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Enabling poor rural people  
to overcome poverty

**Governing Council  
Thirty-fourth Session Report  
Rome, 19-20 February 2011**



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**IFAD headquarters,  
venue of the thirty-  
fourth session of  
IFAD's Governing  
Council**

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**The plenary of the thirty-fourth session of  
IFAD's Governing Council**

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## Chapter 1

### Inauguration and proceedings

1. The thirty-fourth session of the Governing Council of IFAD was held in Rome on 19-20 February 2011. The list of participants is attached as annex I.
  2. The Council held a total of three meetings, the summary records of which are contained in chapter 3, part A.
- A. Opening of the session**
3. The session was opened by Her Excellency Clémentine Ananga Messina, Chairperson of the Governing Council and Governor of IFAD for the Republic of Cameroon.
- B. Agenda and documentation**
4. The Governing Council adopted the agenda, shown together with the programme of events for the session in annex II. The documents placed before the Council are listed in annex III. The resolutions adopted by the Governing Council appear in annex IV.
- C. Inaugural meeting of the session**
5. Her Excellency Clémentine Ananga Messina, Chairperson of the Governing Council, delivered an introductory statement. The full text of this statement is reproduced in chapter 4.
  6. Mr Kanayo F. Nwanze, President of IFAD, welcomed the special guests to the inaugural meeting of the session. This welcoming statement is reproduced in chapter 4.
  7. United Nations Messenger of Peace, Her Royal Highness Princess Haya Al Hussein of Jordan, wife of His Highness Sheikh Mohammed Bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice-President and Prime Minister of the United Arab Emirates and Ruler of Dubai, delivered a keynote address, the full text of which is reproduced in chapter 4.
  8. Mr Kofi Annan, Chairman of the Board of the Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA), delivered a keynote address. This address is reproduced in full in chapter 4.
  9. The Honourable Luigi Casero, Under-Secretary of State, Ministry of Economy and Finance of the Italian Republic, delivered a keynote address to the Governing Council, the full text of which is reproduced in chapter 4.
- D. Statement by the President of IFAD**
10. The full text of President Nwanze's statement to the Governing Council appears in chapter 4.
- E. General statements**
11. The general statements delivered by Governors in the plenary session are summarized in the summary records contained in chapter 3, part A; summaries of the plenary panel discussion and the four side events are given in chapter 3, part B; and general statements submitted in writing by Member State representatives who did not make oral presentations are reproduced in full in chapter 3, part C.
- F. Closure of the session**
12. The Chairperson, Her Excellency Clémentine Ananga Messina, summarized the results of the Council's main deliberations and then closed the thirty-fourth session of the Governing Council. The text of her statement is reproduced in full in chapter 4.



**Her Excellency Clémentine Ananga Messina,  
Chairperson of the Governing Council**  
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**Her Excellency Gladys Francisca  
Urbaneja Durán, Vice Chairperson of  
the Governing Council**  
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**His Excellency Jan De Bock, Vice  
Chairperson of the Governing Council**  
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## Chapter 2

### Decisions of the Governing Council

#### A. Application for non-original membership

13. The Governing Council considered document GC 34/L.2 and, on 19 February 2011, adopted resolution 159/XXXIV approving the membership of the Republic of Uzbekistan and the Republic of Hungary.

#### B. Report on the status of donor contributions to the Eighth Replenishment of IFAD's resources

14. The Governing Council reviewed the report on the status of donor contributions to the Eighth Replenishment of IFAD's resources contained in document GC 34/L.3. The Council was informed that, including the pledges received since the date of the report, pledges for the Eighth Replenishment amounted to US\$1.077 billion, or 90 per cent of the replenishment target amount of US\$1.2 billion. It further noted that instruments of contribution deposited, inclusive of those deposited since the date of the report, amounted to 85 per cent of pledges. Finally, the Council was informed that payments received for the Eighth Replenishment, inclusive of those received since the date of the report, amounted to US\$644 million, equivalent to 60 per cent of the pledged total.

#### C. Ninth Replenishment of IFAD's resources

15. The Governing Council considered document GC 34/L.4/Rev.1 and adopted, on 19 February 2011, resolution 160/XXXIV establishing the Consultation on the Ninth Replenishment of IFAD's Resources. In accordance with paragraph 1 of the resolution, the Consultation would be chaired by Mr Johannes F. Linn, the first external chairperson of an IFAD Replenishment Consultation.
16. In accordance with paragraph 3 of the resolution, the Consultation would consist of all Member States from Lists A and B, and 18 Member States from List C, as communicated to the President of IFAD by that List. In this respect, the Council took note of the following composition of List C Member States in the Consultation:

Sub-List C1: Angola, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Egypt, Senegal and Uganda

Sub-List C2: Afghanistan, China, India, Republic of Korea, Pakistan and Turkey

Sub-List C3: Argentina, Brazil, Ecuador, Guatemala, Mexico and Uruguay

#### D. Consolidated financial statements of IFAD for 2009

17. The Governing Council considered and approved the financial statements showing the financial position of IFAD as at 31 December 2009 and the results of its operations for the year ended on that date, as contained in appendices A to J, inclusive, of document GC 34/L.5 and the report of the external auditor thereon.

#### E. IFAD's capital and administrative budgets and the budget of the IFAD Office of Evaluation for 2011

18. After considering the proposed administrative and capital budgets of IFAD and the budget of its Office of Evaluation for 2011, as presented in document GC 34/L.4, the Governing Council adopted resolution 161/XXXIV relating thereto on 19 February 2011. The Italian Republic registered its abstention on the approval of IFAD's capital and administrative budgets and the budget of the IFAD Office of Evaluation for 2011. The Federal Republic of Germany registered its abstention on the approval of the Fund's administrative budget.

**F. Report on the special expenditure for the Voluntary Separation Programme for IFAD for 2009-2010**

19. Having reviewed the report on the special expenditure for the Voluntary Separation Programme for IFAD for 2009-2010 contained in document GC 34/L.7, the Governing Council, on 19 February 2011, adopted resolution 162/XXXIV on the extension of the appropriation thereof for 2011.

**G. Revision of IFAD's Lending Policies and Criteria**

20. The Governing Council considered document GC 34/L.8 on the Revision of IFAD's Lending Policies and Criteria and, on 19 February 2011, decided to defer the adoption of the relevant resolution to the thirty-fifth session of the Governing Council in February 2012.

**H. Progress report on implementation of the performance-based allocation system**

21. The Governing Council considered document GC 34/L.9, which provided a report on the implementation of the performance-based allocation system at IFAD and the 2010 country scores and 2011 annual allocations.

**I. Progress report on the Global Mechanism of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification**

22. The Governing Council took note of the report, contained in document GC 34/L.10, on the Global Mechanism's operational activities in 2010.

**J. Emoluments of the President**

23. The Governing Council considered document GC 34/L.11/Rev.1 on the emoluments of the President and adopted resolution 163/XXXIV on 19 February 2011, thus re-establishing a committee consisting of nine Governors or their representatives to review the overall emoluments and other conditions of employment of the President of IFAD. The Council took note of the following composition of the Emoluments Committee:

List A: Denmark, Germany, Italy and the United States of America

List B: Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela and Gabon

List C: Angola, Bangladesh and Brazil

24. The Council requested the Committee to submit, through the Executive Board, a report and draft resolution on the subject to the Governing Council for adoption at the Governing Council's thirty-sixth session in February 2013.

**K. Other business**

25. No matters were raised under this item.

## Chapter 3

### A. Summary records

(including a summary of general statements delivered by Governors)

- (i) Summary record of the first meeting of the thirty-fourth session held on Saturday, 19 February 2011 at 9 a.m.

**Chairperson:** **Clémentine Ananga Messina (Cameroon)**  
**later:** **Gladys Francisca Urbaneja Durán (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela)**

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26. **The meeting was called to order at 9 a.m.**

#### OPENING OF THE SESSION (agenda item 1)

27. **The CHAIRPERSON** declared open the thirty-fourth session and called for renewed support for IFAD's vision in the interest of enabling rural people to overcome poverty through agricultural development.

#### ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA (agenda item 2) (GC 34/L.1/Rev.1)

28. **The agenda (GC 34/L.1/Rev.1) was adopted.**

#### APPLICATIONS FOR NON-ORIGINAL MEMBERSHIP (agenda item 3) (GC 34/L.2)

29. **The CHAIRPERSON** invited the Governing Council to adopt the draft resolution contained in document GC 34/L.2, approving the non-original membership of the Republic of Uzbekistan and the Republic of Hungary.
30. **Resolution 159/XXXIV was adopted.**
31. **The CHAIRPERSON** said that the Republic of Uzbekistan had submitted its instrument of accession to the depositary and would therefore join List C upon registration of the instrument, as agreed with the members of that List. The Republic of Hungary would become a party to the Agreement Establishing IFAD upon registration of its instrument of accession.

#### INAUGURAL CEREMONY

##### STATEMENT BY THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE GOVERNING COUNCIL

32. **The CHAIRPERSON** made an introductory statement, the full text of which is reproduced in chapter 4.
33. **Her Royal Highness Princess Haya Al Hussein (United Nations Messenger of Peace), Mr Kofi Annan, Chairman of the Board of the Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa and the Honourable Luigi Casero, Under-Secretary of State, Ministry of Economy and Finance of the Italian Republic, were conducted to their seats.**
34. **Mr NWANZE** (President of IFAD) welcomed Her Royal Highness Princess Haya Al Hussein (United Nations Messenger of Peace), Mr Kofi Annan and the Honourable Luigi Casero, commending their strong commitment to the efforts to eliminate poverty and hunger and the unique perspective and expertise they had brought to the central topic of the current Governing Council session.

##### KEYNOTE ADDRESS BY HER ROYAL HIGHNESS PRINCESS HAYA AL HUSSEIN (UNITED NATIONS MESSENGER OF PEACE)

35. **HER ROYAL HIGHNESS PRINCESS HAYA AL HUSSEIN (United Nations Messenger of Peace)** delivered a keynote address, the full text of which is reproduced in chapter 4.
36. **The CHAIRPERSON** thanked Her Royal Highness for her address; focused as the session was on youth, the Governing Council welcomed the words of someone so young and deeply committed.

##### KEYNOTE ADDRESS BY MR KOFI ANNAN, CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD OF THE ALLIANCE FOR A GREEN REVOLUTION IN AFRICA (AGRA)

37. **Mr KOFI ANNAN** [Chairman of the Board of the Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA)] delivered a keynote address, the full text of which is reproduced in chapter 4.

38. **The CHAIRPERSON** expressed appreciation to Mr Annan for his address highlighting the work carried out by AGRA and IFAD in conjunction with the sister Rome-based United Nations agencies with a view to optimizing food production in Africa's breadbasket areas. That collaboration was an important example of the way in which IFAD was contributing its unique expertise with respect to smallholder farmers in the context of wider cooperation addressing the challenges of chronic hunger and food problems.

#### KEYNOTE ADDRESS BY THE HONOURABLE LUIGI CASERO, UNDER-SECRETARY OF STATE, MINISTRY OF ECONOMY AND FINANCE OF THE ITALIAN REPUBLIC

39. **Mr CASERO** (Under-Secretary of State, Ministry of Economy and Finance of the Italian Republic) delivered a keynote address, the full text of which is reproduced in chapter 4.
40. **The CHAIRPERSON** expressed thanks to Mr Casero for his fortifying message that encouraged the continuation of IFAD's efforts to enable rural people to overcome poverty. IFAD was grateful for the ongoing and sustained support it had received since its inception from the Italian Government and its people, who could rest assured that IFAD would stand beside them on the historic occasion of the 150th anniversary of unification in 2011 for which the Italian Republic was currently preparing.

#### STATEMENT OF THE PRESIDENT OF IFAD (agenda item 4)

41. **Mr NWANZE** (President of IFAD) made a statement, the full text of which is reproduced in chapter 4.
42. **The CHAIRPERSON** thanked the President of IFAD for his statement, which fully explored the priorities for shaping the Fund's future action. On behalf of all those present, she paid tribute to the President for the quality of his leadership and his endeavours to define IFAD's vision and commended the unfailing commitment of the staff.

#### STAFF AWARDS CEREMONY

43. **Mr KIFLE** (Chief Development Strategist, Office of Strategy and Knowledge Management) said that in 2010 the Executive Management Committee had established IFAD staff awards in order to recognize outstanding contributions from IFAD staff members, whether individually or as a team, thereby also honouring the dedication and work of the entire staff of IFAD. He congratulated the winners of the 2010 IFAD staff awards, who had been nominated by their peers for their contributions in three separate categories, namely: for outstanding leadership, Roberto Haudry De Soucy and Henning Pederson; for outstanding projects, Edward Heinemann, and a team composed of Omer Zafar, Fathia Bahrani, Nicole Hervieu and Jessica Lattughi; and for outstanding change, Roxanna Samii, and a team composed of Jean-Philippe Audinet, Philippe Remy, Roberto Longo, Carla De Donato, Sandra Di Rienzo, Gisella Barbieri, Natalia Espinel, Sylvia Isaia and Vincent Sineau.
44. **The CHAIRPERSON**, after presenting the awards to the winners in each of the three categories, invited the Council to join in paying tribute to the recipients for their outstanding contributions; they and the remaining IFAD staff certainly deserved the recognition thus bestowed on them for their unstinting efforts towards helping IFAD to achieve its lofty goal of enabling poor rural people to overcome poverty.
45. On behalf of the Council, she again expressed gratitude and appreciation to the keynote speakers for their presence at and contributions to the meeting.

46. **Her Royal Highness Princess Haya Al Hussein (United Nations Messenger of Peace), Mr Kofi Annan, Chairman of the Board of the Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA), and the Honourable Luigi Casero, Under-Secretary of State at the Ministry of Economy and Finance of the Italian Republic, were conducted from the meeting room.**

REPORT ON THE EIGHTH REPLENISHMENT OF IFAD'S RESOURCES  
(agenda item 6) (GC 34/L.3)

47. **Ms OMURA** (Vice-President of IFAD) said that the report on the status of donor contributions to the Eighth Replenishment of IFAD's resources (GC 34/L.3) provided an update of the situation as at 31 December 2010. Since that date, further pledges, instruments of contribution and payments had been received from Denmark, Ghana, Guyana, Kuwait, Lebanon, Mongolia, Morocco, Peru, Pakistan and Switzerland. Pledges now amounted to US\$1.077 billion, or 90 per cent of the target for donor contributions. Member States that had not yet made a pledge for the Eighth Replenishment were still able to do so. Similarly, instruments of contribution amounting to 85 per cent of pledges had been received and Member States that had not yet deposited their instrument of contribution were requested to take the necessary measures. Payments received now totalled US\$644 million, representing 60 per cent of pledges made.
48. **The Governing Council took note of the report on the status of donor contributions to the Eighth Replenishment of IFAD's resources.**

NINTH REPLENISHMENT OF IFAD'S RESOURCES (agenda item 7)  
(GC 34/L.4/Rev.1)

49. **The CHAIRPERSON** said that, with the Eighth Replenishment concluding on 31 December 2010, the Governing Council now had to focus on IFAD's resource requirements from 2013 onwards to ensure continuity in the operations of the Fund. Document GC 34/L.4/Rev.1 contained a draft resolution on the establishment of the Consultation on the Ninth Replenishment of IFAD's Resources, chaired by Mr Johannes Linn, the first external chairperson to be proposed for appointment to a Replenishment Consultation of the Fund. The draft resolution also provided that the Consultation would consist of all Member States from Lists A and B and 18 Member States from List C to be appointed by the List C membership. The Secretariat had been informed that, after consideration within each List C sub-list, the Member States proposed as List C Members of the Consultation were: from Sub-List C1, Angola, Cameroon, Egypt, Burkina Faso, Senegal and Uganda; from Sub-List C2, China, India, Pakistan, Republic of Korea, Turkey and Afghanistan; and from Sub-List C3, Argentina, Brazil, Ecuador, Guatemala, Mexico and Uruguay.
50. **The Governing Council adopted resolution 160/XXXIV on the establishment of the Consultation on the Ninth Replenishment of IFAD's resources and approved the List C composition of the Consultation.**

CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS OF IFAD FOR 2009 (agenda item 8) (GC 34/L.5 and INF.4)

51. **The CHAIRPERSON** recalled that, as its ninety-ninth session in April 2010, the Executive Board had reviewed the audited financial statements and recommended that they be submitted to the Governing Council for approval.
52. **Ms MABUTAS** (Senior Adviser to the President on Financial Matters, Financial Operations Department) drew attention to the consolidated financial statements of IFAD as at 31 December 2009, as provided in document GC 34/L.5. In the opinion of the external auditors, the financial statements gave a true and fair view of the consolidated financial position of the Fund and of the results of its operations and

its cash flows in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards. The statements had also been reviewed by the Audit Committee in April 2010 and endorsed by the Executive Board at its ninety-ninth session in that same month. The formal approval of the Governing Council was now requested.

53. **The CHAIRPERSON** invited the Council to approve the financial statements showing the financial position of IFAD as at 31 December 2009 and the results of its operations for the year ended on that date, as contained in appendices A to J inclusive of document GC 34/L.5 and the report of the external auditor thereon.

54. **It was so decided.**

#### IFAD'S CAPITAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE BUDGETS AND THE BUDGET OF THE IFAD OFFICE OF EVALUATION FOR 2011 (agenda item 9) (GC 34/L.6)

55. **The CHAIRPERSON** said that at its 101st session the Executive Board had reviewed the proposed budgets for the Fund and its Office of Evaluation and recommended that they should be put before the Governing Council for its approval.
56. **Ms MABUTAS** (Senior Adviser to the President on Financial Matters, Financial Operations Department) said that document GC 34/L.6 presented IFAD's proposed 2011 programme of work and administrative and capital budgets, as well as the work programme and budget for 2011 and the indicative plan for 2012-13 of the IFAD Office of Evaluation. The record programme of IFAD loans and grants for 2011, totalling US\$1 billion, combined with the planned cofinancing level of US\$1.5 billion, should lead to total new investment in smallholder agriculture of around US\$2.5 billion.
57. The requirements of delivering the rapidly increasing portfolio of loans and grants were reflected in the proposed administrative budget for 2011 of US\$140.59 million. A real decrease was proposed in the allocations for corporate management and Members' governance activities by 4.7 and 3.7 per cent, respectively. That would be offset by an increase in the allocation for country programme development and implementation by 11.4 per cent in real terms, which would support a 25 per cent rise in the planned level of IFAD loan and grant commitments. The allocations for IFAD's operational work would constitute 61.4 per cent of the total administrative budget in 2011, up from 58.1 per cent in 2010. In overall terms, the proposed administrative budget for 2011 was 6.4 per cent higher than in 2010, bringing the ratio between the administrative budget and the programme of work of IFAD loans and grants to within 0.5 per cent of the 13.5 per cent target for 2012 established in the Eighth Replenishment Results Measurement Framework.
58. The key objectives of the administrative budget were to strengthen IFAD's operational support capacity, while increasing overall efficiency. Following the integration of the multi-year Project Development Finance Facility into the administrative budget in 2010, it was proposed, for the Council's approval on a one-off basis, that unutilized appropriations for country programmes in the 2010 administrative budget, amounting to up to 6 per cent of the total 2010 allocation for country programme development and implementation, should be carried forward so that they remained available for that purpose in the 2011 financial period.
59. The focus of IFAD's proposed capital budget for 2011, which amounted to US\$15.9 million, was also on supporting operations and achieving efficiency. In accordance with the recommendations of the external auditor and the IFAD Audit Committee, US\$12 million was earmarked for the Loan and Grant System replacement project as a major element in improving financial efficiency in supporting project operations.

