unqualified contribution shall be, at the option of the Member, either in equal amounts or in progressively graduated amounts, with the first instalment amounting to at least 30 per cent of the contribution, the second instalment amounting to at least 35 per cent and the third instalment, if any, covering the remaining balance.

(ii) Payment dates

Single-sum payment

Payment in a single sum shall be due on the thirtieth day after the Member's instrument of contribution enters into effect.

Instalment payments

Payment in instalments shall be made according to the following schedule:

The first instalment shall be due on the thirtieth day after the Member's instrument of contribution enters into effect. Any other instalment shall be due on the first anniversary of the effective date of the replenishment and the balance, if any, shall be paid no later than the last day of the three-year period following the adoption of this resolution.

- (iii) **Early payment.** Any Member may pay its contribution at earlier dates than those specified in subsection (a)(ii) above.
- (iv) **Alternative arrangements.** The President may, upon the request of a Member, agree to a variation in the prescribed payment dates, percentages or number of instalments of the contribution, provided that such a variation shall not adversely affect the operational needs of the Fund.

- (b) **Qualified contributions.** Qualified contributions shall be paid within 90 days after the Member's instrument of contribution enters into effect, as and to the extent that the relative contribution becomes unqualified and, where possible, in accordance with the annual payment dates specified in subsection (a)(ii) above. A Member that has deposited an instrument of contribution for a qualified contribution shall inform the Fund of the status of the qualified instalment of its contribution no later than 30 days after the annual payment date specified in subsection (a)(ii) above.
- (c) **Currency of payment**
 - (i) All contributions made under this resolution shall be paid in SDR, in a currency used for the valuation of the SDR, or in the currency of the contributing Member if such currency is acceptable.
 - (ii) In accordance with article 5.2(b) of the Agreement, the value of the payment shall be determined on the basis of the rate of exchange used by IFAD for translation purposes in its books of account at the time of payment.
- (d) **Mode of payment.** In conformity with article 4.5(c) of the Agreement, payments in respect to the payable contribution shall be made in cash or, at the option of the Member, by the deposit of non-negotiable, irrevocable and non-interest-bearing notes or similar obligations of the Member, encashable on demand by the Fund at their par value in accordance with the terms of subsection (e) below. To the extent possible, Members may favourably consider payment of their contributions in cash.
- (e) **Encashment of promissory notes or similar obligations.** In conformity with the provisions of article 4.5(c)(i) of the Agreement and regulation V of the Financial Regulations of IFAD, promissory notes or similar obligations of Members shall be encashed in accordance with the drawdown policy approved by the Executive Board at its seventy-first session or as agreed between the President and a contributing Member.
- (f) **Payment modalities.** At the time of depositing its instrument of contribution, each Member shall indicate to the Fund its proposed schedule and mode of payment on the basis of the arrangements set forth in subsections (a), (b), (c) and (d) above.

VIII. Exercise of the advance commitment authority

Effective 1 January 2013, when the Executive Board authorizes advance commitment funds to be derived from operations pursuant to its power under article 7.2(b) of the Agreement, the Fund's commitment capacity shall be assessed and determined in accordance with the sustainable cash flow methodology by matching financial obligations (cash outflows) arising from commitments against current resources and projected cash inflows.

IX. Allocation of new votes for the replenishment

- (a) **Replenishment votes.** New replenishment votes shall be created ("Ninth Replenishment votes"). The total amount of Ninth Replenishment votes shall be calculated by dividing the total amount of pledges to core contributions, which have been received as of the date six months after the date of adoption of this resolution, by US\$1,580,000.
- (b) The Ninth Replenishment votes thus created shall be distributed in accordance with section 3(a)(ii) and (iii) of article 6 of the Agreement as follows:
 - (i) **Membership votes.** Membership votes shall be distributed equally among all Members in conformity with article 6.3(a)(i)(A) and (ii)(A) of the Agreement.

- (ii) **Contribution votes.** In conformity with article 6.3(a)(ii)(B) of the Agreement, contribution votes shall be distributed among all Members in the proportion that each Member's paid-up contribution for the Ninth Replenishment bears to the aggregate of the paid core contributions specified in section III above.
- (iii) The allocation and distribution of the original, Fourth Replenishment, Fifth Replenishment, Sixth Replenishment, Seventh Replenishment and Eighth Replenishment votes shall continue irrespective of the entry into force of this resolution.
- (c) **Communication of votes.** The amount and allocation of votes created in accordance with subsection (a) above shall be communicated to all Members and reported to the Governing Council at its thirty-sixth session.

