

Document: REPL.VIII/1/INF.2
Agenda: 7
Date: 7 March 2008
Distribution: Public
Original: English

E



Enabling poor rural people
to overcome poverty

Closing statement of the Chairperson

Consultation on the Eighth Replenishment of IFAD's
Resources — Organizational Session
Rome, 15 February 2008

For: **Information**

Distinguished Delegates,

This is a brief summary of our discussions during the organizational session of the Consultation on the Eighth Replenishment of IFAD's Resources (IFAD VIII).

The session was officially opened on 15 February 2008 with the participation of representatives from List A and List B countries, as well as fifteen countries from List C:

List C1: Cameroon, Egypt, Kenya, Mali and South Africa

List C2: China, India, Pakistan, the Republic of Korea, and Turkey

List C3: Argentina, Brazil, Guatemala, Mexico and Panama

In addition, representatives from Afghanistan, Angola, Bangladesh and the Niger attended the meeting as observers.

The session began with a short introduction by the Chairperson. He highlighted the importance of completing the work of the Consultation within the proposed time frame to ensure that its report may be considered by the Governing Council in 2009. As the Seventh Replenishment period will end on 31 December 2009, effectiveness of the Eighth Replenishment by 2010 would allow continuity and consistency with the established three-year cycle.

Following the adoption of the provisional agenda, Management provided an overview of the implementation of the conclusions and recommendations of the Consultation on the Seventh Replenishment of IFAD's Resources. This included a presentation on the implementation of IFAD's Action Plan for Improving its Development Effectiveness, the principal vehicle of change over the Seventh Replenishment period.

IFAD's independent external adviser on strategy made a presentation on the aid architecture and trends in financing agriculture for development. He noted that allocations to agriculture from governments and as a percentage of global official development assistance (ODA) have continued to decline; in the case of ODA to less than 2.9 per cent for 2006. He noted that the evidence clearly shows that investing in small-scale agriculture yields high returns in terms of sustainable poverty reduction, and was all the more urgent in the light of new challenges such as rising food prices and climate change. He concluded by drawing attention to IFAD's role and comparative advantage. Members welcomed the presentation and looked forward to discussing these issues in the context of IFAD's Replenishment Consultation.

The proposed dates for the Consultation were discussed and approved as follows:

- Second session: 22-23 April 2008
- Third session: 8-9 July 2008
- Fourth session: 7-8 October 2008
- Fifth session: 18-19 December 2008

It should be noted that the ninety-third session of IFAD's Executive Board will be held on 24-25 April 2008.

Members began to identify topics for the Consultation to consider at subsequent sessions; themes identified include: achieving and measuring results, climate change, fragile states, gender, innovation and knowledge management, partnerships, IFAD's role and comparative advantage, IFAD's role in middle-income countries and new financial instruments. Prior to the April session, Members who wish to suggest additional topics may submit proposals to the Replenishment Secretariat.

Consistent with the practice that has served past Consultations well, and in order to maintain the agreed timetable, the Chairperson invited Members to ensure that all the key issues were identified by the end of the April session.

The Chairperson concluded by noting that, at the April session, IFAD will present priorities for the Eighth Replenishment period (2010-2012) and financing requirements.