60. Other recommendations in document GC 34/L.6 included: a budget of US\$2 million for the Consultation on the Ninth Replenishment of IFAD's Resources, comprising also estimated allocations for a possible external session and an external chairperson, on which IFAD Management would report back with a view to returning any unused portion to IFAD's general resources; and an extraordinary compensatory budget of US\$0.49 million for the 2011 Governing Council, in the absence of the customary contribution from the host country. However, it might not be necessary to exhaust all of the latter appropriation, as the Government of Italy had recently informed the Fund that it would be in a position to provide approximately one half of the envisaged expenditure for the Governing Council within the framework of the Headquarters Agreement.
61. **Mr LAVIZZARI** (Director, Office of Evaluation of IFAD) said that for the first time the Office had developed a results-based budget and followed the zero-based budget approach. The Office had identified four objectives and eight divisional management results, and had shown how its overall budget would be allocated to meet each divisional management result. It would undertake three corporate-level evaluations, eight country programme evaluations, 25 project completion report validations and six project performance assessments. In addition to preparing various documents on a standing basis, it would produce two evaluation syntheses and enhance its participation in selected in-house learning platforms to ensure more timely and effective evaluation feedback.
62. The Office's 2011 work programme was larger than that of 2010, but would be carried out with a lower administrative budget. The proposed level of US\$5.88 million represented a reduction in real terms of US\$390,000 in comparison with the 2010 administrative budget. The same staffing level would be maintained.
63. **Mr LECCESI** (Italy) said that his country would abstain on the approval of the administrative and capital budgets of IFAD and the administrative budget of its Office of Evaluation as part of a broader message to all the institutions in which Italy participated concerning the need to rationalize and contain public expenditure.
64. **The CHAIRPERSON** noted that the representative of Germany also wished to abstain.
65. **The Governing Council adopted resolution 161/XXXIV on the administrative and capital budgets of IFAD for 2011, Ninth Replenishment budget, extraordinary compensatory budget for the 2011 Governing Council and administrative budget of the IFAD Office of Evaluation for 2011.**

REPORT ON THE SPECIAL EXPENDITURE FOR THE VOLUNTARY SEPARATION PROGRAMME FOR IFAD FOR 2009-2010 (agenda item 10) (GC 34/L.7)

66. **The CHAIRPERSON** said that at its 101st session the Executive Board had reviewed the proposed extension of the special expenditure for the Voluntary Separation Programme (VSP) for IFAD for 2009-2010 and recommended that it should be put before the Governing Council for its approval.
67. **Mr KOUKA** (Officer-in-Charge, Human Resources Division) recalled that the VSP had become effective in April 2009. In view of the time required to complete the separation process, some candidates in the first cohort, although identified in 2009, had only separated in 2010. The call for a second cohort had been made after learning the lessons from the first phase of the VSP. Document GC 34/L.7 provided a breakdown of the status of implementation of the VSP. A call had been made for the next cohort in September 2010, and all of the candidates would have been identified by the end of the first quarter of 2011, with the result that the

process of separation would only take place in 2011. Only one third of the available funds had been used, leaving a balance of US\$3.89 million, which meant that the exercise could be completed at no additional cost to the Fund. The Governing Council was requested to approve the use of the remaining funds in 2011.

68. **The Governing Council adopted resolution 162/XXXIV on the extension of the appropriation of the special expenditure for the Voluntary Separation Programme for IFAD for 2011.**

#### REVISION OF IFAD'S LENDING POLICIES AND CRITERIA (agenda item 11) (GC 34/L.8)

69. **Mr KIFLE** (Chief Development Strategist, Office of Strategy and Knowledge Management of IFAD) recalled that the Governing Council at its 2010 session had instructed the Executive Board to submit to it revised Lending Policies and Criteria that took into account all developments since the last revision in 1998 and expressed concisely and clearly the broad policies and criteria applicable to financing by the Fund. The new document (GC 34/L.8), including the relevant resolution, was now before the Governing Council; its annex II provided a comparison between the existing and the proposed new Lending Policies and Criteria for IFAD financing.
70. **Ms BJØRU** (Norway) said that what was on the table was not in fact the revised Lending Policies and Criteria requested by the Governing Council, taking into account all developments since the last revision and expressing concisely and clearly the broad policies applicable to financing by the Fund. Instead, the proposed revision would give the Executive Board the authority to create new loan products and to make all decisions for many years to come, without the need for new policies to be approved by the Governing Council. She was not opposed to such a delegation of authority to a lower level, which was in line with modern organizational theory and practice. However, it would be preferable if the revision did not come into effect until the new middle-income country strategy was in place and the framework had been established for the Ninth Replenishment. In her view, broader policy documents needed to be agreed upon before new loan products were introduced.
71. **Mr KIFLE** (Chief Development Strategist, Office of Strategy and Knowledge Management of IFAD) agreed with the proposal by the representative of Norway to have the new Lending Policies and Criteria come into effect after the Ninth Replenishment.
72. **Mr EL-BELTAGY** (Egypt) said that if approval of the resolution were delayed until such time as it was due to come into effect, it could be adapted to any changes that occurred in the meantime.
73. **Mr ABDULLAH** (Nigeria) considered that the proposal to delay implementation for a year was indicative that further factors might need to be taken into consideration. He therefore agreed that approval of the resolution should be delayed so that other variables could be taken into account.
74. **The CHAIRPERSON** noted that the representative of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela had expressed the intention of abstaining with regard to the approval of the draft resolution. She observed that the representative of Norway was not questioning the decision itself, but was proposing to delay implementation of the resolution. The Chairperson invited the Council to defer a decision on the matter and take it up again the following day.
75. **It was so agreed.**

## PROGRESS REPORT ON IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PERFORMANCE-BASED ALLOCATION SYSTEM (agenda item 12) (GC 34/L.9)

76. **Mr CLEAVER** (Associate Vice-President, Programme Management Department of IFAD) confirmed that during 2010 the performance-based allocation system (PBAS) had continued to be applied to all loans and country-specific grants presented to the Executive Board for approval. All such loans and grants had been within the PBAS allocation for each country. In terms of the overall programme of work in 2010, 96 per cent of the resources available for commitment had been allocated according to the PBAS guidelines, with the remainder being used for global and regional grants. The 2010 country scores contained in annex II to document GC 34/L.9 were based on updated data on portfolio and rural sector performance, rural population figures and gross national income per capita. The updated data had been used as a basis for the PBAS and the 2011 country allocations, and were contained in the report, which had been posted on the IFAD website in line with the agreed procedures for the disclosure of PBAS information.
77. **The Governing Council took note of the progress report on implementation of the performance-based allocation system.**

## PROGRESS REPORT ON THE GLOBAL MECHANISM OF THE UNITED NATIONS CONVENTION TO COMBAT DESERTIFICATION (agenda item 13) (GC 34/L.10)

78. **The CHAIRPERSON** drew attention to the progress report on the Global Mechanism's activities in 2010 contained in document GC 34/L.10. She recalled that, ever since the Global Mechanism had begun operations in 1998, the Council had been provided with yearly updates on its evolving operational strategy and activities, as required by resolution 108/XXI.
79. **The Governing Council took note of the progress report on the Global Mechanism of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa.**

## EMOLUMENTS OF THE PRESIDENT (agenda item 14) (GC 34/L.11/Rev.1)

80. **The CHAIRPERSON** invited the Governing Council to adopt the draft resolution contained in document GC 34/L.11/Rev.1 on the re-establishment of the Emoluments Committee. The task of the Emoluments Committee, consisting of nine Governors, would be to review the overall emoluments and other conditions of employment of the President of IFAD, and to submit its findings to the thirty-sixth session of the Governing Council through the Executive Board. Following consideration within each List, the following countries were proposed as members of the Emoluments Committee: Denmark, Germany, Italy and the United States for List A; Indonesia and the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela for List B; Angola for Sub-List C1; Bangladesh for Sub-List C2; and Brazil for Sub-List C3.
81. **Mr RAHDIANSYAH** (Indonesia), noting the nomination of his country as a member of the Emoluments Committee, asked for the decision to be deferred to allow time for further internal consultations.
82. **It was so agreed.**
83. **Ms URBANEJA DURÁN** (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela) took the Chair.

## GENERAL STATEMENTS (agenda item 5)

84. **Ms RODRÍGUEZ RAMOS** (Spain) said that the theme of the 2011 Governing Council session was particularly relevant at a time when the rural population was

in need of inclusive agricultural policies. Comprehensive investment in infrastructure was required so that rural hunger could be tackled; 75 per cent of those living in the countryside went hungry. Needy farmers expected politicians to show confidence in them and find solutions to their problems, which essentially meant facilitating investment through easier access to loans. Her Government had granted more than US\$400,000 in concessional loans under the Spanish Food Security Cofinancing Facility Trust Fund as an act of trust not in IFAD but in the poor farmers of the world. She thanked in particular Ms Yukiko Omura, Vice-President of IFAD, who had worked closely with the Spanish Government to launch that financing facility. It was impossible to transform global agriculture without innovative measures.

85. **Ms KOSGEI** (Kenya) said that IFAD's new development strategy for eastern and southern Africa regions would help to reduce poverty and hunger in rural areas. The strategy was indeed reflected in Kenya's country strategic opportunities programme (COSOP) and was an outcome of excellent collaboration between the Government of Kenya and IFAD. The COSOP was also in keeping with Kenya's agricultural development strategy which underlined the need to scale up productivity through profitable farming. She added that five IFAD-supported initiatives were currently under way in Kenya. The establishment of the IFAD Country and Regional Office in 2008, the five-member country programme management team and the more frequent implementation support missions had enabled Kenya to improve its planned programmes and absorption of funds.
86. Ms Kosgei further said that the 34<sup>th</sup> Governing Council's theme was relevant to Kenya, where 65 per cent of the population was under the age of 35. In this context, and against the background of rising unemployment, agriculture needed to be made more profitable so as to attract more young people. Additionally, although women represented a majority in small-scale farming, they had no access to land until recently. However, under the new Constitution, women now had the right to land ownership. The Kenyan Government's efforts were also focused on facilitating the availability and affordability of agricultural inputs and access to credit as well as insurance.
87. **Mr ZHENG** (China) said that although the world economy was slowly recovering, the recovery was fragile and uneven. The global financial crisis and rising food prices had made poverty and hunger worse, jeopardizing achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and the fulfilment of IFAD's mandate. He had three proposals to assist IFAD along the path towards more targeted and effective measures to help developing countries, especially the least developed among them.
88. Firstly, more resources needed to be mobilized to meet the MDGs. Sixteen per cent of the world's population still went hungry and the recent food price surge had even led to social unrest. Developed countries should honour their financial commitments to poverty reduction and agricultural development, increase their share of official development assistance and actively support IFAD's Ninth Replenishment. Secondly, there was a need to define strategies, highlight priorities and increase institutional effectiveness. IFAD should ensure that its new strategic framework and related policies further strengthened the Fund's mandate through clearly defined goals, focused priorities and efficient operations. Limited resources should be concentrated on rural infrastructure, agricultural technology, small-scale farm development, capacity-building and sustained investment in agriculture. Thirdly, South-South cooperation and knowledge cooperation should be expanded and serve the needs of developing countries. IFAD should build on its comparative advantage, disseminating developing countries' best practices while tailoring its models to developing countries' needs. It should incorporate South-South cooperation into its long-term strategic framework and build a high-level policy dialogue and cooperation platform to serve those ends. China was willing to

- help IFAD to explore ways of promoting such cooperation, learn best practices from other developing countries and share its experience with others.
89. **Ms COUSIN** (United States) reiterated her Government's support for IFAD at a time when, despite some progress, almost a billion people faced chronic hunger. It was critical to increase food supplies to meet population growth worldwide and to improve food security, especially for the poorest and most vulnerable. She welcomed the Fund's partnership in the implementation of the United States' Feed the Future initiative and urged more governments and institutions to contribute to the Global Agriculture and Food Security Program, supported by the United States and other countries and by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.
  90. The United States commended the solid institutional framework now underpinning IFAD's working methods, which ensured that the loans and grants deployed effectively met the needs of the rural poor. The Ninth Replenishment consultations would further improve that effectiveness while allowing for reflection on IFAD's strategy and business model, including lessons learned from independent evaluations on gender and private sector engagement, together with its approach to innovation and project scale-up. While the Results Measurement Framework was a promising start to increased accountability, attention should be paid to clearly differentiating between outcomes measurements, more rigorously evaluating project impact and better targeting resources. Those comments were consistent with the United States' concern for improved transparency and efficiency throughout the multilateral system. Greater institutional efficiency, another key challenge, also involved addressing weaknesses in human resources management.
  91. Since most of the world's poor were women, IFAD would not generate sustainable solutions to rural poverty if it failed to focus on women. Information and communication technologies offered enormous potential for improving rural livelihoods and increasing IFAD's effectiveness. The United States welcomed IFAD's *Rural Poverty Report 2011* and the Fund's initiatives in support of the private sector's role in agricultural development.
  92. **Mr BADAMJUNAI** (Mongolia) expressed his Government's appreciation of IFAD's efforts to meet the MDGs of reducing poverty and ensuring a sustainable food supply worldwide. The *Rural Poverty Report 2011* not only analysed rural poverty and defined the challenges, but provided useful information on strategic policies and measures implemented. Given the need to feed the world's growing population and to ensure food security, a comprehensive policy was required to create jobs in rural areas, improve the legal and financial environment for small and medium-sized businesses and expand market opportunities. The focus on youth at the current session was particularly timely, especially in his country where one third of the population lived in rural areas and two thirds were aged 30 or less.
  93. The share of agriculture in Mongolia's economy explained his Government's high-level commitment and largely successful programmes in that area. Crop production had been improved and new technologies and methods introduced. Mongolia had become entirely self-sufficient in wheat and 64 per cent in vegetables, and had created 6,000 new jobs in rural areas. The development of an integrated intensive livestock and crop production system was under way with a view to meeting domestic food needs and exporting surpluses.
  94. **Mr EGGELMEYER** (Germany) said that, with record food prices again leading to a global crisis, his Government's development cooperation was currently prioritizing food security and rural development. IFAD was successfully supporting smallholder agriculture and combating rural poverty, and its competence as an advocate of small-scale farmers was demonstrated in the *Rural Poverty Report 2011*. He urged IFAD to continue focusing on its comparative advantage in those

areas, respecting clearly defined mandates among the different United Nations organizations, in the interest of high effectiveness and cost efficiency. Innovations such as increased private sector involvement were welcome, provided they focused on IFAD's core mandate.

95. Given the importance it attached to development effectiveness and cost efficiency, Germany could not support a real increase of as much as 5.4 per cent in the administrative budget and, while appreciating Management's efforts to concentrate spending on operations, urged even greater cost efficiency. In 2010, his Government had called for a comprehensive concept for a new organizational structure to be discussed in the Executive Board. He regretted that its request had not been met. IFAD's communication needed to be more transparent, in particular in connection with the planned human resources reform. Germany looked forward to continued partnership with IFAD given its important role in the international aid architecture.
96. **Ms JAMEEL** (Maldives) said that the new Maldives Government set great store by good governance, social justice and economic development, while enhancing the role of the private sector to create a more diversified economy. The sustainable development of fisheries and agriculture remained high on the agenda, since two thirds of the population lived in rural areas. Her Government's rural development aims included increasing competitiveness through smallholder activities, promoting trade, enhancing infrastructure and financial services, and promoting research, training and technical development. Fish harvesting had proved vulnerable to climate change but the fisheries sector would be strengthened by investment in fish farming and aquaculture, for which IFAD's assistance would be sought.
97. Priorities in her Government's strategic action plan for the agriculture sector included reducing dependence of food imports, improving food security, developing infrastructure and strengthening market-driven organized farming, through the application of modern technologies and environment-friendly practices. Her country was grateful to IFAD for its cooperation, for its role in reducing world poverty and for its focus on climate change, women and youth development. The theme of the 2011 Governing Council session was of special relevance in Maldives, where over one third of the population was young and half of those involved in fisheries and agriculture were women. The economic empowerment of rural women was indeed vital for developing sustainable agriculture. In 2010, US\$1.8 million had been disbursed in Maldives under IFAD's Post Tsunami Agricultural and Fisheries Rehabilitation Project and, in 2011, another US\$3.5 million would be disbursed under two other IFAD projects, half of it going to women. Her Government was promoting gender equality through gender mainstreaming, empowerment and advancement in every area, and was working to establish the necessary machinery to implement it.
98. **Mr MOKOSE** (Lesotho) said that IFAD was to be commended for prompting deliberation of the vital but often forgotten topic of youth participation in agriculture, which was instrumental in the reduction of poverty and hunger. The serious challenges facing the agriculture and food security sector included not only the mainstreaming of youth programmes into agriculture but also the adoption of more efficient and sustainable production methods and adaptation to climate change. In the latter context, recent flooding from torrential rains had destroyed crops, homesteads and roads in Lesotho, while across southern Africa devastation had been wreaked by unusually heavy rainfall caused by the La Niña phenomenon, with several months of the rainy season still to come.
99. The theme of the current session was particularly relevant in that it recognized the role of rural youth in agricultural development in terms of meeting future food demands and promoting economic growth, and highlighted the need to invest in

capacity-building to that end. In Lesotho, a land law had recently been enacted to ensure access to agricultural land by those who could use it productively, including young people, in the interest of curbing food insecurity. Training in such core livelihood skills as agriculture was also being targeted at young people in order to equip them with the technical and entrepreneurial skills needed for work as farmers or extension agents. Non-qualification programmes were additionally available for young persons who were unable to progress beyond primary level education and various farmer training centres were being revived. Such plans should ideally be accelerated in order to stimulate young people's awareness of and interest in farming at a more professional level. Plans were also under way to incorporate agriculture into the school curriculum as a compulsory subject, starting at the primary level. Credit was due to IFAD and its sister agencies for their continued support of Lesotho's efforts to develop its agriculture and reduce rural poverty and food insecurity.

100. **Mr HELLMAN** (Finland), speaking on behalf of the Nordic countries, said that those countries' strong support for IFAD was illustrated by their contribution to the Eighth Replenishment, which amounted to approximately 14 per cent of donor resources and an increase of some 70 per cent over their contribution to the Seventh Replenishment.
101. The IFAD *Rural Poverty Report 2011* recognized agriculture as a primary engine of rural growth and poverty reduction, together with other non-agricultural drivers of rural growth and the increasingly complex rural environment. Against that background, IFAD clearly had a stronger role to play, but the question was whether it should continue to focus on the very poorest or sharpen its focus on opportunities for effectively achieving economic growth in rural areas. Other key issues to be addressed in the context of the Ninth Replenishment and IFAD's Strategic Framework for 2011-2015 were IFAD's specific role in the community of international development actors and how farmers in developing countries could best be helped to adapt to the new challenges arising from climate change. Given its specific mandate, however, the improvement of livelihoods for the most vulnerable population groups should remain an important task, without precluding open-mindedness towards new issues. It should also seek to maintain strong cooperation with governments and coordination with other relevant donors.
102. The Nordic countries reiterated the importance of scaling up efforts in the five broad areas highlighted in the report of the Consultation on the Eighth Replenishment of IFAD's Resources. Indeed, an assessment of IFAD's achievement with respect to the goals and actions agreed in that report would constitute an important part of the negotiations for the Ninth Replenishment. Another important issue was the involvement of all stakeholders in the changes that lay ahead. It was therefore encouraging to note overall that actions had been taken or were under way in the five areas mentioned and that IFAD had scored well in recent reviews and won recognition as a high-quality development agency. IFAD's effectiveness could be improved still further, however, to which end streamlining of processes and other reforms were advocated. In its efforts to achieve all such objectives, IFAD could be assured of strong commitment and support from the Nordic countries.
103. **Mr SAFAR** (Syrian Arab Republic) said that, despite the goal set in the Rome Declaration on World Food Security of halving the number of undernourished people by no later than 2015, over a billion people continued to suffer hunger and deprivation, among them hundreds of millions of children. Coinciding as it did with the International Year of Youth, the current meeting should address the question of hunger and poverty identified as a priority area in the World Programme of Action for Youth to the Year 2000 and Beyond. Poverty, hunger and malnutrition, with their adverse social consequences, sapped the energy and vitality of young people and diminished their capacity to work and hence provide for their families.

