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Enabling poor rural people
to overcome poverty

Sessions, workplan and themes of the Consultation on the Ninth Replenishment of IFAD's Resources

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Consultation on the Ninth Replenishment of IFAD's Resources —
First Session
Rome, 21 February 2011

For: Approval

Sessions, workplan and themes of the Consultation on the Ninth Replenishment of IFAD's Resources

1. Article 4, section 3 of the Agreement Establishing IFAD requires the Governing Council to periodically review the adequacy of the resources available to IFAD to ensure continuity of its operations. In order to allow for the timely review of resource availability before the Eighth Replenishment period expires on 31 December 2012, the Executive Board, at its 101st session (December 2010), reviewed a draft resolution on the Establishment of the Consultation on the Ninth Replenishment of IFAD's Resources (IFAD 9) and decided to submit the resolution as contained in document GC 34/L.4, together with its recommendations, to the Governing Council for approval at its thirty-fourth session. In anticipation of the adoption of this resolution and after consultations with the List Convenors, the President of IFAD sent out an invitation to the organizational session of the IFAD 9 Consultation, together with the midterm review of the Eighth Replenishment (IFAD 8), on 21 February 2011 at IFAD headquarters.
2. In order to ensure the Ninth Replenishment's effectiveness by 2013, Consultation sessions will be held in 2011 and the Consultation's recommendations reported to the thirty-fifth session of the Governing Council in 2012. One organizational and three substantive sessions are expected to suffice to conclude the IFAD 9 negotiations. Accordingly, Member States are invited to approve the following proposed dates for the second, third and fourth sessions of the IFAD 9 Consultation:
 - Second session: Monday and Tuesday, 13-14 June 2011
 - Third session: Monday and Tuesday, 24-25 October 2011
 - Fourth session: Thursday and Friday, 15-16 December 2011
3. To ensure a balanced spread of discussions over the planned sessions of the IFAD 9 Consultation, the annex to this document proposes a workplan and themes for consideration and approval by Consultation members, along with any additional themes that they agree should be addressed in the IFAD 9 Consultation. The choice of themes proposed here has for the most part been informed by the extensive analytical work conducted for the *Rural Poverty Report* and the new IFAD Strategic Framework 2011-2015. These are areas in which policy review and/or delineation of new or clearer directions appear to be warranted, given the new and evolving realities facing smallholder agriculture and rural development today and in the foreseeable future.
4. For themes that remain high on the global development agenda and have high priority for IFAD, and are explicitly addressed through commitments undertaken for IFAD 8 (e.g. climate change, natural resource management, gender, fragile states and partnerships), the Secretariat will provide progress updates or background papers upon request by Consultation members during the course of the IFAD 9 Consultation.

Indicative IFAD 9 workplan and themes

Second session (13-14 June 2011)

1. Priorities for the Ninth Replenishment period 2013-2015

This document will describe proposed priorities and policy and institutional directions for IFAD in the Ninth Replenishment period 2013-2015, based on assessments of the demand and need for investment and know-how for increased agricultural and rural development and on IFAD's response.

2. Mainstreaming scaling up in IFAD operations

IFAD recognizes that scaling up successful development interventions is critical to accelerating agricultural and rural development. In 2010 the Fund commissioned a review of this issue to identify best practices and means in order to place scaling up at the core of its operations. Lessons learned and ways forward for systematically mainstreaming the scaling up process in IFAD operations will be presented to the IFAD 9 Consultation.

3. Enabling smallholder farmers to profitably engage in modern markets

Global, regional, national and local agricultural produce markets have undergone profound transformations in the past two to three decades in terms of scale and the nature of demand, organization of supply and governance. Modern markets and value chains offer a new environment and potentially profitable opportunities for rural farm and off-farm economic growth. Enabling smallholder farmers to organize themselves to seize these opportunities by establishing appropriate market relations and governance will be critical to increasing agricultural productivity, food security, employment and growth in rural areas.

4. Engaging rural youth in agricultural and related enterprises

To meet the long-term food needs of a growing world population, slated to reach nine billion by 2050, agriculture must be a viable and rewarding activity for the future generations living in rural areas. This means focusing on the young and giving them the education, skills and confidence they need to access good employment opportunities, run profitable farms and start businesses in rural areas. Strengthening the capabilities of young people in rural areas calls for more systematic attention by IFAD, and requires varied and often innovative forms of collaboration with governments, the private sector, NGOs and other donors.

5. Financing requirements for the Ninth Replenishment period

The proposed financing framework for the Ninth Replenishment period 2013-2015 will be presented for review by the Consultation – including, inter alia, IFAD's overall programme of work of loans and grants and necessary supporting donor contributions – based on assessed needs and demand for investment in agricultural and rural development, proposed future priorities and policy and institutional directions for the Fund, and its delivery capacity, as described in the document entitled Priorities for the Ninth Replenishment period 2013-2015.

Third session (24-25 October 2011)

1. Draft IFAD 9 Consultation report

The draft IFAD 9 Consultation report will capture the priorities and the strategic and operational frameworks of the Fund in the Ninth Replenishment period 2013-2015, based on the deliberations of the IFAD 9 Consultation over the course of its meetings. The report will be finalized at the fourth and final session of the IFAD 9 Consultation, scheduled to be held on 15-16 December 2011.

2. New arrangements for development financing

In recent years, the development architecture has evolved significantly with the emergence of new donors, as well as the creation of new collaborative frameworks and instruments for development financing. In order to best fulfil the catalytic role it was created to play in the mobilization of resources for increased agricultural and rural development, IFAD needs to assess and upgrade its financing modalities in line with development finance best practice.

3. Update on mainstreaming gender empowerment

Rural women have the potential to lift their households and communities out of poverty, but are hampered by persistent inequities that limit their access to employment and productive assets. Addressing the complex and dynamic challenges women face is essential to tap women's potential contribution and channel investments appropriately. Following the decision in the Eighth Replenishment Consultation for the independent IFAD Office of Evaluation to conduct an evaluation of IFAD's performance on gender equality and women's empowerment and for the Executive Board to consider the need to develop a corporate policy and implementation strategy on gender, IFAD Management will provide the Ninth Replenishment Consultation with an update on ongoing actions and future plans to strengthen gender empowerment throughout IFAD's operations.

4. Operational and organizational efficiency

Greater operational and organizational efficiency and transparency is crucial to increasing aid effectiveness, principally through faster service delivery and response time, reduced transaction costs for clients and within IFAD itself, and better alignment of budgets and human resources with results, ultimately to ensure that the highest possible share of the resources made available to IFAD is channelled directly to development programmes. While IFAD is making progress in this area, it needs to do more. Means to pursue this agenda more vigorously over the Ninth Replenishment period 2013-2015 will be discussed during the IFAD 9 Consultation.

Fourth session (15-16 December 2011)

1. Finalization of the IFAD 9 Consultation report

Based on Consultation members' comments during and after the third session of the IFAD 9 Consultation, a revised draft of the IFAD 9 Consultation report will be presented for review and finalization at this meeting.

2. Agreement on financing requirements and funding for IFAD 9

Based on guidance provided by Consultation members in the course of the IFAD 9 Consultation process, at this meeting the financing framework for the Ninth Replenishment period 2013-2015, including the target replenishment level, will be presented for endorsement. In this context, Consultation members will be invited to announce pledges for the Ninth Replenishment of IFAD's resources.