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Enabling poor rural people
to overcome poverty

Established good practice for the process leading to the appointment of the President of IFAD

Note to Governors

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Governing Council — Thirty-sixth Session
Rome, 13-14 February 2013

For: Approval

Recommendation for approval

The Governing Council is invited to consider and adopt the draft resolution contained in this document.

Established good practice for the process leading to the election¹ of the President of IFAD

Background

1. Prior to the appointment of the President at the thirty-second session of the Governing Council in 2009, the Executive Board agreed to raise the profile and further increase the transparency and openness of the process, in line with good international practice. Following consultations among the three lists into which IFAD's Member Countries are divided (Lists A, B and C), a process was introduced whereby prior to the appointment of the President of IFAD, the following steps are carried out:
 - a. An information note on the relevant procedures and modalities for the appointment of the President of IFAD is posted on IFAD's publicly accessible website;
 - b. A notice on the forthcoming consideration of the appointment of the President by IFAD's Governing Council is issued and posted on IFAD's publicly accessible website;
 - c. A press release on the IFAD Governing Council's forthcoming consideration of the appointment of the President is issued to IFAD's standard network of contacts (covering all media types – print, radio, TV, internet, through newspapers, news agencies, online media, independent journalists, etc.), providing a global perspective with global coverage, which is posted on IFAD's publicly accessible website. Additionally, and as per standard practice, the press release is sent to the United Nations Information Centre, which circulates it to its network;
 - d. A dedicated webpage is set up on IFAD's publicly accessible website to provide all information relative to the procedures and modalities for the appointment of the President of IFAD;
 - e. Both the notice and the press release on IFAD's Governing Council's forthcoming consideration of the appointment of the President are sent to Governors under cover of a separate letter for any communication purposes that Member States may wish to initiate;
 - f. Both the notice and the press release on the forthcoming consideration of the appointment of the President by IFAD's Governing Council are sent to other United Nations agencies, organizations and International Financial Institutions; and,

¹ The Agreement Establishing IFAD stipulates that "The Governing Council shall appoint the President by a two thirds majority of the total number of votes." [Article 6.8(a)]. The process for the nomination of candidates by Member States is set forth in the By-Laws for the Conduct of the Business of IFAD (Section 6). In practice the process is often referred to as the "election" of the President. Taking into account the terms, "elect", "elected" and "election" are reserved by the Agreement Establishing IFAD only in respect of the chairman of the Governing Council and in respect of the members of the Executive Board, the use of the term election in this document is therefore only in a colloquial sense without purporting to convey any legal meaning.

- g. On behalf of all Member States, the Convenors of the three lists, in consultation with the Governing Council Bureau, invite the nominees² for the Presidency of IFAD to an open meeting with IFAD's membership. The purpose of this meeting is to provide an opportunity for candidates to present ideas and views and to respond to questions in a transparent way prior to the Governing Council's consideration of the appointment of the President of IFAD.
2. The practice described above was introduced in 2008/2009, and has been applied in the selection process leading to the appointment of the President of IFAD both in 2008/2009 and 2012/2013.
 3. Furthermore, at the Executive Board's 106th session in September 2012, it was agreed that a proposal for the codification of the established process leading to the election of the President of IFAD would be discussed with Convenors and Friends, with a view to providing the Board with a proposal in December 2012 for endorsement by the Governing Council in 2013.
 4. This paper is a result of discussions held among Convenors and Friends, representing the three Lists.
 5. In light of the foregoing, the Executive Board has considered the paper setting out the established good practice for the process leading to the election of the President of IFAD, as summarised in the timeline below, and recommends to the Governing Council adoption of the attached draft resolution at its thirty-sixth session in February 2013.

Summary Timeline

September	Executive Board approves the provisional agenda for the Governing Council, inclusive of an item on the appointment of the President of IFAD. Subsequently, a call for nominations for the office of President of IFAD is issued by the Secretary of IFAD to all Member States, advising of the timeline for receipt and communication of nominations, in accordance with IFAD's basic texts and with the agreement of the Governing Council Bureau. This is then followed by steps (a) to (f) described above.
December	Nomination period closes, (In accordance with Section 6.2 of the By-laws, all nominations for the office of the President shall be submitted no less than 60 days before the opening of the session at which the appointment of the President is to be decided.) Convenors issue letter to all candidates inviting them to participate in an open membership meeting.
January	Communication of nominations. (In accordance with Section 6.2 of the Bylaws, the President will communicate nominations received from governments of IFAD's Member States to all Members no less than 40 days prior to the session of the Council.) Open membership meeting with all candidates.
February	IFAD Governing Council. Election and Appointment of the President.

² Related costs would be borne by the nominees.

Draft Resolution .../XXXVI

Established good practice for the process leading to the appointment of the President of IFAD

The Governing Council,

Taking into account Article 6.8 (a) of the Agreement Establishing IFAD, Section 6.2 of the By-Laws for the Conduct of the Business of IFAD, and Rule 41 of the Rules of procedure of the Governing Council;

Having considered the report regarding the "*Established good practice for the process leading to the appointment of the President of IFAD*" contained in document GC 36/L.5;

Taking into consideration the recommendation made by the Executive Board at its 107th session thereon;

Desirous of ensuring that IFAD remains at the forefront of international good practice;

Endorses the current, established practice regarding the process leading to the appointment of the President of IFAD; and

Proposes that this practice be reviewed from time to time by the Governing Council Bureau, as appropriate.