- Organizations and governments should therefore work together to implement new development projects designed to prepare children for an active and productive life as young people who thus would reap benefits for both their families and the wider community.
104. The IFAD-supported rural development projects carried out in his country had been highly successful in terms of generating income and improving living standards in the target regions. The most recently agreed project for integrated rural development would benefit families engaged in animal husbandry, which included female-headed households. Developing countries greatly depended on IFAD and its fellow organizations for assistance in achieving balanced agricultural growth and bettering rural living standards through, for instance, access to the markets of the North and increased investment flows to the countries of the South. To that end, wealthy countries were urged to invest in agriculture and other areas of rural development, which would boost employment, raise incomes and reduce poverty and hunger. Further cooperation among Member States would enhance the Fund's capacity for achieving the objectives sought by and for all.
  105. **Mr GORT** (Canada) drew attention to worrying recent developments, with the swings in food prices and escalating numbers of people living in extreme poverty. IFAD had undergone significant change; its global presence had grown, together with its work programme, commitment of funds, and efforts to strengthen its focus on smallholder agriculture. Commendable advances included stronger partnerships, improved results focus and expanded supervision of country operations. IFAD had worked hard to build on the reforms under way and its crucially important role would be a key consideration in the context of the Consultation on the Ninth Replenishment and future priorities.
  106. A number of important international events had demonstrated the sustained commitment to food and nutrition security, to agricultural development and to improved maternal, newborn and child health, with a special emphasis on nutrition. Food security had also been identified as an urgent global development challenge exacerbated by such factors as climate change, increasing global food demand and price volatility. As food prices rose, the poor spent more of their income on staple foods and less on food that was rich in the essential micronutrients needed for health and productivity. The human health toll of hunger deprivation was already immense; mental development and learning capacity were permanently impaired in undernourished young children, with severe consequences for themselves and their countries. While continuing to focus on improving smallholder productivity, IFAD should lead the way as a nutrition-sensitive organization by incorporating nutrition into all of its undertakings. In so doing, it could not only contribute significantly to the health and well-being of hundreds of millions of people but also lay the ground for providing children and youth with a lifetime of choices.
  107. **Mr VIDOTTO** (Brazil) said that the present could well be the starting point of a new chapter in the evolution of international cooperation, marked by the growing importance of South-South and triangular cooperation. Against that background, it was crucial to enhance the dynamism of IFAD and its two sister organizations in Rome by establishing a new operational framework and a closer relationship among them. Current fiscal constraints were not the impossible hurdle that some believed them to be. Indeed, in order to avoid the scenario whereby low-income countries were forsaken, the opportunity provided by the Ninth Replenishment must not be lost.
  108. The Brazilian President's message to IFAD was that she supported the furtherance of its policies for women's empowerment across the board. The challenge faced by young people in rural areas also merited similar attention in order to foster smallholder and family agriculture. IFAD should furthermore enhance its country

presence in the interest of project improvement and a deeper engagement in policy dialogue with governments and society. With regard to middle-income countries, IFAD's role went beyond that of enabling the poor to overcome poverty and inequality. In the case of Brazil, IFAD's programme of action could encompass a strategy for international cooperation involving the creation and dissemination of specific knowledge and the replication of successful experiences. With its financial sources allowing for cofinancing alternatives and its research centres renowned for their expertise, Brazil stood poised to fulfil a progressive role as a middle-income country in the context of South-South cooperation.

109. **Mr SAHA** (India) said that his country was a strong and steadfast supporter of IFAD in its role of helping countries to meet the challenge of eradicating hunger. The priority issues for IFAD were rural poverty alleviation, empowerment of rural women, capacity-building, sustainable use of natural resources and greater inclusion of the vulnerable and marginalized. The youth theme of the current session was also very relevant, bearing in mind the high proportion of under-25s in developing countries. IFAD's *Rural Poverty Report 2011*, moreover, rightly emphasized such matters as sustainable agricultural intensification, risk identification and management, development of the rural non-farm sector, improved market access and strengthening of individual and collective capacities. Ultimately, the strategic shift towards promoting smallholder farming as a business model would improve the productivity, competitiveness and incomes of rural people. As to the private sector, which played an important role in the value chain, it should devote more attention to storage infrastructure, sustainable utilization of resources and environmental conservation.
110. His Government had embarked on an ambitious multi-faceted programme to eliminate hunger and was considering the introduction of legislation on food rights. IFAD-funded projects targeted at marginalized communities in remote areas of India had meanwhile been of significant impact. IFAD itself should continue along the path of reform, particularly with respect to human resources, in order to arm itself with the capacity and skills needed to deliver its mandate and improve results on the ground. On the strength of the support thus far expressed for the Ninth Replenishment, the hope was that its programme could be significantly expanded. In conclusion, he underlined the need for IFAD to remain committed in its employment of staff to the objective of equitable geographical representation, as well as gender balance at all levels.
111. **Mr BEN REJEB** (Tunisia) said that IFAD was an essential partner for developing countries in their efforts to achieve the MDGs. Despite the numerous initiatives on that score, however, the progress thus far achieved had not matched expectations. As to the youth theme of the panel discussion and side events scheduled during the current session, it was aptly chosen in view of its close linkage with rural development, focusing as it did on the challenges facing young people in rural areas, where rising unemployment figures had adverse consequences for not only development but also stability.
112. It was the worsening impact of those consequences in his country's long marginalized internal regions that had sparked the first flames of revolt among its rural youth, who believed in the sanctity of work as a means of livelihood and also as a key factor in upholding dignity and justice. Employment was therefore a fundamental constant of Tunisia's future development policy. Mindful of its people's aspirations for social justice and the need to promote job opportunities in even its most deprived regions, Tunisia looked to IFAD and the international community for support in financing additional projects designed to achieve balanced and fair sustainable development.
113. **Mr ABDULLAH** (Nigeria), stressing the need for a new generation of farmers to succeed the ageing farming population, said that the sharp focus on rural youth at

the current session would send a strong message to the highest levels of political leadership. IFAD should continue to step up its efforts to reduce poverty and promote food security, making the most of its comparative advantage. Increased agricultural productivity, production and income were moreover key to achievement of the MDGs and all Member States were therefore urged to support the Ninth Replenishment of IFAD's resources and its planned work programme for that period by contributing generously.

114. Nigeria's own commitment to IFAD's ideals had been demonstrated by its contribution of US\$15 million to the Eighth Replenishment. In the interest of further strengthening the Fund's efforts, however, progress was required on three major fronts, namely: climate change mitigation; the value chain approach of production, storage, processing and marketing; and the financing level, which should be increased to as much as 100 per cent in the case of some components to offset the absence of counterpart funding in so many countries. In addition to three ongoing IFAD projects, Nigeria was undertaking a comprehensive value chain project in the main agricultural subsectors with a view to developing a new generation of successor farmers. It hoped that preparation of the IFAD-supported programme would soon be complete with a view to commencing project implementation as soon as possible. The Nigerian Government was also committed to massive investment in rural infrastructure in the interest of improving living standards and reducing poverty through gainful employment of youth.
115. **Mr DE LEÓN** (Guatemala) welcomed the support provided by IFAD to Guatemala over the past 24 years, particularly during the Peace Process, through rural development programmes in priority areas. The experience of Guatemala underscored the importance of ensuring that young rural people participated in the development of their communities. Following a 15-year gap, agricultural extension services had been fully reintroduced in the form of support for small and medium-sized producers, the transfer of technology and technical assistance for agricultural production. Support was being provided for rural housewives through economic development programmes for rural women. Support for rural youth took the form of participation arrangements through which they could develop their creativity, capacities and potential with a view to becoming good producers and citizens.
116. Greater in-depth reflection was required within IFAD concerning the situation of countries which, in statistical terms, were classified as middle income. However, no one denied the existence of pockets of great poverty and marginalization in such countries, which merited the application of broad criteria that would allow them to receive support through IFAD programmes, even on an urgent basis. Finally, consideration should be given to an evaluation of the programmes currently undertaken in Guatemala with a view to redirecting them and ensuring their consistency with the national rural development policy implemented by the Government, and hence improving their contribution to food security and rural economic development.
117. **Mr OEHLER** (Austria) commended the Fund on surpassing its target lending level of US\$800 million for the first year of the Eighth Replenishment. With its financial position now strengthened, the Fund should be able to achieve the US\$3 billion target for the whole replenishment period and could be expected to boost its contribution to rural poverty alleviation and increased food production in the poor countries and regions of the world. IFAD should apply the broad knowledge base developed over the years in such a way as to maximize its development effectiveness and contribute to achievement of the MDGs. If its clients and development partners were convinced that its innovative approaches and successful projects merited being scaled up and multiplied, IFAD would have a more sustainable impact on agricultural development in poor countries. In recent

years, since the outbreak of the food price crisis, IFAD had assumed a higher profile, as recognized at the G-8 L'Aquila Summit, and was playing an active role in international efforts to counter rising food prices and increase food production. Reviews showed that the Fund's impact on rural poverty had improved over the years, but more dedicated efforts were needed to increase project efficiency and scaling up.

118. To further enhance the success of its operations, IFAD should, besides engaging in policy dialogue, help upgrade the skills of key institutions in partner countries by giving appropriate space in country strategies to capacity-building in project design and implementation. The Ninth Replenishment exercise provided an opportunity to review progress and set priorities for the future. In response to the challenges of food security and affordable food prices, increasing the production capacity of the world's 500 million smallholder farmers offered the chance of a sustainable rise in agricultural productivity and output. Finally, while approving the budget for 2011, he warned that the 5.4 per cent increase in the administrative budget was high and should not serve as a precedent for future budgets.
119. **Mr MBEWE** (Zambia) welcomed the theme of the current session, as young women and men were the world's future farmers, entrepreneurs and leaders. In developing countries, although young people formed a large part of the population and represented a huge potential resource, they faced many challenges. In Zambia, the formal sector could not absorb the high number of school leavers entering the labour market each year. In view of the shortage of formal employment, efforts were being made to equip young persons with the hands-on skills needed for self-employment by means of such initiatives as youth training centres, youth resettlement schemes and funding for young entrepreneurs through the Citizens Economic Empowerment Commission.
120. Increased investment in agriculture was vital for food security and income generation. IFAD was to be commended for financing agricultural development projects in developing countries, and particularly for its contribution to addressing structural problems relating to poverty in rural areas. The added dimension of targeting youth in rural areas through support for youth empowerment would help to address the issue of unemployment. There was also growing consensus that, if agriculture was to be the main sector to stimulate economic growth, investment should go beyond improving on-farm productivity and should cover agribusiness and agro-industry production. Added value needed to be promoted and private sector investment in agriculture encouraged from both national and international sources. IFAD's financial assistance to Zambia was therefore particularly welcome in such areas as agribusiness and smallholder livestock development. Zambia also fully supported the African Union's Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP), which set priorities for agricultural development.
121. **Mr SHIOYA** (Japan) welcomed the progress made by IFAD towards becoming a more effective and more efficient organization through continuous reform under the strong leadership of President Nwanze. Recent high and volatile food prices were a matter of great concern and could have a severe impact on food security and the livelihood of the poor. In the longer term, world agriculture needed more investment to achieve higher productivity and better access to markets. To that effect, and beyond its own projects, IFAD should turn its attention to: fostering cofinancing by presenting reliable projects attractive to other donors; mobilizing new financial resources, for example by participating in discussions on innovative financing mechanisms; and making further efforts to formulate principles for responsible agricultural investment and to deepen Member States' understanding of that issue, which would be of critical importance in attracting private investment.

122. Japan was most appreciative of the role played by IFAD in doubling rice production in Africa. The basic concept behind Japan's development policy was to achieve "human security" by building up a society in which people could realize their own potential. In conclusion, he expressed his conviction that IFAD should continue its concerted efforts to address rural poverty and achieve human security worldwide.
123. **Ms SQUEFF** (Argentina) said that, on the eve of the Ninth Replenishment, it was necessary to examine the shared work and support offered by middle-income countries. A replenishment, much more than an influx of new resources, offered the opportunity for IFAD Member States to determine policies and plan action to contribute to the elimination of rural poverty. The level of Members States' commitment was directly related to the results achieved, and even in times of crisis, the results must be there. Alternative forms of resource mobilization, such as the newly established Spanish Food Security Cofinancing Facility Trust Fund, were to be welcomed as innovative means of achieving IFAD's goals and objectives, while allowing it to adapt to new circumstances and challenges.
124. Argentina was aiming to achieve growth with equity based on a model of national development focused on social inclusion, in which agricultural and livestock development were pivotal, with particular reference to family farming. The innovative MERCOSUR meeting on family farming had served to strengthen policy initiatives at the subregional level and to promote trade in produce from family farming. She stressed the importance of focusing on young people, who represented not only the future but also the present. At a time of rising unemployment, young people, who were often viewed as a problem, should on the contrary be seen as one element in resolving production difficulties. The only way to strengthen the link between the young and rural production was through policies to promote agricultural development. However, in order to convince young people to remain on the land, in agriculture, they must be offered appropriate incentives and incomes. The future rise in world food consumption offered a major incentive for the development of sustainable agricultural policies in food producing countries, where the highest priority should be given to the inclusion of young people.
125. **Mr EL-BELTAGY** (Egypt) recalled that the amount of arable land in Egypt was very small, with less than 4 per cent of the total land area being used for agriculture, and that water resources were also limited. Moreover, young people made up 40 per cent of Egypt's 80 million population and they aspired to a better future. Those considerations, together with the food crisis, the financial tsunami and climate change, formed the background to the recent Sustainable Agricultural Development Strategy (SADS), which was knowledge intensive and focused on human resources development, the establishment of an enabling environment, the development of market links, particularly for export, the promotion of value chains and agribusiness and the optimized use of water resources. The modernization of on-farm water use was a principal component of SADS, with the aim of increasing current on-farm water use efficiency which, at 45 per cent, was the highest in Africa, to a level of 80 per cent. In parallel, efforts were being made to develop an empowering and enabling national programme on marketing and value chains. The World Bank and IFAD were already involved in the implementation of SADS, which should be instrumental in improving the living standards of farmers within, it was to be hoped, a less distorted global market.
126. When comparing current conditions with those prevailing when IFAD was created, it was clear that the Fund was now more necessary than ever. Faced with a future shaped by the aspirations of young people, in developing countries in general, and not just in Egypt, the price of doing nothing would be socio-political upheaval. It was therefore essential for all the Member States countries to work hard to ensure that IFAD, with its noble causes, was maintained and sustained to fulfil everyone's hopes and dreams.

127. **Mr MOLEBATSI** (Botswana) said that, in the International Year of Youth, Botswana, in the same way as countries the world over, was confronted by issues of unemployment, especially among young persons. The present meeting therefore offered an opportunity to share experiences on how best to address the challenges of youth unemployment and food insecurity.
128. IFAD had been instrumental in assisting the most impoverished nations to eradicate poverty and hunger, and therefore in raising the living standards of the poorest of the poor. The Fund's swift move to provide assistance to Haiti following the devastating earthquake in January 2010 merited special commendation. IFAD should be encouraged to maintain its key role as one of the international coordinators of global food security issues. It also needed to focus attention on mitigating and averting the negative impacts of climate change, especially on smallholder farmers. As part of the national efforts to create synergies in the agricultural sector, a loan of US\$4.04 million and a grant of US\$1.6 million were currently being signed with IFAD for agricultural services support, which would make a significant contribution to addressing poverty eradication objectives and supporting the national food security agenda. Botswana therefore reaffirmed its continued support for the advancement of IFAD's mandate to finance agricultural development projects in developing countries.
129. **Ms VAN ARDENNE-VAN DER HOEVEN** (Netherlands), speaking on behalf of Belgium, Luxembourg and the Netherlands (the Benelux countries), reaffirmed that IFAD and the other Rome-based agencies were at the forefront of the urgent global efforts to combat poverty. It was now clear that the world was experiencing a new surge in food prices at a time when both developed and developing countries were still struggling with the consequences of the financial and economic crisis. The devastating results of the rise in food prices had emerged in 2008, which had become the year of the worldwide food crisis. In the current situation, food and agriculture were eminent means of winning the battle and overcoming poverty everywhere.
130. The start of the Eighth Replenishment period and the establishment of the Spanish Trust Fund would mean an enormous increase in resources for IFAD. The Fund should be commended for demonstrating its ability to maintain the size of its portfolio, scale up successful projects, improve project performance and at the same time explore new and innovative funding mechanisms. It was also to be welcomed that for the first time the Ninth Replenishment Consultation would be headed by an external chair, Mr Johannes Linn. During the Ninth Replenishment period, IFAD should be encouraged to strengthen its role, not only in financing agricultural development projects, but also as a knowledge broker. As a key means of boosting food security, emphasis should be placed on the empowerment and market orientation of smallholder farmers, women and men alike, and particularly the younger generation. The Member States she represented attached great value to IFAD's role as a niche player in smallholder agriculture and rural development and encouraged the Fund to continue its efforts to become a more cost-efficient and effective organization and to maintain its position at the forefront of the global battle against poverty.
131. **The meeting rose at 1.40 p.m.**

- (ii) Summary record of the second meeting of the thirty-fourth session held on Saturday, 19 February 2011 at 3 p.m.

**Chairperson: Jan De Bock (Belgium)**

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132. **The meeting was called to order at 3 p.m.**

PANEL DISCUSSION ON "FEEDING FUTURE GENERATIONS – YOUNG RURAL PEOPLE TODAY, PROSPEROUS FARMERS TOMORROW"

133. **A panel discussion was held, a summary of which is contained in chapter 3, part B.**

134. **Mr DE BOCK (Belgium) took the Chair.**

GENERAL STATEMENTS (agenda item 5, continued)

135. **Mr HENNESSY** (Ireland) commended IFAD's leadership role in reducing rural poverty and promoting agricultural development. In its development policy, his Government had prioritized the eradication of hunger and was focusing on new approaches. The recommendations of its 2008 Hunger Task Force Report constituted a road map for government action in support of the campaign to tackle world hunger. A key recommendation was to increase the productivity of smallholder farmers in Africa, especially women. He urged IFAD to ensure that all of its programmes maximized the benefits to rural women and welcomed its work on gender evaluation.
136. Although the efforts of IFAD and the rest of the international community were encouraging, it was vital to address national and international governance and leadership deficits so that the issue of hunger remained high on the international agenda. Ireland had taken several initiatives, including prioritizing the fight against hunger in the work of Irish Aid, and was working with partner countries to highlight the issue. He drew attention to the successful high-level political event co-hosted by Ireland and the United States, in cooperation with others, during the United Nations summit on the Millennium Development Goals held in New York in September 2010. The issues of health, nutrition and food security called for a multisectoral approach that promoted resilient and sustainable rural development.
137. Ireland welcomed the progress made in IFAD's reform process, which it fully supported, and looked forward to further significant changes.
138. **Mr FAUGOO** (Mauritius) commended the focus at the current session on young rural women and men, which recognized young people's huge potential for innovation and their inclination to take the risks that went with new opportunities. The next generation of farmers would have to be more conversant with new technologies, have access to modern equipment and display a new mind-set. For their part, governments would have to increase investment in order to attract young people to farming.
139. Agriculture's contribution to the economy of Mauritius had declined from 23 per cent in the 1970s to 4.3 per cent in 2008, while the share of agro-industrial employment had fallen to 9 per cent over the same period. In response to the many challenges faced by the sector, the Government had mobilized substantial resources to increase quality food production and agricultural productivity and a Food Security Fund had been created. Despite positive results, more technical and other support was required and farmers needed training to acquire innovative skills and learn to take risks. His Government was supporting the emergence of a new class of entrepreneurs, by means of vocational and university training. Among the incentives being given to young women and men were access to land, credit facilities and training in new technologies. Three programmes for developing the agricultural and fisheries sector had been supported by IFAD, including the current Marine and Agricultural Resources Support Programme. He praised IFAD for its positive response to the regional food security initiative. A regional development company had been set up, but far more private investment was needed. Mauritius hoped to continue to benefit from IFAD's networking, regional presence and technical expertise.