X. Cofinancing and miscellaneous operations

During the replenishment period, the Executive Board and the President are encouraged to take necessary measures to strengthen the Fund's catalytic role in raising the proportion of national and international funding directed at improving the well-being and self-reliance of rural poor people, and to supplement the resources of the Fund by using the Fund's power to perform financial and technical services, including the administration of resources and acting as trustee, that are consistent with the objective and functions of the Fund. Operations involved in the performance of such financial services shall not be on the account of the Fund.

XI. Reporting to the Governing Council

The President shall submit to the thirty-sixth Governing Council session and subsequent sessions of the Governing Council reports on the status of commitments, payments, borrowing and other relevant matters concerning the replenishment. The reports shall be submitted to the Governing Council together with the Executive Board's comments, if any, and its recommendations thereon.

XII. Review by the Executive Board

- (a) The Executive Board shall periodically review the status of contributions under the replenishment and shall take such actions, as may be appropriate, for the implementation of the provisions of this resolution.
- (b) If, during the replenishment period, delays in the making of any contributions cause or threaten to cause a suspension in the Fund's lending operations or otherwise prevent the substantial attainment of the goals of the replenishment, upon the request of the Executive Board the Chairperson of the Governing Council may convene a meeting of the Consultation established by resolution 160/XXXIV (2011) to review the situation and consider ways of fulfilling the conditions necessary for the continuation of the Fund's lending operations or for the substantial attainment of those goals.

XIII. Mid-term review

A mid-term review of the implementation of the measures and actions referred to in section II of this resolution will be undertaken and its findings presented at an early meeting of the Consultation on the Tenth Replenishment of IFAD's Resources.

Resolution 167/XXXV

Administrative and capital budgets of IFAD for 2012 and administrative budget of the Independent Office of Evaluation of IFAD for 2012

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 104th session, the Executive Board reviewed and agreed upon a programme of work of IFAD for 2012 at a level of SDR 739 million (US\$1,155 million), which comprises a lending programme of SDR 691 million (US\$1,080 million) and a gross grant programme of US\$75 million;

Having considered the review of the 104th session of the Executive Board concerning the proposed administrative and capital budgets of IFAD for 2012 and the administrative budget of the Independent Office of Evaluation of IFAD for 2012;

Approves, firstly, the administrative budget of IFAD for 2012 in the amount of US\$144.14 million, secondly, the capital budget of IFAD for 2012 in the amount of US\$3.5 million, and thirdly, the budget of the Independent Office of Evaluation of IFAD for 2012 in the amount of US\$6.02 million, as they are set forth in document GC 35/L.6, determined on the basis of a rate of exchange of EUR 0.72/US\$1.00; and

Determines that in the event the average value of the United States dollar in 2012 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 2012 bears to the budget exchange rate.

Resolution 168/XXXV

Revisions to the Financial Regulations of IFAD

The Governing Council of IFAD,

Acting under article 6, section 2(f) of the Agreement Establishing IFAD;

Recalling resolution 133/XXVII adopted by the Governing Council at its twenty-seventh session in 2004 amending regulation VI, paragraph 2 of the Financial Regulations of IFAD, to allow unobligated appropriations at the close of the financial year to be carried forward into the following financial year up to an amount not exceeding 3 per cent of the said financial year;

Recalling that the Governing Council at its twenty-third session in 2001 approved, in its resolution 116/XXIII, the introduction of the capital budget into the administrative budget;

Further recalling that the Executive Board at its seventy-eighth session in April 2003 approved the IFAD Evaluation Policy, which established the principle of a separate annual budget as part of the administrative budget;

Aware that a final investment policy statement would be submitted to the Audit Committee for its review prior to submission to the Executive Board for approval at its December session in 2011;

Having considered resolution 77/2 whereby the Governing Council delegated its authority to the Executive Board in matters relating to the appointment of the external auditor;

Having considered resolution 16/IV and resolution 111/XXII whereby a General Reserve was established;

Decides that:

- I. Regulation II of the Financial Regulations of IFAD shall be amended to read as follows:

Regulation II

- (h) "Administrative budget" means the annual administrative budget of the Fund referred to in article 6, section 10 of the Agreement Establishing IFAD, which shall consist of a regular budget, a capital budget and an Independent Office of Evaluation of IFAD budget;
 - (i) "Regular budget" means the category of the administrative budget voted by the Governing Council for the administration of the Fund, excluding the Independent Office of Evaluation of IFAD and the capital budget;
 - (j) "Capital budget" means the category of the administrative budget voted by the Governing Council for commitments and payments to finance capital items, the cost of which are normally written off over a number of financial years making up the estimated useful life of the asset;
 - (k) "Independent Office of Evaluation of IFAD budget" means the category of the administrative budget voted by the Governing Council for the administration of the Independent Office of Evaluation of IFAD.
- II. Regulation VI of the Financial Regulations of IFAD shall be amended to read as follows:

