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IFAD

INTERNATIONAL FUND FOR AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT

Consultation on the Seventh Replenishment of IFAD's Resources – Organizational Session

Rome, 18 February 2005

CLOSING STATEMENT BY THE CHAIRMAN

Distinguished Delegates,

This is a brief summary of our discussions during the first, organizational session of the Consultation on the Seventh Replenishment of IFAD's Resources (IFAD VII).

The session was officially opened on 18 February 2005 with the participation of representatives from List A and List B countries, as well as fifteen countries from List C:

List C1: Cameroon, Egypt, Ghana, Mozambique and the Sudan
List C2: Afghanistan, China, India, Pakistan and the Republic of Korea
List C3: Argentina, Brazil, Guatemala, Mexico and Panama

In addition, representatives from Mali, Morocco, Peru, Sri Lanka, Turkey and the United Republic of Tanzania attended the meeting as observers.

The session began with a short introduction that highlighted the importance of completing the work of the Consultation within the proposed time frame and reporting the recommendations of the Consultation to the Governing Council in 2006. Given that the Sixth Replenishment period will end on 31 December 2006, effectiveness of the Seventh Replenishment by 2007 would allow continuity and consistency with the established three-year cycle.

After the adoption of the provisional agenda, the proposed dates and venues for the Consultation were discussed and approved as follows:

- Second Session: 21 and 22 April 2005
- Third Session: 6 and 7 July 2005
- Fourth Session: 2 and 3 October 2005
- Fifth Session: 12 and 13 December 2005

The Secretariat confirmed that there was no conflict concerning the dates of the Fourth Session, inasmuch as the meeting of the Development Committee was to take place on 25 September and the annual meeting of the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund was scheduled for 26 and 27 September.

Based on the experience of other international financial institutions, and in recognition of the historical and leadership role of member countries of the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries at IFAD, it was noted with appreciation that the Government of Qatar had expressed interest in hosting the Fourth Session of the Consultation in Doha, Qatar. Following comments from delegates, the Consultation authorized the Secretariat to pursue discussions with the Government of Qatar in this regard.

The Consultation reviewed the indicative list of basic documents and approved them for discussion at subsequent sessions.

At the April session, the Secretariat would present a discussion paper charting the way forwards, including a proposed level of the programme of work over the Seventh Replenishment period and the corresponding resource requirements. The paper was to build on issues raised by the Independent External Evaluation, views expressed by IFAD Governors at the Twenty-Eighth Session of the Governing Council, and issues arising from IFAD experience.

Also at the April session, members would have the opportunity to propose additional issues for discussion at subsequent sessions, with the understanding that all issues to be considered would be agreed upon at the April session. The agenda of the following sessions would be finalized subsequently.

Members expressed concern about receiving documents in a timely manner. It was also emphasized that consultations with Convenors and Friends should be utilized to prepare for the April session.

It was agreed that in addition to the Way Forwards paper and resource requirements, the April session would also consider the financial scenarios.

The Consultation agreed on the public disclosure of documents approved at the session. The session was then closed.