140. **Mr VALLEJO** (Ecuador) said that intangible as well as tangible factors needed to be considered when discussing the theme of the 2011 Governing Council session: the sustainability of natural resources, ethical management and ecological responsibility. Industrialized societies, however, were obsessed with profit and consumption. Uncontrolled urban growth was already leading to disastrous desertification. Fundamental changes to the rural employment market were called for, since internationally financed monopolies and monocultures were currently taking precedence over green crops and products. There should be more dialogue with young farmers, who were frustrated by the lack of long-term planning. They would only stay in the countryside, where their conditions were often subhuman, and work in farming if they were offered incentives, whereas graduates working for multinationals and living in cities enjoyed a far higher standard of living. Effectively, agriculture was subsidizing life in the cities and causing a rural exodus, with young farmers moving to urban areas or other countries.
141. The real needs of Latin American countries and other less well-off countries needed to be taken into account. The proposed macroeconomic solutions to the problems facing poorer countries were not always the right ones. IFAD and other international organizations would only be credible if they interpreted economic indicators subjectively rather than analysing them mathematically. For example, oil might make a significant contribution to a country's gross national product and swell multinationals' profits but failed to improve living conditions in rural areas.
142. **Mr AI-HAWSHABI** (Yemen) said that his country faced special challenges on account of its steady population growth and scant resources, primarily water. It therefore gave careful thought to optimizing the use of natural resources and channelling young people towards the agricultural sector, which had the potential to accommodate a large workforce, boost productivity and narrow the gap between food consumption and production.
143. Yemen's priorities included that of supporting youth – the engine for development and a better future – through access to technical and vocational education that qualified them for the job market. Particular attention was focused on rural youth; as the country's most populous group, it was vital to cater for them in development plans and in job-creation programmes in order to reduce the poverty, hunger and unemployment that would otherwise lead to unrest. Yemen gladly supported IFAD in its positive role of promoting rural youth projects aimed, inter alia, at creating a better future and minimizing the rural-urban divide while at the same time turning the country's young people into a force driven to bridge the food gap and achieve sufficiency.
144. **Mr TELLIANO** (Guinea) expressed appreciation of IFAD's constant support for poverty reduction efforts; it had, for instance, continued to pursue its rural development activities in his country, undeterred by the socio-political upheavals of the previous two years. Smallholder farming predominated in countries such as Guinea where one in three households was unable to meet its food needs. In the interest of earning a decent livelihood, young people should therefore be particularly encouraged into farming by facilitating their access to land, credit and training. Indeed, they should be main players in development, accounting as they did for the majority of rural inhabitants in developing countries, where subsistence food production would need to be doubled in order to satisfy the future needs of a growing population.
145. Despite commitments by developed countries and international financial institutions, however, the agricultural sector lacked investment and consequently infrastructure, with the result that it was not being exploited to the full. Climate change posed a further challenge that demanded the introduction of technological innovations in support of producers. All related programmes must take into account the situation of young people in both rural and urban areas, and a competitive

private farming sector responding to market needs should be encouraged. In that context, his Government looked forward to strengthening its partnership with IFAD for the purpose of achieving sustainable development, with food security, income generation and job creation for rural populations as priority objectives.

146. **Mr CHEN CHARPENTIER** (Mexico) said that the theme of the 2011 Governing Council session was especially relevant during the United Nations International Year of Youth. In the specific field of agriculture, his Government was looking to appropriate initiatives aimed at improving agricultural productivity, encouraging rural economic growth and providing young people with the necessary skills for earning a living in the farming sector. Aware as it was of the enormous potential that young people represented in agriculture, the Mexican Government was implementing policies to improve agricultural productivity and efficiency that were focused on equal opportunities, capacity-building, assistance with setting up farm businesses, incentives for building and preserving rural and farming communities and gender mainstreaming.
147. The Secretariat for Agrarian Reform had launched three major national programmes aimed at rural youth. The first programme helped young people to acquire new entrepreneurial skills so that they would remain on the land and improve their livelihoods. The second, a fund targeting women farmers, promoted the use of non-banking financial institutions to encourage saving and reinvestment, thereby improving women farmers' cash flows and raising their living standards. Under the third programme, a fund had been set up to assist men and women living in farming communities but with no land rights, by means of direct financing for sustainable productive projects. His Government favoured all initiatives aimed at improved food security, gender equality, increased agricultural productivity and fairer international trade. He commended IFAD on its leadership in attaining those objectives and assured it of Mexico's full support.
148. **Mr DRABO** (Mali) said that young people aged between 15 and 40 constituted 68 per cent of his country's population, the majority of who were rural inhabitants. Youth unemployment stood at 12 per cent, compared with the national figure of 9 per cent. Employment opportunities were so limited that, in addition to migrating from rural to urban areas, the majority of the 100,000 young people entering the job market each year was obliged to seek work abroad. The Government therefore, as a matter of priority, had established a youth employment authority and had elaborated a national strategy to train young people for employment in the agricultural sector, with the support of the FAO. Moreover, as a result of facilities and credit provided under a vast hydro-agricultural management project begun in 2003, over 230 young people had been equipped to produce rice in quantities amounting in 2010 to well over 5.5 tons. The policy of establishing young people on tracts of land for similar farming purposes was now being extended to other regions.
149. Mali welcomed IFAD's ongoing commitment to close involvement in its daily struggle against food insecurity, particularly in rural areas. Two IFAD programmes currently being implemented in the areas of rural microfinance and agricultural production provided ample evidence of that commitment. Concerning the Ninth Replenishment, the importance of IFAD's work was such as to merit the contribution of resources that would enable it to fulfil its ambitions. Mali would shortly be making an official announcement of its own pledge to IFAD.
150. **Mr BHUIYAN** (Bangladesh) said that his country had achieved a steady growth in its GDP over the past decade and was committed to poverty eradication and food security through its Vision 21 approach, the essential aim of which was for Bangladesh to acquire middle-income status by 2021, the fiftieth year of its independence. Despite such obstacles as vulnerability to natural disaster and land degradation, the objective of self-sufficiency in food production was now almost

within reach. The introduction of measures such as increased disaster preparedness and emergency agriculture rehabilitation programmes had also been crucial to ensuring minimum food entitlements for Bangladesh's rural poor and rural youth in particular.

151. Rural employment creation for young people was a challenge, given that it required the provision of training facilities and other resources and services. Nonetheless, over three million young Bangladeshi men and women had thus far received skills development training and some two million of that number were now self-employed. The Government was moreover committed to providing a minimum of 100 days of annual employment to at least one unemployed young member of all families and a programme had been introduced to ensure employment for all young people with a secondary school education. Bangladesh had always fully supported IFAD, which had contributed significantly its efforts to alleviate poverty, build the rural infrastructure and develop agriculture. Its election to IFAD's Executive Board would undoubtedly serve as a catalyst for enhancing that collaboration.
152. **Mr PRASHAD ARYAL** (Nepal) said that the theme of the current session was especially relevant in countries like his, where agriculture played a vital role in socio-economic change. To meet the needs of a growing population, they had to tackle issues crucial to agricultural development, such as climate change, gender mainstreaming and food security, while paying special attention to small farmers. With over a billion people starving, most of them in south Asian countries such as Nepal, combating hunger and malnutrition posed a major challenge to the international community. Developing countries not only had to meet their food requirements but also ensure that young people continued to work in agriculture. IFAD's role in enabling poor farmers to overcome chronic poverty through their economic, social and political empowerment, providing decent job opportunities for young people and enhancing food security, was more relevant than ever.
153. An innovative and knowledge-intensive approach to agricultural development was urgently needed. Poor farmers and young people should be assisted but also encouraged to find lasting ways of coping with climate change and the threat to food security. His Government undertook to abide by recent international commitments and declarations and to cooperate on a specific strategy for the future. It had already established a national food and nutrition security plan and a national agricultural sector development strategy. He called for IFAD's support for his country to be scaled up and for its decision to establish a country office in Nepal to be acted upon.
154. **Mr AROKOUM** (Togo), on behalf of the Minister of Agriculture of Togo, recalled that, following the country's social and political crisis in the 1990s and its failure to pay its contributions, IFAD and other technical and financial partners had suspended their cooperation with Togo. Since President Faure Essozimna Gnassingbé had taken up office in 2005, however, he had spared no effort to restore ties between his country and IFAD, mindful of the latter's vital role in eradicating rural poverty. The President's personal commitment had led to the resumption of cooperation and IFAD's involvement in implementation of the National Investment Programme in Agriculture and Food Security (PNIASA). In that connection IFAD provided grant assistance to Togo for the Support to Agricultural Development Project approved at the Executive Board session in December 2010. On behalf of the President and the people of Togo, he conveyed sincere thanks to all IFAD Member States and to Mr Nwanze and his team for their support for Togo's renewed commitment to IFAD, and to the Executive Board for approving and signing the related agreements. He also thanked all the donors involved in implementing the PNIASA. He concluded by announcing that, on the instructions of the Head of State, Togo was taking steps to make its contribution to the Eighth and Ninth Replenishments.

155. **Mr IILONGA** (Namibia) said that, in view of the importance of agriculture in Namibia, his Government had taken two initiatives that were in keeping with the theme of the 2011 Governing Council session, the Rural Youth Development Programme and Mashare Irrigation Training Centre. The former, epitomizing the enormous investment that the Namibian Government continued to make in the social and economic infrastructure in rural areas, was intended to empower young people in the countryside by enabling them to acquire basic skills through practical experience and activity-based learning, so that they could earn a living from agriculture. At the Mashare centre, young men and women were trained to engage in commercial irrigation farming and, once trained, to participate in the country's Green Scheme Programme. IFAD could play an important role in complementing scarce financial resources and offering much-needed technical know-how. His Government was, therefore, closely following IFAD's revision of its Lending Policies and Criteria.
156. **Mr NAMOALE** (Ghana), on behalf of the Minister of Food and Agriculture of Ghana, said that his country had enjoyed a long-standing and rewarding collaboration with IFAD, having benefited from as many as 15 projects and programmes in a wide variety of areas with a view to achieving sustainable improvements in rural livelihoods. Two of the four IFAD programmes currently under way were already registering positive impacts for the beneficiaries and IFAD had also indicated its support for another successful project to be scaled up countrywide. During 2010, moreover, Ghana's cordial relationship with IFAD had been greatly enhanced as a result of the official visit to Ghana by IFAD's President, which had enabled him to assess the progress of IFAD's interventions in Ghana. A Host Country Agreement had also been signed for the establishment of an IFAD country office, which had since been opened in Accra, to where the country programme manager had relocated.
157. Together with its development partners, Ghana had resolved to redirect its resources and energies into implementing a comprehensive programme designed to transform agriculture into a productive sector providing opportunities for youth and small farmers in particular. His delegation therefore strongly supported the theme of the current session, which similarly focused on the future productive role of young people in agriculture in the interest of feeding future generations. With that in mind, Ghana was deploying over 2,700 graduates from all fields of higher education into rural agricultural production. Youth were the future and should be encouraged and supported to take charge of the agricultural sector and turn it into a modern and profitable venture.
158. **Mr SINON** (Seychelles) said that the world's food supplies should be sufficient to feed the whole population adequately, yet over a billion people were deprived of food while those with greater resources had easier access to plentiful supplies. Small nations and particularly small island developing states had limited natural resources and scarce agricultural land, making them excessively reliant on food imports, while their distance from major markets raised costs. The population density was high but their sources of income, such as tourism, were volatile. Small island developing states were most affected by climate change but were least able to overcome its effects, which reduced their food security. Among the new challenges faced, piracy in the Indian Ocean was a major threat to his country's vital fisheries and tourist industries, leading to a 40 per cent loss in GDP in 2010. Rocketing insurance premiums, due to the threat of piracy to food transport, were largely to blame for food price inflation.
159. The development of small island developing nations could only be sustained with the assistance of partners. Thanks to their effective use of development funds the status of some of those countries had improved but that had precluded their access to concessionary development funds at competitive interest rates. They nonetheless remained highly vulnerable to natural and man-made disasters and their industries

were extremely fragile. Committed to making very efficient use of limited resources, his Government saw IFAD as a leading partner in its agricultural development and was pleased to return to the IFAD family in the interest of renewed cooperation for greater food security and better nutrition.

160. **Mr. LUHANGA** (Malawi) said that some three quarters of the total agricultural output in his country was generated by smallholder farmers, including young people, who consequently had an enormous role to play in sustaining agriculture, the mainstay of the economy. In Malawi, policies and measures designed to increase agricultural efficiency and productivity and to improve food security included a programme to provide inputs to poor farmers at subsidized prices. Food surpluses had been registered ever since and Malawi was now not only food secure but also a food-exporting nation, a feat attributable to the hard-working spirit of its smallholder farmers. The Government was now engaged in the next step of turning agriculture into a profitable business, to which end eight farm business schools had been successfully piloted with assistance from FAO, with the project now due to be rolled out countrywide. Through microfinance and loan initiatives, young people were now gaining access to financial resources to enable them to start farming and other businesses. Encouragement was also being given to the adoption of modern technologies, which were readily taken on board by young farmers.
161. In order to address the impact of climate change on Malawi's largely rain-fed agriculture, the Green Belt Initiative was being implemented, notably to intensify irrigation and improve harvests; it was also expected to provide employment for rural youth, in turn reducing their migration to urban areas. A seven-year irrigation project, cofinanced by IFAD and the World Bank, and an IFAD-supported programme to enhance rural livelihoods were currently under way and a further IFAD programme for sustainable agricultural production was in the pipeline for 2012. In short, Malawi stood as proof that hunger could be ended and it was through investment in today's rural youth that future generations would be fed.
162. **Mr MARGHI** (Morocco) said that the theme of the current session affirmed the importance of rural youth and its decisive role in economic development in general and agricultural and food development in particular. Moreover, it again demonstrated the efficacy of IFAD's strategic vision and its endeavour to keep pace with developments in order to overcome the challenges to agriculture, particularly in the current climate of difficulties and crises. Discussion of the subject would not only promote cooperation to identify the obstacles preventing rural youth from fulfilling its role but also give rise to recommendations aimed at improving the situation of young people and ensuring their key involvement in development, particularly in rural areas.
163. Morocco was implementing a vocational skills programme designed to equip young people to deal with the particularities of their socio-economic environment to guarantee continuity among farming generations. The focus was on training in agriculture, in addition to other measures such as the establishment of small multi-service companies operating at the village level, access to project financing for youth cooperatives and organizations, and the introduction of facilities enabling young people to exploit the land, particularly in the context of Morocco's Green Plan. IFAD had provided valuable financial and technical support for that Plan, which was especially targeted at disadvantaged areas and sought to mobilize rural youth through income-generating projects, as well as build their capacity for implementing development projects. Youth were the future and their situation would be advanced through constructive cooperation for action to improve the agricultural economy. He looked forward to outcomes from the session to that end.
164. **Mr GAMBOA** (Plurinational State of Bolivia) described the philosophy of his people of living in harmony with nature and in community with their fellow humans, in line with the principles of "living well". The concept of living well, in contrast with "living

- better", consisted of living in community under equal conditions, living in solidarity and in complementarity. In his country, priority was being accorded to the rural sector, particularly the poorest categories, including farm workers, indigenous peoples, young persons and women. In that respect, IFAD was a strategic ally in its support for the development plans and priorities established by the Bolivian Government, which would shortly be concluding a loan agreement for the first phase of a pilot project to strengthen communities and families in extreme poverty in Cochabamba and Potosí.
165. Nevertheless, IFAD needed to further strengthen certain principles so as to offer even greater guarantees of the achievement of its objectives. In view of the worrying state of the health of the Earth, it was not sufficient to declare International Mother Earth Day. The rights of Mother Earth needed to be proclaimed and a climate justice tribunal created. In terms of the rights of men and women beneficiaries of IFAD programmes, it was also necessary to give greater emphasis to the rights of indigenous peoples, including their rights to self-determination and to the preservation of their culture and habitat, which was fully in line with IFAD's aim of achieving decent living conditions for all human beings. The Bolivian Government reaffirmed its support for IFAD in its efforts to eradicate poverty for millions of rural families through projects based on respect for the culture of indigenous peoples and support for the most vulnerable, including young persons, women and landless rural workers.
  166. **Mr ABDULKADIR** (Somalia) welcomed the opportunity to be participating actively again in the Governing Council since its previous session in 2010, after a decade-long absence due to the political and institutional crisis affecting the country. With the support of IFAD, and in partnership with the University of Padova, a new approach had been initiated involving Somali intellectuals from the diaspora to study options and opportunities for rural development in Somalia, with an emphasis on assisting the rural poor. The intellectuals concerned, from different disciplines and from diverse parts of the country, were participating in a forum with the aim of producing concrete strategies and plans for a new wave of development activities in rural Somalia. It was hoped that it would soon be possible to present the resulting ideas to partners with a view to their implementation.
  167. He drew attention to the alarming situation in Somalia, devastated over the past six months by a severe drought following the failure of the rains for several seasons, and especially the failure of the country's short rainy period from October to December. Somalia was facing increasingly severe shortages of water, food and pasture. The widespread death of livestock had deprived many rural Somalis of access to such staples as milk and meat. The countrywide drought was the latest in a long series of problems. He therefore appealed to the international community and to aid agencies to respond urgently to the crisis in Somalia, where the worsening of the drought could lead to a catastrophe of huge proportions.
  168. **Mr OSA MONGOMO** (Equatorial Guinea) emphasized the major difficulties in the global food situation due to various factors, including the increased prices of agricultural inputs, low food productivity in developing countries, the deep economic and financial crisis and the effects of climate change. Those factors all had a negative impact on the capacity of farmers to produce food and to contribute to overcoming hunger, poverty and malnutrition throughout the world. The Government of Equatorial Guinea therefore reaffirmed its will to maintain and strengthen cooperation with IFAD and expressed appreciation of the very positive results achieved by the three principal projects carried out in the country. As a sign of its appreciation, Equatorial Guinea had paid off most of its debts to IFAD.
  169. Prior to independence, agriculture in Equatorial Guinea had been based on a limited number of export crops, which had left its farmers with little experience of producing the other types of food required by the population, resulting in the need

to import the vast majority of food for domestic consumption. With the objectives of developing agriculture, improving the living conditions of the rural population and achieving food self-sufficiency, a programme had been developed for the organization of farmers into small groups to facilitate the provision of material, technical and financial support, in place of the individual farming previously practised. Despite the acquisition of agricultural machinery and the introduction of modern agricultural methods, a coordinated international cooperation effort, particularly from IFAD and the other Rome-based organizations, was still needed. Those organizations should take the lead in working to overcome the effects of climate change, eradicate poverty in rural areas and conserve nature. It was also important for IFAD to adopt tangible measures for the integration of women and young persons into food production.

#### REVISION OF IFAD'S LENDING POLICIES AND CRITERIA (agenda item 11, continued) (GC 34/L.8)

170. **The CHAIRPERSON** said that, following consultations and in line with the suggestion made by the representatives of Norway and Nigeria, it was now proposed to defer the adoption of the relevant resolution to the thirty-fifth session of the Governing Council.
171. **It was so decided.**

#### EMOLUMENTS OF THE PRESIDENT (agenda item 14, continued) (GC 34/L.11/Rev.1)

172. **The CHAIRPERSON** said that, following consultations, the countries in List B now proposed that Gabon should be nominated to the Emoluments Committee together with the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela. The following countries were therefore now proposed as members of the Emoluments Committee: Denmark, Germany, Italy and United States for List A; Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela and Gabon for List B; Angola for sub-List C1; Bangladesh for sub-List C2; and Brazil for sub-List C3.
173. **The Governing Council adopted resolution 163/XXXIV on the re-establishment of a committee to review the emoluments of the President.**
174. **The meeting rose at 6.55 p.m.**

- (iii) Summary record of the third meeting of the thirty-fourth session held on Sunday, 20 February 2011, at 1 p.m.

