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IFAD

INTERNATIONAL FUND FOR AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT

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

Rome, 14-15 December 2005

CLOSING STATEMENT

BY

PRESIDENT BÅGE

**TO THE FIFTH SESSION OF THE CONSULTATION ON THE
SEVENTH REPLENISHMENT OF IFAD'S RESOURCES**

Distinguished Delegates,

We have worked hard for two days and we have had truly constructive and productive discussions.

IFAD represents a unique partnership that brings together Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries, other developing countries and countries of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, to find meaningful solutions to help millions of rural poor women and men raise their productivity and incomes and thereby overcome poverty. This Replenishment process demonstrates that IFAD is also a privileged organization, drawing strength from all parts of its Membership, united by a common vision.

The results of this Consultation provide the Fund with a clear focus and policy direction, so that in 2009 we will be able to look back and say we enabled this organization to enhance its impact on the rural poor substantially and to make a significant contribution to the achievement of the MDGs.

Let me now sum up our deliberations over the past two days of this, the Fifth (and final) Session of the Consultation on the Seventh Replenishment of IFAD's Resources.

The Consultation began its proceedings with general statements and Replenishment pledges. A number of countries made specific pledges, while several others affirmed their commitment to maintain their burden share of the increased Replenishment level.

The Consultation reviewed the draft Report of the Consultation, and Members offered many useful comments and suggestions. These have been reflected in conference room papers (CRPs) 1 to 7, which were endorsed by the Consultation. These together with the supplementary report of the working group on the performance-based allocation system (PBAS) will be included in the final

Report of the Consultation. As regards CRP 7, a question was raised regarding the share of resources that will go to sub-Saharan Africa in 2007 and thereafter. I would like to reiterate in this context that the PBAS formula will be revised so that the share of resources directed to sub-Saharan Africa will remain at least at its current percentage share. The Consultation also noted that the IFAD Action Plan for Improving its Development Effectiveness, approved by the Executive Board at its December session, will be annexed to the Consultation Report.

Consultation Members endorsed the revised draft Resolution on the Seventh Replenishment of IFAD's Resources authorizing its submission to the Governing Council for approval.

It is our intent to send you information on Seventh Replenishment pledges, after of course confirming them with the respective countries. The final draft of the report will also be dispatched to the Consultation Members and to all Governors of IFAD.

May I ask those Member States that were not yet in a position to make explicit statements on their pledges to be inspired by the very positive and constructive spirit shown by Members of all three Lists in increasing their Replenishment pledges. I hope these Members will be able to announce their pledges in the very near future.

Finally, I am sure I am speaking on behalf of the total membership of IFAD in expressing profound appreciation for the commitment that you, Distinguished Delegates, have demonstrated to this institution during this Replenishment Consultation. We set ambitious goals for this process and you have all greatly contributed to its successful conclusion. You have given IFAD a clear commitment of support to provide increased and improved assistance to the rural poor. The Fund's management and staff will respond fully to the challenge of making IFAD even more effective and efficient, with increasing positive impact on the lives of the poor.

Thank you and may I wish all of you a safe journey home.