

38th session of the Governing Council

Launch of the International Day of Family Remittances

Agenda

Tuesday 17 February 2015

18:00 – 19:00

Oval Room

Purpose of the GC side event:

The proposal for an **International Day of Family Remittances** will be officially endorsed by the Governing Council on 17 February. Following this decision, IFAD will formally launch the Day by hosting a GC side event on that very day, at 6 p.m. in the Oval Room.

The event will be aimed at exchanging views in the global effort of promoting the development impact of remittances. In particular, IFAD will present its current strategic and operational experiences in this field and invite member countries to present their experiences and own approaches as well.

Background:

The purpose of this observance is to recognize the fundamental contributions made by migrant workers to the wellbeing of their families and communities of origin, and to raise global awareness on the impact that remittances have in these home communities and ways to maximize the development impact of these private flows. The recognition of an International Day for Family Remittances was unanimously recommended by representatives of the public and private sector, and the civil society at the Global Forum on Remittances 2013 held in Bangkok.

As a United Nations' specialized Agency, IFAD has been called upon to take the lead in seeking formal recognition of this Day.

Draft agenda:

18:00 – 18:10: Introductory remarks

Josefina Stubbs, Associate Vice-President and Chief Development Strategist, SKD
John Murray McIntire, Associate Vice-President, PMD

18:10 – 18:40: Interventions by Member States representatives:

United States of America: *H.E. David J. Lane*, Ambassador, Permanent Representative of the United States of America to the United Nations Food and Agriculture Agencies in Rome

Italy: *Min. Plen. Efsio Luigi Marras*, Director General, Directorate General for Global Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

France: *H.E. Serge Tomasi*, Ambassador, Permanent Representative of the French Republic to FAO, WFP and IFAD

Mexico: *H.E. Miguel Ruíz-Cabañas Izquierdo*, Ambassador, Permanent Representative of the United States of Mexico to IFAD

Philippines: *H.E. Francis Pangilinan*, Presidential Assistant for Food Security and Agricultural Modernization

Republic of Moldova: *Mr Vlad Loghin*, Deputy Minister for Agriculture and Food Industry of the Republic of Moldova

18:40 – 18:55: Open discussion

18:55 – 19:00: Concluding Remarks

19:00 – 19:30: Reception in the Conference Area at -1

Participants:

- IFAD Senior Management and staff.
- All the GC governors have been invited to attend. In particular, representatives from USA, Italy, France, Mexico, the Philippines and Moldova have been approached to deliver a keynote speech.

Follow-up actions:

The first official celebration of the International Day of Family Remittances will take place on 16 June in Milan, in the framework of the Global Forum on Remittances and Development 2015, organized by IFAD, the World Bank and the European Commission in the context of *EXPO Milano 2015 – Feeding the planet, energy for life*. High level representatives of governments, as well as international organizations, civil society and private sector leaders will participate in the celebration.