**Chairperson: Clémentine Ananga Messina  
(Cameroon)**

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175. **The meeting was called to order at 1.10 p.m.**

GENERAL STATEMENTS (agenda item 5, continued)

176. **Mr DIVON** (Israel) said that his Government stood ready to take joint action to tackle such challenges as soaring global food prices. The theme of the 2011 Governing Council session was highly relevant to all countries, since the rural young were the world's future farmers, entrepreneurs and leaders, putting them at the forefront of global strategies for food security, poverty reduction and income growth. Around the world young people were leaving the countryside and joining millions of others in urban areas looking for employment and ways of improving their living standards. His small country was proud of its decades of contributing to fulfilment of the Millennium Development Goals. IFAD's critical role in working towards that end was commendable.
177. Since 1958, MASHAV, Israel's agency for international development cooperation, had been sharing its know-how and expertise with developing countries. Issues such as food security, climate change, environment, desertification, water management, rural development, empowerment of women and capacity-building were high on its agenda, as was strengthening cooperation with IFAD, both in the field and at headquarters. The United Nations General Assembly had again adopted a resolution initiated by Israel on agricultural technology for development, which supported the use of know-how and technology and the promotion of research and development to increase agricultural productivity and food security in poor rural areas, focusing on smallholders and women. He concluded by reiterating Israel's commitment to IFAD and its agenda.
178. **Mr NASUTION** (Indonesia) recalled that the first MDG of halving world hunger had to be met in less than four years and that world leaders had vowed to take the necessary action, both domestically and internationally, to achieve that goal. His Government firmly believed that IFAD would play a crucial role. The latest Group of Twenty (G-20) summit had also mandated the international community to promote responsible investment in agriculture and agricultural research, an issue taken up by Mr Kofi Annan in the context of Africa the previous day. More investment was needed in agricultural research in other regions, too, and IFAD should mobilize more resources to that end, while strengthening know-how and capacity-building and promoting technologies that boosted productivity.
179. With rising commodity prices making poverty worse in many countries, his Government encouraged IFAD to do more within the United Nations Comprehensive Framework for Action to protect the vulnerable through renewed investment in smallholder agricultural development. The steady growth of Indonesia's economy now placed it in the middle-income country category, yet poverty remained a challenge since different provinces had developed at different rates. When revising its Lending Policies and Criteria, IFAD should therefore take into account not only gross national income per capita but also other factors such as the poverty rate and geographical discrepancies. IFAD programmes had benefited more than two million Indonesian households. There were currently two projects amounting to US\$90 million under way in the eastern part of the country, where needs were greater. He called for IFAD to open a country office in Indonesia in order to manage such projects more effectively, adding that it could use that office as a hub for the whole Pacific region.
180. **Mr NGIRWA** (United Republic of Tanzania) said that the current session was taking place against a background of high food prices and extreme weather patterns that posed threats to food security and nutrition. Agriculture continued to play a critical role in his country's economic development and was high on the political agenda. In 2009, the President had launched a national initiative called Agriculture First, under which more resources were being channelled into the sector and the national Agricultural Sector Development Programme, in which IFAD was a key partner,

would be boosted through greater private sector involvement. His country had signed the Comprehensive Africa Agricultural Development Programme (CAADP) Compact, which would involve synergies with a number of other innovative regional initiatives. Some difficulties had arisen in sustaining IFAD-funded projects in his country after their closure, owing to weak linkages with national and local structures and with other initiatives and insufficient empowerment of farmers, but those challenges had gradually been overcome and successful projects were being scaled up countrywide.

181. His country had fully paid its contribution to the Eighth Replenishment and looked forward to the Consultation on the Ninth Replenishment. He welcomed the expanded membership of List C countries in the Consultation but hoped that it would expand further in future. The United Republic of Tanzania supported the revision of IFAD's Lending Policies and Criteria to take into consideration the differing levels of development among Member States. The critical issue of loan negotiation challenges facing developing countries also needed to be addressed.
182. **Mr SESAY** (Sierra Leone) recalled that the CAADP, of which his country was a signatory, called for the allocation of 10 per cent of national budgets to agricultural development and the promotion of an annual agricultural growth rate of 6 per cent. In Sierra Leone, the new Government was meeting that investment target and was implementing a 20-year national sustainable agricultural development programme, the first phase of which was focused on a smallholder commercialization programme. Smallholders were key targets for the achievement of the first MDG objectives of reducing poverty and food insecurity. The other substantive components of the national programme included small-scale irrigation, market access with emphasis on feeder roads, agribusiness financing and social protection. In view of the success of the IFAD portfolio and approaches, the Fund had been chosen by Sierra Leone as its supervising agency under the L'Aquila Initiative. Also of note was the doubling of IFAD's allocation to Sierra Leone under the performance-based allocation system.
183. The Government was taking concrete steps to address the problems of young people, including the establishment of a National Youth Commission and a National Youth Parliament. The Songhai Model was also being promoted for the training of young people, and involved the provision of start-up kits, networking with markets and the provision of financing for agribusiness, the objective being to give them the option of becoming self-employed, rather than relying on public and private sector employment. The Government was therefore looking forward to working with IFAD for the promotion of agribusiness along value chains, especially in the context of the implementation of the Songhai Model.
184. **Mr BARBOSA** (Cape Verde) welcomed IFAD's strategy of continuing to focus its action on poor rural communities, which was the most effective way of achieving the MDGs, and particularly of reducing by half the number of people living in extreme poverty and those suffering from hunger. The IFAD strategy involved a new approach focused on the development of dynamic, attractive and viable rural economies, based on a change of mentality, culture and even paradigm, as well as the encouragement of a creative spirit, particularly among young farmers. The new IFAD activities proposed for Cape Verde were particularly welcome as they were clearly consistent with that vision.
185. Cape Verde hoped that IFAD, in view of its comparative advantage, would play an increasingly important role in global efforts to combat poverty, particularly in rural areas, and that it would develop appropriate partnerships with, among others, civil society and the private sector. IFAD should also strengthen its coordination and cooperation with other United Nations bodies, and particularly the Rome-based organizations and the Committee for World Food Security and its Secretariat. IFAD's cooperation with Cape Verde was welcome, particularly the extension of project

activities throughout the country. Cape Verde was counting on IFAD's assistance to mobilize water resources, so fundamental for agriculture in a country periodically ravaged by severe drought, and to modernize agriculture, in support of national efforts to achieve a lasting reduction in poverty, especially among the young.

186. **Ms URBANEJA DURÁN** (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela) said that the recent surge in world food prices had had particularly adverse effects on the developing countries with low incomes and a food deficit. As stated in IFAD's *Rural Poverty Report 2011*, a sound agricultural environment must respond not only to historical and structural problems but also to the new realities of degraded natural resources, increased competition for them and the effects of climate change. In 2010 her country, following a long drought, had suffered severe flooding resulting in loss of human life, economic hardship and widespread hunger. The Government had doubled its efforts to assist those worst affected, in particular smallholders who had lost all their resources. New legislation had recently been enacted to aid the farming and fisheries sectors and ensure food security by boosting the production of staple food crops. Over half a million farmers would receive private and public financing, with emphasis on extending land tenure and eliminating the existing system of large landholdings.
187. Her Government supported IFAD's efforts to pursue institutional reform and programme efficiency. Regarding the latter, the main concerns included ensuring access to financing, encouraging innovative financing mechanisms, including South-South cooperation, gender mainstreaming and the involvement of young farmers. Blanket policies that failed to take countries' specific features into account and resulted in reduced support to Member States were to be avoided. She therefore supported calls for the revision of IFAD's lending policies for middle-income countries. IFAD and its sister Rome-based organizations faced the challenge of moving towards a more equitable economic development model, offering rural populations, especially the young, greater opportunities, in order to achieve the MDGs and feed the world's growing population. She concluded by affirming her country's commitment to IFAD and its participation in the Ninth Replenishment.
188. **Mr GUEYE** (Senegal) said that his country supported all initiatives benefiting the world's rural population, in particular smallholder farmers, who were the most vulnerable. A major initiative launched in Senegal to reduce rural food insecurity and poverty by offering farmers the wherewithal to increase productivity at a low cost had yielded encouraging results after three years' implementation, with two thirds of food grain needs now being met. Among IFAD-funded initiatives in Senegal was a programme now under preparation that would provide technical and vocational capacity-building for farmers, both men and women, including the young, and would help to rehabilitate the agricultural production base while tackling other issues identified by stakeholders to ensure sustainability and respect for the environment. His Government welcomed the establishment of IFAD's sub-Saharan regional office in Dakar, and would ensure that all the necessary facilities were made available to ensure that it functioned efficiently.
189. Senegal was allocating 6 per cent of its annual budget to agriculture, aiming to increase that to 10 per cent, in accordance with the Maputo Declaration. It was seeking technical and financial partnerships, mainly in water management, the accessibility of production factors and crop diversification. IFAD's achievements were a reference in those areas. His country would do its utmost to honour its commitments and participate in the replenishment of the Fund's resources. A major conference on agriculture to be held in Dakar in 2012, which those present were invited to attend, would have three themes: regulating agricultural markets to avoid food crises; cooperation tools for improving food security; and a new global governance to protect agriculture and the environment.

OTHER BUSINESS (agenda item 15)

190. **No matters were raised under item 15.**

CLOSURE OF THE SESSION

191. **The CHAIRPERSON** made a closing statement, the full text of which is reproduced in chapter 4.

192. She declared the thirty-fourth session of the Governing Council closed.

193. **The meeting rose at 2.05 p.m.**

## Chapter 3

### B. Plenary panel discussion and side events

**Main plenary discussion: “Feeding future generations: young rural people today – prosperous, productive farmers tomorrow”**



**The plenary panel in full discussion**

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194. The global population is projected to rise from its present level of 6.9 billion to 9.2 billion by 2050. With an estimated 1 billion people already going hungry and young rural people increasingly disinterested in what is in many countries a stagnant, unproductive agricultural sector, the question must be asked: who is going to feed this growing world population?
195. Young people have for years been underused and neglected by their local communities, by governments and by international organizations. Globally, young people are three times more likely to be unemployed than adults. Equally worrying is the plight of the estimated 300 million young people classified as working poor. They earn less than US\$2 a day, outnumber young unemployed people by a factor of four and typically work in rural areas. Young rural people face particular constraints in gaining access to land, credit and new technologies when compared to their older peers. They also need wider educational opportunities and access to relevant vocational training programmes. They are a group who need and deserve special attention, support and follow-up. With their energy, their passion and their talents, they can help us to solve many of the serious problems we face today. But first we must give them the tools they need to do it.
196. With this background in mind Tumi Makgabo, former co-producer and host of CNN International's award-winning "Inside Africa" programme moderated a discussion with a distinguished panel during the thirty-fourth session of IFAD's Governing

Council. The panel discussed how to boost food security and reduce poverty by involving young rural people in a dynamic, modern agribusiness sector. The debate focused on the following challenges:

- (a) Creating the environment and the incentives that encourage young rural women and men to choose agriculture
- (b) Ensuring that young women contribute towards the rural development process and share in the rewards; and
- (c) Leveraging agricultural investments through rural education and training

197. The panel was made up of:

- (a) Her Excellency Agnes Matilda Kalibata, Minister for Agriculture and Animal Resources, Rwanda
- (b) Mr Noel D. De Luna, Chairperson of the Committee on World Food Security and Deputy Permanent Representative of the Philippines to IFAD, FAO and WFP
- (c) Ms Simona Marinescu, Senior Economist and Programme Director for Economic Reforms, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), Amman Office; Former Minister for Labour and former Senator, Romania
- (d) Mr Carlo Petrini, Founder of the International Slow Food Movement
- (e) Ms Leidy Dayana Rivera Rivas, Rural Farmers Promoter, Association of Small-scale Coffee Producers of La Marina (ASOPECAM), Colombia
- (f) Mr Kevin Cleaver, Associate Vice-President, Programmes at IFAD

### **Main discussion points**

198. **Making agriculture interesting to young people** was a challenge which occupied a large part of the discussion. There was general acknowledgement among the panel as well as young people from the audience that agriculture suffers from an image problem; young people tend to view it as a last resort option if other opportunities do not become available. The need to re-brand agriculture as a business activity carried out with the aim of making a profit, with the aid of modern technology, financial services and training was discussed, along with concrete solutions for bringing these changes about. It was also agreed that society at large must take a more holistic view of agriculture, valuing the work farmers doing in protecting the landscape, soil fertility and biodiversity and focusing on rural communities themselves rather than only on commodities.
199. There was recognition of the enormous **role played by women in smallholder farming** throughout the world and on their contribution to rural communities. At the same time the fact that women are typically disadvantaged when it comes to education and training opportunities, access to land and credit, intra-household bargaining power and, in some societies, freedom of movement was agreed upon. The panel discussed ideas such as microfinance schemes, the promotion of women's groups, targeting women with education and training initiatives and laws governing the ownership of land to create a platform for the present generation of young rural women to contribute to the rural development process and share in the rewards.
200. The need to **give young people a voice** in debates and decisions that affect them was also identified as a key change that needs to be made at all levels. The participation of young rural people from the audience, as well as 23 year-old Ms Rivera Rivas presence on the panel ensured that the views of young people informed all aspects of the debate. There was general agreement between young and old that without a voice in public policy debates, young people would not be able to have their needs met and, as a consequence, would not be empowered to

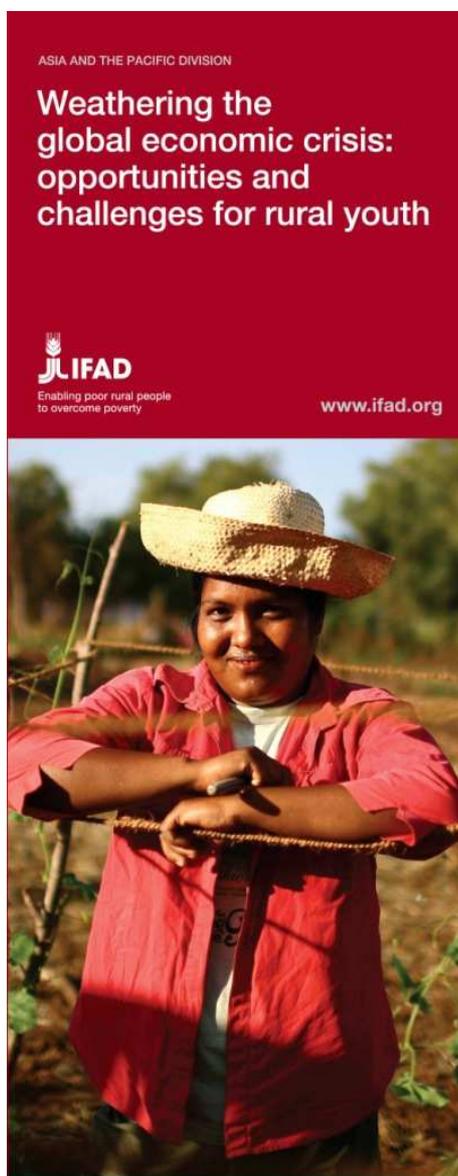
use their energy and talent to help the world solve some of the urgent problems it faces today.

201. Other key issues discussed by the panel and contributing audience members included **making funds available to young farmers**, the **role of the government and development agencies**, **giving young women and men access to land**, the opportunity to create **public-private partnerships** by involving the private sector in rural development initiatives and helping **young rural people access to high quality education and training** that is relevant to the needs of the job market.

### **Conclusions and recommendations**

202. Some of the solutions and recommendations outlined by panellists to solve the problems discussed during the session were:
- (a) There is a need for policy-makers to be more intelligent about programmes. Programmes must be disaggregated and targeted at different sub-sectors of the population.
  - (b) Including young people in public decisions at all levels is the key to creating an environment where the youth can play an active role in the development of a profitable agricultural sector.
  - (c) Small-scale agriculture is the foundation of our future. We cannot afford to underestimate its importance and policy makers have a duty to protect it.
  - (d) We must encourage farmers to join together and form co-operatives, to facilitate access to extension, inputs, technology and information. Their being in groups will also make them more attractive to banks.
  - (e) The prospects for smallholder agriculture will be bleak if governments do not provide the infrastructure necessary for it to thrive.
  - (f) Older generations should trust young people. Agriculture, whether small or large-scale, is no longer a low-skill industry. It needs innovation and this is precisely what young people bring to the table.
  - (g) We need to listen more to young people.

## Side event 1: Weathering the global economic crisis: opportunities and challenges for rural youth in the Asia and the Pacific region



### 203. Panellists:

- (a) **Mr Harsha de Silva**, Member of Parliament, Government of Sri Lanka and Lead Economist, LIRNEasia, Sri Lanka
- (b) **Mr Soane Patolo, General Manager**, Mainstreaming of Rural Development Innovations (MORDI), Ma'ufanga, Nuku'alofa, Kingdom of Tonga
- (c) **Mr Arindam Dasgupta**, Director, Microenterprise Development and Management Division, Dhriiti – The Courage Within – a partner organization of Sir Ratan Tata Trust, India
- (d) **Ms Nguyen Thi Huong Nguyet**, Marketing Manager, Tan Trao Tea Joint Stock Company, Son Duong Town, Son Duong District, Tuyen Quang Province, Viet Nam
- (e) **Ms Bernadette Manuel**, Proprietor, Seon Kris Food Products Company, Cagtinae, Malimono, Surigao del Norte, Philippines

204. Some of the main points discussed, as well as the conclusions and recommendations from this event, are summarised below.

### **Making rural areas more attractive for young people**

205. Poverty forces many young rural people to flee their homes in search of better opportunities in cities, believing that there is a higher probability of getting a good job in cities. Too often the reality is that urban job markets are already saturated and young rural people lack the training and networks to compete for the limited number of decent jobs that are available.

206. Rural areas, however, do have the potential to offer attractive livelihood opportunities for young people, particularly those with an entrepreneurial spirit. Here, natural resources are abundant as is the presence of passionate, innovative young people. When these ingredients are combined with an enabling economic environment and relevant business and entrepreneurship training for young people, the problems of unemployment and underemployment among young, rural people can begin to be solved through the establishment of dynamic rural microenterprises and small businesses.

### **Creating an enabling rural environment**

207. Many conditions need to be in place to allow rural farm and non-farm enterprises to thrive. Cutting down on bottlenecks and bureaucracy must be a priority. Starting a rural enterprise is often a complicated and lengthy process, which requires prospective entrepreneurs to access multiple agencies and complete lengthy

bureaucratic procedures. If procedures were simplified and shortened, opening a business would be an easier and more accessible option for rural people.

- 208. The availability of capital is an essential component for young people to succeed in rural areas.
- 209. Modern rural infrastructure is a key component for young rural business-people. Real life examples of difficulties experienced as a result of a lack of rural infrastructure were given by the young panel members.
- 210. There is a need for support from the government to help small farmers to withstand shocks.
- 211. Farming should also be made more interesting through the introduction of new technologies.

### **Boosting the image of agriculture**

- 212. There is a perception that farming is the last option, to be taken up only if you have nothing else to do. This image must be changed before we can hope to motivate young people to help us create a modern, profitable agricultural sector. Traditional farming methods do not appeal to young people. Modern, scientific agriculture, on the other hand, can attract other young people in the area. Once young people start to view farming as a business then things start changing. It is possible to change the image of farming to make it a desirable choice for young rural people.

