

4 February 2014

Distinguished Governors,

I have the pleasure of inviting you to a panel discussion, *Achieving a sustainable future for all: IFAD and the post-2015 agenda*, to be held on Tuesday, 18 February 2014 from 2:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., in the Plenary Hall, at IFAD headquarters. This event will allow delegates participating in the thirty-seventh session of the Governing Council to share their views and expectations on key goals to be set under the post-2015 agenda.

Preparatory discussions around a new global development agenda to be launched in 2015 have been under way in many forums in recent months. While responsibility for deliberations rests with Member States, supportive contributions are being made by experts, civil society organizations, the private sector and international institutions – including all parts of the United Nations system.

IFAD considers it a strategic priority to participate in the debate on the post-2015 agenda, as it will have a major impact on the challenges and opportunities confronting smallholder family farmers and poor rural people. IFAD is guided in this endeavour by its commitment under the current Strategic Framework to advocate for an enabling policy environment for smallholder agriculture and rural poverty reduction. In so doing, IFAD places its knowledge and experience at the service of Member States, in partnership with other parts of the international system and with smallholder farmers, poor rural women and men and their organizations.

This high-level event will draw upon the work of the IFAD Post-2015 Task Force, together with contributions by distinguished external panelists. In addition, it will mark the official release of IFAD's four new policy briefs that will serve as the basis for discussion among Governors, Executive Board Representatives and distinguished guests on key rural themes:

- Leveraging the rural-urban nexus for development;
- An empowerment agenda for rural livelihoods;
- Investing in smallholder family agriculture for global food security and nutrition;
- Promoting the resilience of poor rural households.

It is my sincere hope that you will join us at this event.

Highest consideration,



Rasit Pertev
Secretary of IFAD

Governors and Members of
Delegations attending the thirty-seventh
session of the Governing Council