Regulation VI

1. The President shall submit an annual administrative budget estimate to the Executive Board for transmission to the Governing Council for approval by a two-thirds majority of the total number of votes.
 2. The appropriations for the regular budget and for the Independent Office of Evaluation of IFAD budget voted by the Governing Council for the ensuing financial year shall constitute an authorization to the President to incur obligations and make payments for the purpose for which the appropriations were voted. All unobligated appropriations under the regular budget and the Independent Office of Evaluation of IFAD budget, respectively, at the close of the financial year may be carried forward into the following financial year up to an amount not exceeding 3 per cent.
 3. To meet the Fund's requirements the President may, with the approval of the Executive Board, reallocate funds between categories of the administrative budget.
 4. Without prejudice to paragraph 3 above, the appropriations for the capital budget voted by the Governing Council for the ensuing financial year shall constitute an authorization to the President to incur obligations and make payments for the purpose for which the appropriations were voted.
 - (i) The appropriations for the capital budget voted by the Governing Council shall be used exclusively for commitments and payments to finance long-term outlays.
 - (ii) All unobligated appropriations under the capital budget voted by the Governing Council at the close of the third financial year shall be cancelled unless the Governing Council decides otherwise.
- III. Regulation VIII.2 of the Financial Regulations of IFAD shall be amended to read as follows:

Regulation VIII.2

In investing the resources of the Fund, the President shall be guided by the paramount considerations of security and liquidity. Within these constraints, and subject to the policy statement laid down by the Executive Board, the President shall seek the highest possible return in a non-speculative manner.

- IV. Regulation XII.1 of the Financial Regulations of IFAD shall be amended to read as follows:

Regulation XII.1

The accounts of the Fund shall be audited at least once a year by a qualified and independent external auditor appointed by the Executive Board.

- V. A new regulation "Financial Regulation XIII – General Reserve" is created to reflect the establishment of the General Reserve:

Regulation XIII – General Reserve

A General Reserve shall be established to cover the Fund's potential overcommitment risk as a result of exchange rate fluctuations and possible delinquencies in receipt of loan service payments or in the recovery of amounts due to the Fund from the investment of its liquid assets.

The following dispositions shall be implemented with respect to the General Reserve:

- (a) Annual transfers from the accumulated surplus to the General Reserve shall be determined by the Executive Board after taking into account the Fund's financial position;
- (b) The adequacy of the General Reserve shall be periodically reviewed by the Executive Board;
- (c) Subject to the above, the ceiling of the General Reserve may be amended from time to time by the Executive Board;
- (d) Withdrawals from the General Reserve shall be subject to the prior approval of the Executive Board.

VI. Former regulation XIII will now become regulation XIV.

VII. This resolution and the revisions to the Financial Regulations of IFAD shall enter into force upon the adoption of this resolution and shall have effect from financial year 2012.

Resolution 169/XXXV

Repurposing of the balance from the special expenditure for the Voluntary Separation Programme for reform actualization

The Governing Council of IFAD,

Bearing in mind article 6, section 10, of the Agreement Establishing IFAD and regulation VI of the Financial Regulations of IFAD;

Recalling resolutions 156/XXXII and 162/XXXIV, adopted by the Governing Council respectively at its thirty-second and thirty-fourth sessions, approving the special expenditure and its extension of the appropriation for the Voluntary Separation Programme for IFAD;

Having considered the recommendation of the 104th session of the Executive Board concerning the repurposing of the balance remaining under the special appropriation for the Voluntary Separation Programme to finance implementation of the outcomes of the major human resources reform initiatives;

Decides that:

The repurposing of the balance of the appropriation for the special expenditure for the Voluntary Separation Programme as a special expenditure for reform actualization to finance implementation of the outcomes of the major human resources reform initiatives, as set forth in document GC 35/L.8, is approved; and requests the President to submit a final report including expenditures to the Governing Council in February 2014.

Resolution 170/XXXV

Endorsement of the Istanbul Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011-2020

The Governing Council of IFAD,

Taking into account articles 2 and 7.1(e) of the Agreement Establishing IFAD;

Welcoming the endorsement of the Istanbul Declaration and the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries (LDCs) for the Decade 2011-2020 by the United Nations General Assembly on 17 June 2011 and the Economic and Social Council on 7 July 2011;

Recalling paragraph 153 of the Istanbul Programme of Action, which invites international organizations to contribute to its implementation and integrate it into their work programmes, as appropriate and in accordance with their respective mandates;

Noting the resources allocated to LDCs on highly concessional terms and the various initiatives undertaken so far by IFAD to assist LDCs;

Endorses the Istanbul Programme of Action and decides to integrate it into the work of the Fund; and

Invites the President to report on IFAD's work in LDCs and contribute to relevant policy forums for poverty and hunger reduction in rural areas of LDCs.