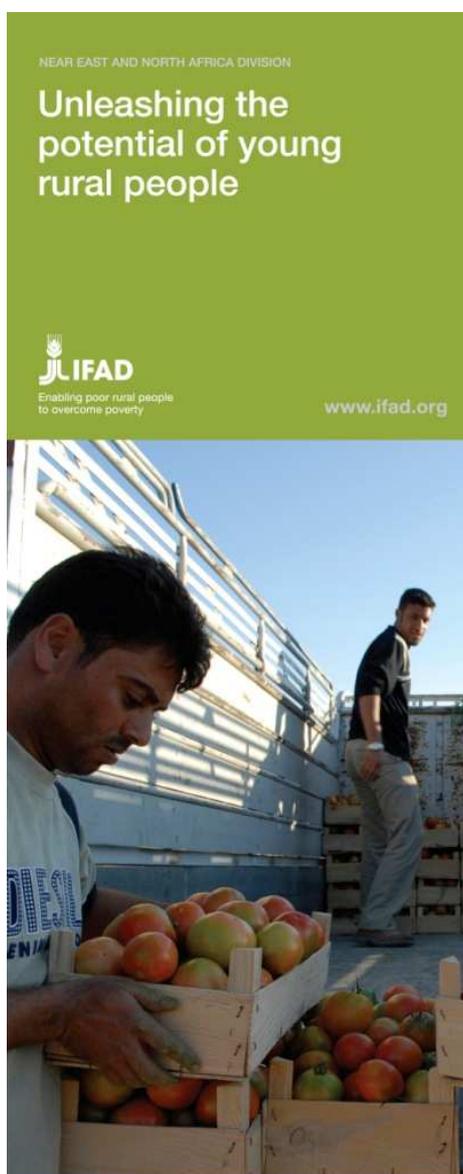
### **Conclusions and recommendations**

- 213. In order to empower young people to lead a youth driven development of rural farm and non-farm sectors the following conditions, identified during the session, must be in place:
  - (a) Availability of decent employment and opportunities for young people to become involved in these jobs;
  - (b) Support systems and networks to help young people if they decide to migrate to urban areas;
  - (c) Modern infrastructure and transport systems;
  - (d) Access to capital;
  - (e) Skills training; and
  - (f) Help accessing national and international markets.



**The Asia and the Pacific Region side event panel**  
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## Side event 2: Unleashing the potential of young rural people in the Near East, North Africa and Europe



### 214. Panellists:

- (a) **Ms Nabiha Abu Zeid**, a young entrepreneur, Egypt
- (b) **Ms Abdulla Al Dani**, a young entrepreneur, the Syrian Arab Republic
- (c) **Ms Anita Djerlek**, a young entrepreneur, Bosnia and Herzegovina
- (d) **Mr Milenko Trivunovic**, a young entrepreneur, Bosnia and Herzegovina
- (e) **Ms Hanan Mohammad Hazaa Al-Bsoul**, young entrepreneur, Jordan
- (f) **Ms Simona Marinescu**, Senior Economist and Programme Director for Economic Reforms, UNDP, Amman Office; former Minister for Labour and former Senator, Romania
- (g) **Ms Daniela Colombo**, President of AIDOS (Associazione Italiana Donne per lo Sviluppo)
- (h) **Ms Dorothea Schmidt**, Senior Employment Specialist, Decent Work Team for North Africa, International Labour Organization (ILO)

### Key points during the discussion

215. Rural youth highlighted the following factors as the main impediments to their careers as entrepreneurs:

- (a) Lack of access to proper training and education in rural settings.
- (b) Most youth entrepreneurs had acquired the skills relevant for their business through close relatives or training provided by an

association. Despite having started their enterprises successfully, they still need training to enhance their skills.

- (c) Young entrepreneurs find it difficult to access financial resources and capital and the conditions for loan repayment are stringent. Rural young entrepreneurs need credit at fair terms and conditions so that they can repay it easily.
- (d) Some young entrepreneurs had managed to initiate their businesses through a small amount of loan with the help of an IFAD co-financed project. Through expanding their enterprises, they were able to provide work for other rural people as well
- (e) Young entrepreneurs need to overcome marketing constrains. For example, the market may be local but the clientele remains small and in order to grow the business needs to be promoted or to open export channels.

- (f) Young entrepreneurs recognize that in their culture engaging in agriculture is not well respected. Yet they are overcoming this negative social perception because they feel that the overall purpose of agriculture of feeding people nutritious food and caring for the environment is a noble mission.
- (g) The young entrepreneurs highlighted that rural employment opportunities are not necessarily limited to agricultural activities.
- (h) Policy experts emphasized that reforms are necessary to make markets more attractive to young entrepreneurs and allow the private sector to outsource its activities.
- (i) The experience of the village business incubators suggests that providing youth with training and practice (apprenticeships) is the best remedy to increase their employability. In particular, interventions targeted at low-income households or poorly-educated youth have a positive impact on enhancing the employability of youth.
- (j) The experts recognize that a large number of youth are engaged in the informal economy or contributing family workers in rural areas. Policy-makers are still not clear about the measures that are needed to formalize the informal economy.

### **Conclusions and recommendations**

216. Some key recommendations arising from the session were:

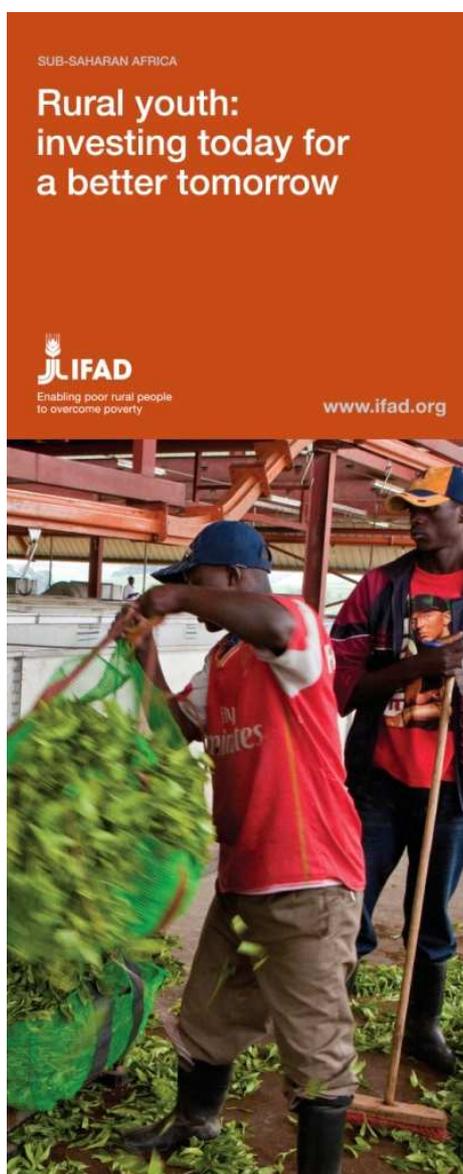
- (a) Young entrepreneurs rely on networks that are supportive to their ideas. These networks include the family, the Government, other agencies and the young entrepreneurs use these networks to share the risk.
- (b) For an entrepreneur to succeed, s/he needs capacity, willingness and empowerment.
- (c) Young entrepreneurs need a favourable environment for self-employment, i.e., infrastructure, incentives and access to decent jobs.



**The Near East, North Africa and Europe side event panel**

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## Side event 3: Rural Youth: investing today for a better tomorrow in sub-Saharan Africa



### 217. Panellists:

- (a) **Reverend Father Godfrey Nzamujo**, Founder and Director of the Songhai Centre, Benin
- (b) **Ms Césarie Kantarama**, Farmer and Farmers' organization representative, Rwanda
- (c) **His Excellency Rigobert Maboundou**, Minister for Agriculture and Livestock, Congo
- (d) **Mr Sellu Njiawa**, Chairman of Disabled Polio Teghloma Agricultural Organization, Sierra Leone
- (e) **Mr. Mordekai Chikambure Shumba**, President of the Organization of African Youth, South Africa
- (f) **Her Excellency Agnes Matilda Kalibata**, Minister for Agriculture and Animal Resources, Rwanda
- (g) **Mr Ali Neino**, Farming leader Dan Saga region, Niger
- (h) **Mr Lucien Ranarivelo**, National Programme Co-ordinator, Support Programme for Rural Microenterprise Poles and Regional Economies (PROSPERER), Madagascar

218. The session focused on challenges and opportunities for young people in sub-Saharan Africa, as summarised below.

### Challenges

219. There was widespread agreement on access to land being the first key challenges facing the creation of economic opportunities for young rural people. Facilitating access to land was crucial to

promoting agriculture as a viable profession among young people.

220. A second key challenge is facilitating access to finance and credit for young farmers. There was general agreement on the need to increase the availability of targeted loan facilities and to simplify the loan application process. There was also emphasis on developing policy on agricultural financing and mobilizing private sector financing in agriculture.

221. The quality of training programmes was highlighted by the panel as a top priority. It was emphasized that training was one of the key solutions to equip young people with the relevant skill-sets to enable them take advantage of a broad range of opportunities in rural areas. The importance of promoting informal means of learning in rural areas was also discussed. Furthermore, there is a need to pay particular attention to the specific needs of vulnerable youth groups, such as young people.

222. Another important challenge was promoting greater inclusion of young people in farmers' organizations. Greater participation of young people in leadership positions was thought to be essential in developing viable partnerships with governments and creating an enabling environment for harnessing the potential of young people.
223. It was revealed that most Africa governments are slow in both ratifying and implementing international treaties, conventions or charters that concern young people on the continent.

### **Opportunities**

224. The following opportunities were identified to promote the inclusion of young people in the development of rural centres.
- (a) There was a general consensus that harnessing new technological solutions presented great potential for extending best agricultural practices to young rural people.
  - (b) Making rural living more attractive for young people. The existence of rural entertainment has the potential to improve the liveability of rural centres.
  - (c) Facebook could be a valuable tool for government to interact with rural youth.
  - (d) Public works projects such as road construction and maintenance could play a role in creating employment opportunities.
  - (e) Other opportunities include developing agricultural video games that could both teach and entertain young people.

### **Conclusions and recommendations**

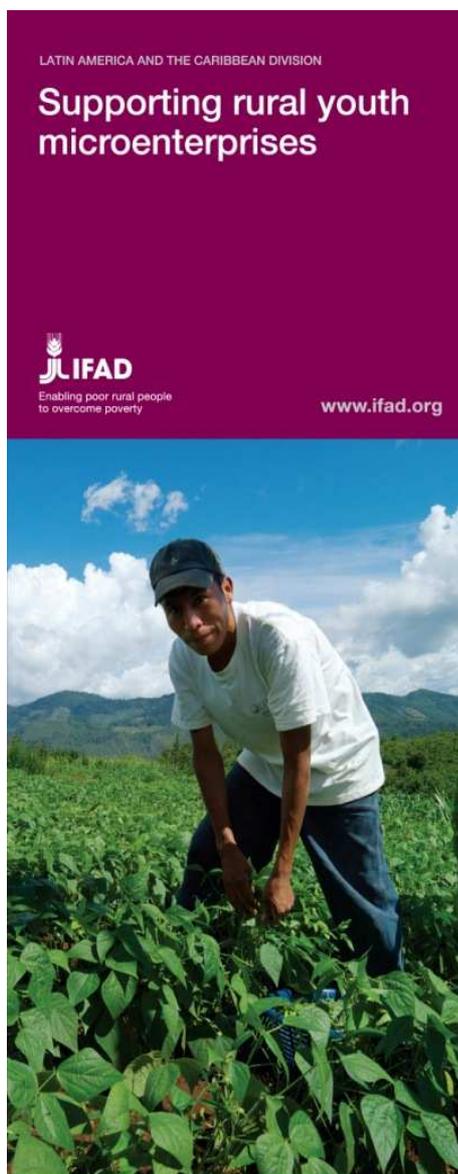
225. The key concluding message of each panellist is highlighted below:
- (a) **Father Nzamujo:** There is a need to create "green rural cities" through an integrated system where agricultural production will trigger agro-industries and services to become economically viable and attract young people to stay in rural areas.
  - (b) **Ms Kantarama:** Agriculture and farmers organizations can become sustainable and effective only if young people are included in development initiatives.
  - (c) **Minister Maboundou:** We have to treat the specific conditions of young people by developing concrete actions for productive agriculture involving partnership with governments, the private sector and donors in order to build a critical network of young farmers.
  - (d) **Mr Njiawa:** Disability issues should be included in government development policies as well as in governance systems to ensure that these specific needs are addressed.
  - (e) **Mr Ranarivelo:** There is need to trust and believe in the potential of young people and expand opportunities open to them to enhance their entrepreneurial spirit.
  - (f) **Mr Neino:** Government should support young people and farmers to give them better access to services including extension, research findings, and training in order to improve their productivity.
  - (g) **Minister Kalibata:** Governments should embrace social media as an opportunity to reach out to many young people and provide them with the right information. Governments and donors should help create platforms for young people in agriculture. This is the way forward for engaging young people.

- (h) **Mr Shumba:** The challenges in agriculture are huge and young people must take the driving seat to reinvent and reinvigorate the sector.



**The sub-Saharan Africa side event panel**  
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## Side event 4: Supporting rural youth microenterprises in Latin America and the Caribbean



### 226. Panellists:

- (a) **Ms Gislane Angélica Dos Santos**, Process Management Technician of the Vale do Rio Gavião Cooperative Network, Bahia, Brazil
- (b) **Ms Isaura Mariela Quintero Melgara**, Treasurer of La Quinta Libre Cooperative, Esteli, Nicaragua
- (c) **Ms Alexandra Bohorquez**, Legal Representative, Ramiriqui Artisans Associations (ARTERAMI), Boyacá, Colombia
- (d) **Ms Leidy Dayana Rivera Rivas**, Rural Farmers Promoter for the Association of Small-scale Coffee Producers of La Marina, (ASOPECAM), Colombia
- (e) **Ms Sandra Guadalupe Sandoval Orellana**, Local Manager, Los Tepemechines Cooperative, Metapán, El Salvador

227. During this event, the following challenges and recommendations were outlined.

### Defining the challenges

228. There are six main challenges confronting young rural entrepreneurs in Latin America and the Caribbean:

- (a) There is little recognition of or attention paid to the potential, capacity and specificities of young rural people within institutions or communities.
- (b) The existing urban/rural dichotomy tends to limit economic activities in rural territories to farming activities that do not reflect the diversity of productive interests among young people.
- (c) The scarcity or lack of assets – capital, property, technical expertise, infrastructure and fair pay – is a major constraint on productive activity and entrepreneurial initiatives by young people.
- (d) There is little recognition of organizational diversity in the dynamics of production and microenterprise initiatives, which limits the integration of young people into rural development programmes.
- (e) Access to education and knowledge for young rural people tends to be provided within formal school systems, which are not yet responsive to young people's labour conditions, immediate needs in terms of production and vocational training, or the competencies required in their territorial environment.

- (f) Limited market access places serious constraints on the growth of youth enterprises.

### **Conclusions and recommendations**

229. Key themes of the event centred on the willingness of young people to accept risk and the need for increased flows of venture capital to start-up enterprisers, the need to find market access and play an active role in value chains, the need for better education and dialogue platforms, the need to extend project interventions beyond associations and also target individuals, and the need to act quickly.
230. Conclusions from the event are as follows:
- (a) Young people need help to access knowledge, information, financial services and markets.
  - (b) Ensuring young people are given opportunities to access capital is crucial in harnessing their innovative and entrepreneurial qualities.
  - (c) Indifference and lack of empathy with young people has led to barriers for their productive economic, political and social participation in societies.
  - (d) Young people are open to new ideas and technologies. They can act as a bridge between rural communities and a globalized world.
  - (e) Modes of support that are effective for adults do not necessarily work for young people.
  - (f) We must learn to listen to and empathize with young people. Only then can we assess the effectiveness of what has been done so far and decide what to do next.
  - (g) Young people should be seen as an opportunity to invest in the future.
  - (h) Young people need to be given a greater voice in decision making at all levels. Dialogue platforms targeted at young rural people should be set up.
  - (i) Agro-technical schools should be promoted and strengthened.



**The Latin America and the Caribbean side event panel**

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## Chapter 3

### C. Other general statements

#### Statement of the Governor for Algeria

#### **A GLOBAL CHALLENGE: COMBATING RURAL POVERTY AND DESERTIFICATION IN ALGERIA: AN ORIGINAL POLICY OF RURAL RENEWAL AND A NATIONAL ACTION PLAN TO COMBAT DESERTIFICATION**

#### **THE AGRICULTURAL AND RURAL RENEWAL POLICY: AN INNOVATIVE APPROACH**

The food crisis of 2007-2008 highlighted the need for Algeria to acquire the strategic and operational capabilities to significantly improve food security. As a result of the crisis, agriculture and rural development were prioritized and took on a more important role in the national economy. This new vision led to the preparation and implementation of the Agricultural and Rural Renewal Policy. The policy is intended to respond to a dual challenge: food security, on one hand, and integrated and sustainable revitalization and development of the country's rural territories, on the other.

The Agricultural and Rural Renewal Policy focuses on national efforts, the agricultural economy, and multiple and fruitful partnerships among all actors involved in production, processing and marketing.

The first pillar of this policy – agricultural renewal – places farmers at the core of all efforts and at the heart of the synergistic relationship between agrifood operators, conventional banks and the interprofessional associations. The State secures these activities by providing upstream technical, administrative and financial support and downstream guarantees to cover any declines in yields as well as the distribution and sale of produce. The objective of this first pillar is to feed the population sustainably and at low cost.

Pursuing this objective presupposes boosting production significantly, by broadening and deepening the productive potential of strategic subsectors – including cereals, dairy, potatoes, red and white meat, oilseeds, palm, seeds and plants, and water – in addition to reducing the area of fallow land.

Implementation of agricultural renewal calls for putting in place an enabling environment. This in turn entails strengthening and adapting the regulatory system that governs the agricultural economy – pricing and markets, credit, incentives, taxation, insurance and land tenure – and refocusing the role of professional and interprofessional organizations.

But past experience, in Algeria as elsewhere, shows that an agricultural economy cannot perform well unless it is allowed to unfold within an enabling environment in a balanced rural framework. Experience also shows that a food security policy must translate into rural territorial development and a significant improvement in the standard of living for rural people. Accordingly, rational land use or reclamation is a prerequisite for breathing new life into rural territories and strengthening protection and security over vast areas of the country. This is also a strategic national objective to which the Agricultural and Rural Renewal Policy is expected to make a decisive contribution.

The rural renewal pillar of the policy thus aims to renew perceptions of the rural world and enhance its value. Rural people are placed at the heart of national concerns because it is they who have suffered most from underdevelopment, isolation and marginalization in the past – despite their sacrifices to gain Algeria's independence and their suffering during the tragic events of the 1990s.

In order to build the rural renewal policy upon solid foundations, the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development first conducted a status report and diagnostic assessment based on accurate information gathered in the field and updates of existing

studies. A set of criteria was developed covering all the dimensions and ecological and socio-economic realities of rural areas. Then a typology of all rural territories was drawn up, with constituent populations and activities identified and characterized. Based on the selection criteria, 979 communes were classified as rural and 562 others as partly rural. In 2005 an estimated 13.4 million people, or 40 per cent of the country's population, lived in these communes.

To bring these rural territories into the mainstream of the country's economic development, and to enable them to overcome their marginalization, operational arrangements were designed and put into practice. These are based on an innovative approach that eschews all top-down decision making in favour of a bottom-up model. This sends a clear signal that decision making lies in the hands of actors at the grass-roots level.

Since people at the grass roots are those who care most about the future of their territory and are most sensitive to potential changes, particularly in terms of economic development, they produce ideas for projects and take charge of making them a reality by becoming involved.

This approach gives free rein to initiatives and reawakens feelings of belonging to a particular territory and social group. It brings together all actors – households, communal elected officials, public service agencies, civil society organizations and economic actors – and induces them to work together in a coherent and synergistic way. The aim is to carry out the projects and works identified by the inhabitants of each rural territory in a manner consistent with their lives. Under this approach, people are also enabled to participate in implementing such projects and evaluating their impact through appropriate monitoring and training.

