



IFAD
INTERNATIONAL FUND FOR AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT
Consultation on the Sixth Replenishment of IFAD's Resources – First Session

Rome, 21 February 2002

SUMMARY OF DISCUSSIONS

1. The chairperson opened the First Session of the Consultation on the Sixth Replenishment of IFAD's Resources by welcoming its members and thanking the List Convenors for their engagement and support in the preparatory process leading to this First Session.
2. The chairperson stated that apart from the organizational aspects, there were three topics for discussion at this Session. The first was the External Review of the Results and Impact of IFAD Operations. The second was the proposed outline of the report of the Consultation. The final topic was the set of resource scenarios being presented with a view to identifying the need for further analysis and information.
3. After the adoption of the Provisional Agenda the chairperson opened the floor for general statements by delegations.

General Statements

4. Delegates generally welcomed the proposed external review noting the importance of the exercise, but emphasized that it should be carried out within the agreed timetable of the Consultation. Many expressed the hope that the international climate in favour of increasing resource flows for poverty-eradication efforts would be strengthened. In this context reference was made in particular to the political momentum that could be generated by the Conference on Financing for Development, the World Food Summit Five Years Later and the World Summit on Sustainable Development Plus Ten.
5. The Convenor of List C said that IFAD appears capable of increasing its assistance for poverty reduction by increasing its level of resources. In the spirit of cooperation among all members of the Consultation, in order to strengthen dialogue and progress openly and fruitfully towards the goal of concluding negotiations this year, he suggested that there be intersessional meetings of the Convenors with IFAD management.
6. The Convenor for List B stated that his list was prepared to work closely with other lists and with the chairperson, recognizing the important role that IFAD must play in poverty-eradication



efforts, especially in the context of major new initiatives such as the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD).

7. The Convenor for List A, stressed that his list looked forward to a productive, efficient and timely replenishment Consultation process.

Agenda Item 3: Sessions and Workplan of the Consultation

8. The Consultation discussed and approved the proposed dates and indicative workplan for its next three sessions.

9. It was noted that the regional strategies discussed at the roundtables during the Governing Council would also be discussed at scheduled regional meetings. Members agreed that the regional strategies, as finalized after the Governing Council roundtables, and other comments received from the regions, will be reflected in the Consultation report.

Agenda Item 4: Progress Report on IFAD V: Plan of Action (2000-2002)

10. The chairperson recalled that the progress report on the implementation of the IFAD V: Plan of Action was considered both at the December 2001 Executive Board Session and at the recent Governing Council Session.

Agenda Item 5: External Review of the Results and Impact of IFAD Operations

11. The Director of the Office of Evaluation and Studies provided an account of the process to determine the composition of the External Review Team as well as the timetable for its work. The chairperson of the team, Mr Niels Dabelstein, presented the terms of reference of the review.

12. It was suggested that the review look into the lack of incentive and monitoring structures within IFAD for gender mainstreaming. It was further suggested that a useful outcome of the review would be a description of IFAD monitoring and evaluation of the impact of operations financed by IFAD and implemented by others.

13. The Consultation approved the undertaking of the external review, the composition of the team and the terms of reference. The comments made by the Consultation on this issue will be provided to the review team.

Agenda Item 6: Indicative Outline of the Consultation's Final Report

14. A number of suggestions were made on the indicative outline of the Consultation's final report. It was acknowledged that the outline was being presented very early in the Consultation process and that the contents of the report would evolve over the course of the negotiations. It was also noted that the final report would include progress achieved in the implementation of the IFAD V: Plan of Action and provide a clear link between the Strategic Framework, the regional strategies, the projected work programme and its three-year resource requirements. Several delegates underlined that IFAD's mission focuses on rural poverty eradication, within which agricultural development often plays a key role. It was noted that gender should feature clearly in the final report, as it does in IFAD's work.

Agenda Item 7: Resource Scenarios for the Sixth Replenishment Framework

15. A number of resource scenarios were presented for the purpose of demonstrating the implications of different assumptions for IFAD's resource position. Some delegates requested longer-term financial scenarios to better understand the underlying sustainability of specific assumptions.



The impact of IFAD's obligations under the Debt Initiative for Heavily Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC) was raised by some delegates, as well as the modalities and prospect of accessing the World Bank HIPC Trust Fund. It was suggested that the World Bank might be asked to provide information concerning the administration and resources of the Trust Fund. One delegate highlighted the importance of performance as a basis for decisions on lending.

16. Several delegates noted that the use of the Advance Commitment Authority (ACA) posed important questions. Delegates were informed that information on the use of ACA by other international financial institutions was made available and that a report on the implementation of the Fund's new investment policy is being provided to the April 2002 Session of the Executive Board. Several delegates emphasized that a work programme of USD 450 million in real terms (1996 prices) was the minimum acceptable for the Fund's effective operation.

17. The chairperson stated that, in addition to providing detailed information on the financial scenarios, the Secretariat would extract the key elements in a more concise document. At the same time the Secretariat would be willing to respond to specific queries and provide further analysis regarding the scenarios in response to requests as indicated by delegates.

18. One delegate noted, however, that too many scenarios and variables may be confusing and that the present set provided a good basis for understanding the Fund's resource position.

Agenda Item 8: Approval of Disclosure of Documents

19. The Consultation approved the public disclosure of documents approved at the Session.