The success of this approach, however, is contingent upon providing support for rural populations in the form of:

- Ways and means of bringing together local initiatives and organizing them into comprehensive projects to take advantage of synergies and pool available resources; and
- Training in agrifood occupations and project management.

This approach is built around:

- Identifying and evaluating the natural and economic potential of each territory, encompassing the natural heritage and landscapes as well as mining and water resources; lands and forests; and bio, plant and animal resources;
- Bringing together and promoting synergies among various kinds of actors, including populations, enterprises, professional and interprofessional associations, the administration and other institutions, local collectivities and civil society;
- Taking into consideration the whole set of rural economic activities, occupations and services, and related income: economic units of every size, specialized agencies (Social Development Agency, National Youth Employment Agency, National Microcredit Management Agency), insurance, banking and private financing, and funds specializing in support for rural development programmes; and
- Tailored instruments for monitoring and evaluation: National Strategy for Sustainable Rural Development, National System in support of Decision Making for Rural Development and Rural Support and Renewal Information System.

Overall, this provides a matrix for the design, implementation, and monitoring and evaluation of development projects adapted specifically to each of the targeted rural territories. These are known as integrated rural development proximity projects (PPDRI).

The PPDRIs serve as a means of formalizing and executing the selected approach, continually seeking to close distances, and to share and make the best use of information. Within each territory, PPDRIs thus favour strengthening proximity, listening, dialogue, communication, negotiation, training and innovation. They promote the development of new practices in good governance because they rely upon participatory programming and participatory monitoring and evaluation.

Implementing this approach required raising awareness and providing training, establishing exchange and consultative frameworks to favour synergies among all the actors concerned, and consolidating all existing sector systems. To this end, proximity and rural outreach units were set up to inform grass-roots actors of available opportunities and to encourage the consolidation and integration of existing systems and instruments.

In the course of 2008, 5,778 such projects were identified under a first phase of implementation. These projects reached 443 *dairas*, or subprefectures; 1,083 communes and 3,570 localities. They involve close to 2.5 million households and are expected to create 130,000 jobs. The years 2009 and 2010 saw an acceleration of this process with the gradual addition of an even larger number of localities and hence rural territories.

### **NATIONAL ACTION PLAN TO COMBAT DESERTIFICATION**

Algeria belongs to predominantly semi-arid, arid and even hyper-arid bioclimatic zones. This means that combating desertification, preserving forest resources and protecting biodiversity are major components of rural development.

From 1962 to 2008, despite multiple programmes implemented, progress in this regard remained insufficient overall given the complexity of the problems posed by desertification and preservation of natural resources.

Steppe areas, including mountain areas, remain highly vulnerable to water and wind erosion in spite of the continuous programmes conducted by the Forests Directorate and the High Commission for Steppe Development.

Indeed, it is the steppe areas, in the highlands and western region, which are at greatest risk. Of a total 36 million hectares, 20 million are currently vulnerable to desertification, while 600,000 hectares are desertified and 7 million hectares of steppe are under serious threat of wind erosion. Moreover, 12 million hectares are subject to water erosion in mountainous areas, particularly to the west of the country.

Each year, Algeria loses an estimated 120 million tonnes of sediment and posts a decline in water storage capacity in dams of close to 20 million cubic metres. Clearly, this poses a serious risk that the current capacity, which is already insufficient, will fall below the levels needed to meet the needs of future generations.

In addition to the advancing desert, deforestation leads to landslides (16.6 million cubic metres are eroded each year). Despite the green dam project launched in 1971 and several reforestation campaigns, forests cover just 1.7 per cent of the national territory, 11 per cent of them in the northern region.

The status report and diagnostic assessment has lent a new orientation to programmes under way in forests, mountainous regions, steppe and Saharan areas, and in reclamation.

Thus, actions to combat desertification now fall within the framework of the National Action Plan to Combat Desertification under the National Policy on Rural Development. This action plan is being defined in consultation with local rural populations under a participatory approach around PPDRI implementation.

Special attention was paid to the following areas in carrying out this action plan:

- Conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity:

- Biodiversity conservation project in arid and semi-arid areas within three wilayas (Bechar, M'Sila and Naâma);
- Classification of new wetlands in the framework of the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands of International Importance;
- Preparation of management plans for the national parks;
- Strengthening of the system of protected areas;
- Protecting soil and combating poverty by means of:
  - Proximity projects to protect agropastoral areas;
  - Projects to develop mountain areas;
  - Promoting the implementation of the National Reforestation Plan;
- Building the knowledge base and early warning system for adaptation to drought and desertification, by means of:
  - Setting up an early warning system on drought;
  - Designing an environmental observation and monitoring system;
  - Updating the national map of areas vulnerable to desertification;
  - Designing and developing a system to circulate information on drought.

The National Action Plan to combat Desertification calls for the following steps to be taken over the period 2008-2013:

- Definition of territorial organization for implementation pursuant to regulatory texts to bring the Action Plan within the National Sustainable Development and Land Use Policy;
- Integration of anti-desertification strategies within sector development and local development programmes;
- Adoption of instruments for identifying and monitoring programmes to combat desertification;
- Adapting financing mechanisms;
- Strengthening actions:
  - Steppe protection: 1,500,000 ha;
  - Dune fixation: 100,000 ha;
  - Forest plantations: 350,000 ha;
  - Watershed treatment: 1,250,000 ha;
- Strengthening scientific research and expertise.

With a view to protecting the country's forest heritage, a programme to strengthen the fire prevention and firefighting system calls for:

- Preparing 40 visibility maps with positioning of lookout towers;
- Preparing 40 sensitivity maps with adequate positioning of forest fire brigades;
- Designing a geographical information system to manage forest fires;

- Purchasing equipment for fire prevention and intervention, including chartering airplanes for two-month periods for surveillance and light attack firefighting;
- Awareness-raising.

Within the national land use strategy, the approach adopted will translate into multiple local development actions. These will have the effect of enabling sustainable development of local natural resources, combating desertification, preserving and adding value to biodiversity and narrowing regional disparities in the short term.

Essentially, the actions under way will have the overall effect of improving incomes and living conditions for rural people – and enabling them to make a significant contribution to the country's development as a whole, their own food security and thus national sovereignty and security.

### **Statement of the Alternate Governor for Burundi**

Allow me, on behalf of the Government of Burundi and in my own name, to join the other speakers in congratulating IFAD's Management and staff on the organization of this thirty-fourth session of the Governing Council and in thanking them for the warm welcome extended to the Burundian delegation.

I welcome this opportunity to pay tribute to the Government and people of Italy for having enabled the present session to take place on Italian soil.

The theme adopted for this session – "Investing in youth", and the interactive discussions on "Feeding future generations: young rural people today, prosperous, productive farmers tomorrow" – is of interest to Burundi on several counts.

Indeed, the chosen theme comes at just the right moment since, in demographic terms, young people constitute an overwhelming majority of Burundi's population – while young rural people are predominantly farmers, given that 90 per cent of the Burundian population live in rural areas.

I would note in passing that agricultural production is insufficient to feed the population as a whole and young people in particular at a decent level, owing to the cyclical drought observed in certain regions of the country, the scarcity of land, climate change and the lack of agricultural inputs, especially fertilizers.

To face these challenges, the Government of Burundi has just allocated 7 per cent of its 2011 budget to agriculture, as compared with 2 per cent in 2010. In 2012, the budget allocated to this sector will be at least 10 per cent, in line with the declaration made in Maputo, Mozambique. In addition, the Government intends to establish a National Agricultural Investment Plan and a private-sector support fund for agriculture.

I should like to take this opportunity to congratulate IFAD on its support for the development of the PNIA. IFAD's fruitful collaboration with the Government of Burundi, and also the design quality of IFAD programmes in my country, have determined Burundi's choice of IFAD as supervising entity under the Global Agriculture and Food Security Program for the country.

Before ending my statement, I should like to make a point of extending my thanks once again to IFAD and its President for the many kinds of support it has always given to Burundi. I have no doubt that support targeting the development of the rural environment in Burundi in forthcoming programmes will be even more substantial.

As regards the Government of Burundi, its cooperation with IFAD will continue to go from strength to strength.

By way of conclusion, the Government of Burundi will contribute the amount of US\$10,000 towards the Ninth Replenishment of IFAD's resources.

Long live cooperation between Burundi and IFAD!

Long live international cooperation!

## **Statement of the Governor for the Republic of Haiti**

I am very pleased to take the floor today at this thirty-fourth session of IFAD's Governing Council, under this year's theme: "Investing in youth".

Allow me to congratulate the IFAD officials responsible for the organization's continuing commitment to promoting solidarity among peoples and stimulating multilateral cooperation for the benefit of impoverished rural groups.

In the face of growing poverty in developing countries, we are called upon to adopt more initiatives to ensure success in the fight against rural poverty throughout the world.

In Haiti, the agricultural sector contributes 25 per cent of gross domestic product and provides employment for just over 50 per cent of the active population.

In view of these realities, the Ministry of Agriculture has been stepping up its efforts for some time to lend fresh impetus to agriculture and improve food security in our country. In this context, apart from actions undertaken in response to economic and structural problems, a National Agricultural Investment Plan has been devised. The plan, which reflects the key issues in agriculture defined in the agricultural policy paper, focuses on three main thrusts: (1) development of rural infrastructure; (2) promotion and development of food production and export value chains; and (3) development of agricultural services and institutional support.

To date, significant progress has been made through the efforts of the Government, with the support of its partners, and also thanks to the courage and hard work of Haiti's rural population. However, despite this progress, the economy remains on fragile ground. The last three years have been extremely arduous and painful. Major disasters have occurred in quick succession during this period: soaring food prices, hurricanes, the earthquake of 12 January 2010, tornado, cholera. These successive upheavals have weakened the agricultural economy and exacerbated poverty in our country as a result.

Even so, 2010 was not just a year of disasters for Haiti: there were happy moments too, especially the reassuring visits from representatives of friendly countries and potential partners. I would like to take this opportunity to thank IFAD President Nwanze, who came at the beginning of August to convey his support and IFAD's solidarity to the people and Government of Haiti.

This platform offers me the opportunity to reiterate, on behalf of the people and Government of Haiti, on behalf of the President of the Republic, His Excellency Mr René Prével, and on behalf of Prime Minister Mr Jean Max Bellerive, my sincere gratitude to all our development partners for their continuing support for my country's development efforts. IFAD, in particular, has been unstinting in its support since 1978. IFAD's work in Haiti encompasses many areas, including irrigation, strengthening small farmers' organizations, providing access to new technologies and rural finance.

After the earthquake in January 2010, IFAD – while negotiating US\$20 million in new funding with Haiti to expand efforts already under way – rapidly mobilized funds for a support programme to rehabilitate production infrastructure, create jobs and improve food security in the Goave, Nippes and Bas Plateau Central areas. These two emergency programmes, on top of the other development programmes under way, are making a significant contribution to efforts to boost the agricultural sector. Furthermore, IFAD took the decision to cancel Haiti's debt.

I should like to take this opportunity to welcome the approach advocated by IFAD to integrate young people, both in its country strategic opportunities programme and in the development programmes it supports. This is apparent in training provided for young rural people, incorporating the policy of giving responsibility to associations of irrigators, and in the strengthening of grass-roots small farmers' organizations in terms of rural finance, organizational management, management of economic interest groups, and the preparation of plans for the development of communal sections with the Food Crops

Intensification Project – Phase II, the Productive Initiatives Support Programme in Rural Areas and the Small-scale Irrigation Development Project.

This approach fits perfectly with that of the Ministry of Agriculture, which is promoting young people who make a living in agriculture. Indeed, one of the basic principles behind the Ministry of Agriculture's approach is the inclusion of young persons through strategies for the development of entrepreneurship and employment in order to ensure dynamic continuity with wealth creation.

In Haiti, young persons represent more than half the population and play a crucial role in the economy. I remain convinced that there can be no sustainable development without the full participation of young people, especially young rural people.

Accordingly, a full-fledged policy of incentives must be considered both by donors such as IFAD and the Haitian State in order to achieve visible results by 2016 and enable the country to reach the subcontinent's goal of a Latin America and Caribbean without hunger by 2025, and to become an emerging modern country by 2030.

Let us invest in youth today to ensure the survival of our planet tomorrow!

### **Statement of the representative for Kuwait**

With reference to the statement by the IFAD President delivered during the opening ceremony, I wish to express to him, and to IFAD Senior Management and staff, our sincere appreciation for the efforts they have made to achieve the Fund's objectives.

The international community's concern with combating and eradicating poverty goes back a number of decades, as underscored by the World Food Conference held in 1974, which established freedom from hunger and malnourishment as a basic human right. IFAD was established in 1977 based on a joint initiative by the Organisation of the Petroleum-Exporting Countries (OPEC) and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development countries, in partnership with developing countries, to strengthen international efforts in agricultural and rural development.

The state of Kuwait has supported IFAD's activities since its establishment. Kuwait continues to believe in the Fund's important role in combating poverty and hunger in developing countries. The Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development, which is celebrating its fiftieth anniversary this year just as the state of Kuwait celebrates 50 years of independence, has made and continues to make every effort to assist in the development efforts of developing countries, including in the agricultural sector in view of its importance in combating poverty and providing jobs, particularly in rural areas where most of the poor population lives.

The global food crisis that emerged in 2007 and 2008 continues to cast a shadow, pushing much of humanity into poverty and hunger. Redoubled efforts are thus needed to promote the agricultural sector, which is the primary engine for increasing staple food production, taking into account the rapid population growth that is projected, especially in developing countries. Therefore, the challenges posed by the food crisis and the ensuing financial crisis call for all the concerned entities – including developing countries, donor countries, development organizations, the private sector and NGOs – to come together to promote and revitalize the agricultural sector so that it can play an effective role, not only in food production, but also as a key income source for farmers to attract agricultural workers and as a way of limiting rural-urban migration.

Mr President,

Based on agriculture's key role in meeting the challenges posed by the food crisis and on IFAD's mission, the state of Kuwait undertook to contribute to the Eighth Replenishment of IFAD's Resources an amount that is 50 per cent higher than Kuwait's contribution to the Seventh Replenishment. It has done so based on its understanding of the upcoming requirements of the Fund's work. We will actively participate in the forthcoming Consultation on the Ninth Replenishment.

Regarding the Fund's future activities and resource allocation, the importance of performance should be emphasized. However, at the same time, we believe it is also important to be concerned with services and activities conducive to improving performance. It is also necessary to take into account the food-deficit circumstances of countries, whose general budgets are under greater pressures due to high food commodity prices.

Mr President,

We reaffirm our support for IFAD. We are looking forward to the Fund's success in strengthening its development cooperation with its partners and in assisting them in achieving the Millennium Development Goals, foremost of which is eradicating poverty and hunger.

## **Statement of the representative for the Lao People's Democratic Republic**

First of all, on behalf of the Lao Delegation, I am honoured to attend this thirty-fourth session of the Governing Council of IFAD. I would like to join the other distinguished delegations and also present my congratulations to the elected Chairperson and Vice-Chairs of this year's session and take this opportunity to sincerely thank the organizing committee for the excellent arrangements made for the meeting and for the warm hospitality extended to our delegation.

This year's meeting takes place at a time when the worldwide economic, financial and social turbulences that started to seriously threaten world food security a few years ago are now making a heavy impact on the life of more than a billion of the poor in every corner of the world, especially in developing countries. This is unfortunately coupled with the increasing depletion of the world's already limited natural resources due to the unsustainable exploitation of land and forests for producing energy crops. The price of oil has increased parallel to an excessive land grab that has not diminished in any part of the world. At the same time, regarding the session's selected topic on rural youth, they face many obstacles that block both their individual progress and their collective contributions to socio-economic development. Without sufficient education and training, they may have little hope of employment and are likely to remain poor. Young people living in rural areas are the world's future farmers, entrepreneurs and leaders as stated by the Chairperson. The challenges of enhancing agricultural production to meet food demands and promoting economic growth in the rural areas fall to them.

These negative developments and the issues of rural youth are major challenges for all of us as we work to achieve agreed common targets in addressing secure food supplies for all, and eliminate poverty as set out in the World Food Summit Plan of Action and the Millennium Development Goals.

The Government of Laos (GOL) focuses on how to guarantee food security. This is still indeed a priority as 23 per cent of our population is malnourished and 37 per cent of children under the age of five are underweight. We are progressing and the GOL is determined to implement the components of the national nutrition strategy under its responsibility. This will be carried out in close coordination with our development partners, in particular with IFAD. The GOL continues to propose sustainable techniques to producers and employs careful land planning. We will continue to provide incentives and proactive policies at several levels and improve farmers' access to agricultural credit as well as helping producers and other agricultural stakeholders get better organized. Massive investment is also essential for local agriculture-related infrastructure: markets, storage, processing facilities, control laboratories, etc. Through public-private partnerships, we will leverage valuable private resources, expertise and marketing channels and development partners who can assist by promoting quality direct foreign investment from their private sector.

With regard to young people in rural areas, they contribute to agricultural production from an early age assisting their families in the fields, which makes finding time for schooling difficult. Another reason they may not attend school could be the economic situation of the family. In order to address this concern, the GOL has taken several measures to improve equity and quality in education through better access to normal education and also to establish vocational training schools in poor regions and provinces to improve young people's technical skills and expand vocational, technical and higher education. Facilitating and extending young people's access to credit is the best starting point to encourage rural youth to invest in agricultural endeavours and engage in alternative employment opportunities. The GOL is establishing vital social and economic infrastructure in areas such as communications, transport, health, and educational and financial services in rural areas to enable youth to exercise their rights to develop themselves. In addition, the Government supports the activities of the Lao Youth

Organization to enhance the voice and participation of youth in the socio-economic development of the country.

Finally, I would like to thank IFAD for convening this important annual conference and I hope that we will work together to come up with an actionable agenda to implement in the coming years that will focus on the challenges of food security and climate change and turn them into opportunities for feeding our future generations.

## Statement of the representative for the Philippines

The theme of this 34th session of the IFAD Governing Council: "Feeding future generations – Young rural people today, prosperous farmers tomorrow" is both of major relevance and challenge to my country.

Agriculture plays a significant role in the Philippine economy. Roughly 70 per cent of the country's population is in the rural areas and agriculture contributes about 18 percent to the country's GDP. Two thirds of the country's population depends on farming for its livelihood, and about 38 per cent of the labour force is engaged in agricultural activities. It is worth noting that the number of people employed in the agricultural sector rose to 12.3 million from 11.93 million a year ago.

With an estimated population of 100 million (the 10th largest in the world), young people make up almost a third of the country's population. The unemployment rate in the country is pegged at 6.9 percent, with half of the unemployed estimated to be young people.

The average age of farmers in the country is 57, and while Filipino farmers are growing old, young people replacing them in the fields is scarce. The demographics indicate that younger Filipinos are not enticed to enter the agricultural sector. Smallholder farming in the Philippines, which comprises the majority of the farming community, is not considered a profitable enterprise and is not attractive to the restless youth. The young would rather migrate to the cities and join the industrial and service sectors, or even migrate to foreign shores.

This poses a challenge to the security of the country's food supply in the next few years.

Moral appeals would not suffice to stem the outflow of the youth from agricultural to urban areas unless measures are anchored to tangible economic benefits. We strongly echo IFAD's mantra that smallholder farming must be a business enterprise. The Philippine government has a clear policy that agriculture is not solely a government concern and must prioritize public-private partnership in the sector.

We have adopted a programme targeted to train youth not only as technically skilled farmers in production but also as skilled entrepreneurs, always alert to the opportunities available in the value chain. Young farmers are given preferential access to credit to enhance those opportunities for value-adding activities.

An exchange programme for young farmers with our neighbouring countries allows them exposure to new technologies and first-hand experience that farming can be profitable.

The complementing role of various stakeholders such as the national and local government units, educational institutions, and financial institutions is crucial to the successful implementation of the above-mentioned programs.

We meet against a backdrop of great challenges as well as opportunities for smallholder farming and rural youth employment.

The FAO has aptly stated that nearly half a billion youth in the world do not get a chance to reach their full potential. And harnessing this potential continues to be a major challenge as a repeat of the 2008 food price spike looms on the horizon. While this increase in the price of commodities is not in itself a negative development for smallholder farming since, after all, low global prices for food products has been a bane for agriculture in developing countries for decades, it needs to be stressed that appropriate social protection to the most vulnerable of the population should be ensured.

Smallholder farmers must be given the opportunity to benefit from increased food prices though increased productivity and technology enhancement. It is in this context that we

would like to express our appreciation to IFAD and the European Commission for assisting the Philippines through a grant facility for small farmers in the aftermath of the 2008 food price crisis.

More strategic interventions through IFAD's country strategic opportunities programme are under negotiations.

Agriculture is core to the priorities of the Philippine Government: since 2008, we have doubled our annual budget for agriculture.

Before the international community, we affirm our commitment to food security, and support active engagement towards this goal.

## **Statement of the representative for Turkey**

We acknowledge the efforts of IFAD to keep agricultural and rural development issues high on the global agenda considering the effects of challenges such as climate change, food insecurity and poverty. Under these difficult conditions, we believe that the role of IFAD is crucial in assisting countries to overcome rural poverty and to ensure food security in general.

The theme of this Governing Council is rightly chosen since rural youth is the key and the golden asset we have for feeding the world population in the future. However, we must devote sufficient effort and resources today to facilitate their engagement in this challenging task in the future. A major social and development problem in many countries is the migration of rural populations into urban areas due to lack of employment and unfavourable living conditions. In most cases, the majority of the immigrants are young people who move to cities in search of a better and more secure future. Unfortunately, this phenomena results in social and economic problems in already crowded cities and because of this, fewer farmers are left in agriculture and food production in rural areas.

Without sufficient employment prospects and support to agriculture, migration from rural areas into cities appears to be impossible to limit, and food shortages and poverty will remain as major problems in vulnerable environments.

We face migration problems as well. The majority of migrants from rural areas are young people who move to cities for jobs in sectors other than agriculture. We are aware that in order to sustain our food production, we need to develop policies to promote agriculture among the young. In this respect, we have taken some significant measures in recent years to make agriculture attractive to the young. For this we have established a special unit in the Ministry of Agriculture in order to facilitate the development of strategies to strengthen the status of young farmers. In addition to general farming support programmes and agricultural insurance schemes, provision of social security tools training opportunities have been implemented, especially for the young farmers. Moreover, a national programme has been implemented to promote the establishment of small- and medium-size enterprises within the context of a rural development strategy. This programme enabled the establishment of around 3,000 small- and medium-size agricultural enterprises in the last four years. In the context of this programme, a specific incentive scheme has been introduced for young entrepreneurs: through this scheme they can receive 5-15 per cent more support from public resources for their investments in agriculture. As a result of this programme, 178,000 jobs were created last year and a further 3,000 small- and medium-size agricultural enterprises are planned to be created during 2011–2015. We believe that this programme will further encourage young people to consider agriculture as a business and reduce unemployment among them while contributing to our food security now and in the future.

In closing, I would like to reiterate our trust in IFAD's work. The promising developments of the Eighth Replenishment indicate that we all share this. We believe that this will continue through the Ninth Replenishment as well. During this Governing Council, we observed that the investments made by IFAD in youth are already bearing fruit. We believe that through extension of these successful examples to national scale programmes we can achieve overall rural development and food security goals.

## Chapter 4

**Statements and special addresses**

United Nations Messenger of Peace, Her Royal Highness Princess Haya Al Hussein (United Nations Messenger of Peace)  
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The Honourable Luigi Casero, Under-Secretary of State, Ministry of Economy and Finance of the Italian Republic  
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Mr Kofi Annan, Chairman of the Board of the Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa  
(©IFAD/Publifoto)



Mr Kanayo F. Nwanze, President of the International Fund for Agricultural Development  
(©IFAD/Publifoto)



Mr Kanayo F. Nwanze, President of IFAD, greets United Nations Messenger of Peace, Her Royal Highness Princess Haya Al Hussein of Jordan  
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Mr Kanayo F. Nwanze, President of IFAD, greets Mr Kofi Annan, Chairman of the Board of the Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa  
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**Statement by the Chairperson, Her Excellency Clémentine Ananga Messina, opening the thirty-fourth session of the Governing Council**

Honourable Ministers,  
International dignitaries,  
Distinguished Governors,  
President of IFAD,  
Honourable delegates,  
Ladies and gentlemen,

It is truly a pleasure for me to take the floor to open this thirty-fourth session of IFAD's Governing Council. I should like to take this opportunity to express my sincere gratitude to the Italian Government for the hospitality it has shown our delegation since our arrival in Rome, the eternal city, and to reiterate to the President of IFAD Cameroon's commitment to defending IFAD's noble ideals in the fight against rural poverty.

Distinguished Governors,

The central theme chosen for this session's interactive debate – "Feeding future generations: Young rural people today, prosperous, productive farmers tomorrow" – is in step with the new dynamics observed in rural development. There is absolutely no doubt that it will be difficult to meet the challenges of producing enough to feed an ever-growing global population – projected to reach nine billion by 2050 – especially in developing countries, unless programmes providing incentives for young people, who in some cases account for over one fifth of the population, are drawn up and implemented. Accordingly, national, regional and global strategies that give pride of place to rural youth would be a way to take up the challenge of food security and poverty reduction.

As far as Cameroon is concerned, the President of the Republic, His Excellency Mr Paul Biya, in his address during the National Youth Day celebrations in Cameroon on 10 February, said to the young people and I quote: "Our agriculture has considerable production capacities which can be enhanced. The solution to our unemployment problem lies here. If our agriculture proves capable of making this 'leap forward', it will offer a wide range of jobs, from the simplest to the more skilled. That is why I urge our youth not to turn away from working the land, which guarantees stability and fulfilment." It should be noted that Cameroon has set up a National Civic Service Agency for Participation in Development which "is mandated to mobilize energies for (i) economic, social and cultural development of our country; (ii) fostering national pride and patriotic feelings; and (iii) promoting a sense of the common weal, civic spirit and culture of peace." Naturally, this agency targets young people. In addition, for more than four years Cameroon has been implementing a support programme to set up young farmers where they live – in their villages.

Distinguished Governors,

In publishing the *Rural Poverty Report 2011*, IFAD has made an extraordinary effort to produce an overview of rural poverty, focusing on the issue at both global and regional levels, and also analysing it from the perspective of particular groups such as women, youth, indigenous peoples and ethnic minorities. One of the report's strengths is that it prepares the ground for global discussions of the new realities, new challenges and opportunities for future generations. These new realities include giving priority to revisiting the promotion of smallholder agriculture. Might this return to a strategy already tried out during the 1980s bring new hope for present and future generations? This is a legitimate question in an environment of intensive urbanization, where the rural economy remains poorly organized and the prospects for an enterprise economy are unclear. Here lie the new challenges with regard to changing the economic environment in rural areas. Will there be sufficient funding to bring about the desired transformation? The question has still to be answered but that does not make it any less relevant or important.

Over and above any operational strategy, increased investment in agriculture and the rural environment is essential, the *sine qua non* for bringing about significant change and

improving living conditions in rural areas. This being the case, the mobilization of national resources is key. The argument is heard in this context for tax-related improvements to support investment in agriculture. Internal resources remain the only basis on which each country can rely primarily to finance its development.

Public development aid should be provided as a complement to domestic resources. Furthermore, better internal organization, supported by improved governance, are the means to ensure the success of any strategy based on smallholder agriculture aimed at leveraging the rural economy.

The development and promotion of public-private partnerships is also an important area towards which any increased investment in the rural sphere should be directed, since it has the capacity to create the synergies needed for coherent action.

In conclusion, I would add that the issue is to ensure that engaging in agriculture holds an appeal for young people, especially in developing countries.

Thank you for your attention.

**Welcoming statement by the President of the International Fund for Agricultural Development, Mr Kanayo F. Nwanze, on the occasion of the visit of Her Royal Highness Princess Haya Al Hussein (United Nations Messenger of Peace), Mr Kofi Annan and The Honourable Luigi Casero**

Your Royal Highness,  
Mr Annan,  
The Honourable Mr Casero,

It is an honour to welcome you to the thirty-fourth session of the Governing Council of IFAD. Allow me, on behalf of all the Member States of IFAD, to express our sincere appreciation to you for having agreed to inaugurate today's session.

Each of you has shown a strong commitment to the efforts to eliminate poverty and hunger. Each of you brings a unique perspective and expertise to the central topic of this Governing Council – opportunities for young people in rural areas. Your experiences and perspectives will not only help shape the discourse over the coming days, but also over the coming months and years as we, at IFAD, strive to create rural environments that allow the poor young rural people of today to prosper tomorrow.

May I once again express our gratitude for your presence here today.

We very much look forward to your statements.

**Keynote address of United Nations Messenger of Peace, Her Royal Highness Princess Haya Al Hussein of Jordan, wife of His Highness Sheikh Mohammed Bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice-President and Prime Minister of the United Arab Emirates and Ruler of Dubai on the occasion of the thirty-fourth session of IFAD's Governing Council**

President Nwanze,  
Your Excellencies,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Good morning. It is a privilege for me to address this distinguished gathering.

Serving under Secretaries-General Kofi Annan and Ban Ki-moon as a United Nations Messenger of Peace for Hunger and Poverty has been one of the greatest honours of my life.

On my first field visit for the World Food Programme six years ago, I went to the Queen Elizabeth Central Hospital in Blantyre, Malawi. At that time, five million people in Malawi were facing starvation. I can only fit one of them into this speech. She was the first infant I met in this job.

Until I saw her, I never knew death could have a presence and a smell. I had never seen its solitude, its utter finality, or the acceptance and welcome of its release in the eyes of an infant.

Of course she could not squeeze my finger like babies do. And I was almost ashamed to see that my fingers were about the size of her arms.

Her mother was very calm and patient. She too had the look of impending death. I'm sure she knew better when she was told that I was there to bring – of all the absurd things – hope.

She was dying of AIDS, and her five other children were wasting away in the adjoining beds. Her husband had already passed on.

We moved along the beds and into the next ward. Then I heard wailing. I asked what had happened and received the obvious answer: Someone must have died.

When I walked past the little girl's bed again, it was empty. They had carried her tiny body out in a small, black plastic bag. The bed seemed untouched. It was as if she had never existed.

I learned something strange on that first field visit: When you starve to death, you become so thin, so light you barely leave an impression on the sheets.

I thought about that infant as I considered how to best serve those in need today. And, as I often do, I looked for advice from my late father, His Majesty King Hussein. I took out my late father's speeches, which I keep in a little box at home, and the first one I picked up was a United Nations address from 1967.

Today the United Nations is indeed facing a serious challenge, he said. Whether it can preserve its moral authority will in no small measure depend on what action it takes.

He went on to say, I will not speak to you only about peace. For the precondition of peace is justice. When we have achieved justice, we can achieve peace. There is much talk in these chambers about peace, but there is little talk about justice... There is no peace when it's called for by a successful aggressor, nor when it is achieved through the submission of the victim.

Those words, written in another context more than four decades ago, accurately describe hunger today. We, the well fed, are the successful aggressors, and the victims of this war of greed are those who die of hunger.

Thanks to my father, I am now brave enough to admit to myself – and to you – a terrible truth. I am praying you will hear me.

Somehow, in a world exploding with prosperity and possibility we have forfeited our moral authority.

We have lost the sense of compassion and community that makes life worthwhile. We are morally bankrupt. We can spend over a trillion dollars for armaments as we fight over land, ideology and religion and, yet, we let 300 million children starve.

This organization is just a year older than I am. IFAD does not often make the news, but your work has never been more timely or urgent, Man and nature are on a very dangerous path. Floods, fires, drought, corruption, incompetence and greed are converging with the potential to create a devastating global food crisis.

The price of food has been one of the driving forces as Arab youth have taken to the streets to demand change from the Maghreb to the Arabian Gulf. You can argue about how much of the turmoil was about economics or politics, but food is the most basic human need. When it is not met, people take action.

The events in the Middle East have been described as an alarm or wake-up call for the region, but they should be a wake-up call for the entire world. The Middle East is well fed when set against the daily suffering in sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia.

In the rural areas of Cambodia that I visited last week, as much as 70 per cent of household income is spent on food. That is more than triple the level of a family here in Italy.

Hunger and malnutrition remain the biggest single threat to public health worldwide – more than heart disease, cancer or any other malady. Nearly every country on earth faces some degree of food insecurity.

We saw more than 60 food riots from 2007 to 2009 alone, from Haiti to Indonesia. There will be more now that FAO's global food price index has hit a historic high.

When we optimistically adopted the Millennium Development Goals in 2000 there were 830 million hungry people. A decade later we reached 925 million.

I am standing here asking for solutions with none in sight.

The obvious solution lies in programmes like IFAD's – investing more in agriculture and raising food output. But for decades that has never really been a priority for us.

Some poor countries live with perpetual food crises. But if food prices in developed country markets are not climbing and no one is protesting or rioting, we just hit the snooze button and drift back to sleep.

After the food crisis of the mid-1970s faded, major donors and development banks turned their attention elsewhere, slashing funds for agriculture by more than 70 per cent, especially after the Green Revolution took hold in South Asia.

Perhaps it seemed reasonable then – assuming you were not among the hungry –but it was a brutal error.

Let's face it, farming has never been all that fashionable among economists or developing country politicians – airports, massive dams, and factories have greater political cachet. General economic growth and job creation were supposed to end hunger – no need to bother about the farmers.

No one really paid that much attention to the hungry again until the food crisis of 2007-2008 sent prices spiralling globally.

Perhaps the biggest challenge to mobilizing action is that hunger is becoming invisible in some parts of the world and the number of overweight people – 1.6 billion – far exceeds the number of hungry.

To many of us, hunger is remote, almost abstract. When you live in comfort it is all too easy to forget the suffering of others. If an eight-year-old girl in Zambia is sickly and

anaemic, what difference does that make in our well-fed, Wi-Fi world? The occasional humanitarian appeal in *The Economist*, *Time* or a television spot does not make her real.

She is not our child. She does not live where we live.

Well, in fact, she is our child and we all have a stake in her development. Anaemia impairs the mental development of 40 to 60 per cent of children in developing countries affecting roughly 2 billion people. Eradicating it would, according to the World Health Organization, improve national productivity levels by up to 20 per cent.

Imagine all that buying power: Healthy children make for healthy economies and markets from which we all eventually benefit. Those who are indifferent to the suffering of the hungry should at least recognize the economic value in ending it.

We have made some progress in some areas.

Impatient with the lack of progress by the traditional aid agencies and development banks, private donors led by the Gates Foundation have moved into the hunger arena and poured funds into Kofi Annan's Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa. With funding of over US\$100 million, AGRA is the biggest operational anti-hunger initiative in Africa and it is homegrown.

To its credit, the Obama Administration has doubled its agricultural development budget to US\$1 billion. The World Bank, recognizing past errors, doubled its agricultural loan portfolio. Arab nations are debating a US\$65 billion plan to boost food production in light of critical water shortages and huge food imports.

Some African governments have adopted new approaches, and 16 have signed a compact committing 10 per cent of their national spending to agriculture. Eight have exceeded the investment target, and 10 have reached a 6 per cent annual growth rate in food production.

President Nwanze, IFAD deserves great credit for taking a focused approach to development, recognizing the true profile of hunger and targeting youth and women. More than 80 per cent of IFAD's microfinance portfolio is loaned to women.

IFAD projects offer an avenue to cope with massive rural unemployment, especially among the young. Youth unemployment is a tremendous challenge globally, but even more so in the Arab world where half our population is under 25 years old.

In another welcome sign, food aid is becoming more focused on child nutrition. Médecins Sans Frontières, the United Nations Children's Fund and WFP have spearheaded efforts to broaden the use of ready-to-use therapeutic foods to combat the destructive effects of malnutrition on children under the age of two.

This is so important. Hungry babies face handicaps that last all their lives. We have the technical expertise and the money to end hunger. So why is the outlook today so grim? What is missing?

I am absolutely convinced that we could solve the hunger problem if the international community had the passion and the commitment to prioritize it. That has not been the case.

Many of our politicians remain out of touch, uncomprehending of life for those who live at the brink of starvation. They do not deliver funds on the scale we need for real progress. Even worse, they fail to honour the pledges they make.

Promises are made, but not kept. That is morally bankrupt.

In 2009, for example, at the G-8 Summit here in Italy, there were US\$22 billion in new pledges of funds for agriculture – FAO tells us less than US\$1 billion in new money has actually materialized. ACTIONAID concluded there was no gain in investment in agriculture at all. Increases by some donors were simply offset by cuts by others.

We missed the message in the food crisis of 2008 and hit the snooze button. Now the situation has grown even more urgent. The G-20 is focusing on food security under the French presidency and that is most welcome. But where is our sense of urgency? Where is our passion? Dare I ask: Where is our humanity?

If my house were on fire, no matter how tired I was, no matter what I was doing, I would fight with all my might to save it. I know that you would do the same. If your homes were on fire, you would do absolutely everything in your power to save them.

Well, Your Excellencies, our house is on fire.

The alarm clock on hunger went off a long time ago. We cannot hit the snooze button any more. If we do, you must realize that every tick of the second hand is a child's life. We should act as if those threatened children are our children — because, in every sense, they are.

No more false promises. No more empty pledges. That infant girl in Malawi might be with us today if we had done more than issue declarations and communiqués. We're too late for her, but it is not too late to save millions of other children just like her.

I mean to insult nobody. I count myself among those who have become morally bankrupt. I feel the shame of that acknowledgement, but I would be more ashamed if I didn't take this opportunity to ask you and others to join me in admitting it. Only then can we do better.

All I ask is this: Make sure your governments honour their pledges.

I began with the words of my late father, His Majesty King Hussein of Jordan, and so I will close with them as well: May God grant that out of your discussions the path to a just conclusion becomes clear, and that you will be brave enough, and wise enough to act on it.

**Keynote address by Mr Kofi Annan, Chairman of the Board of the Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA), on the occasion of the thirty-fourth session of IFAD's Governing Council**

**Africa's Potential Role in Global Food Security**

It is a privilege to share some thoughts today with an audience so dedicated and key to eliminating hunger from our world.

It is an audience that is global in its make-up and drawn from many different fields.

But we are united in the belief that efforts to end hunger and provide food and nutrition security need to be accelerated urgently.

This is even more important today than when this conference was first planned, as prices for food and other basic commodities have risen sharply.

They have now passed the peak that occurred in 2008 which sparked the last food crisis and caused such misery for the most vulnerable in the world.

The FAO has warned that the high cost of food is re-emerging as a serious economic and development threat, as well as a threat to social stability.

And with climate change certain to increase, the extreme weather events behind recent price rises, high costs and local shortages are unlikely to be temporary.

Moreover, food and nutrition security will be an increasing challenge across the globe as the world's population continues to grow.

There is, however, one continent where it is particularly pressing, and that is Africa – the only continent that does not grow enough food to feed itself.

The result is that nearly 240 million people in sub-Saharan Africa do not eat well enough for their health and well-being.

But against this sombre background, I want to set out a vision that is optimistic but achievable: where Africa can feed not only its own citizens, but helps meet the needs of the hungry across the world.

It is a vision which requires us to transform agriculture on the continent by building on the progress already under way.

In doing so, we will also transform the prospects for Africa, for agriculture remains the mainstay of African economies and its way of life.

Even today, four out of five Africans depend on farming and related activities to provide for their families.

Overcoming the continent's agricultural challenges will provide the platform for Africa to meet its wider ambitions of prosperity and peace.

This is why the neglect of Africa's agriculture in recent decades has been so damaging and its impact so serious.

African farmers have been excluded from the scientific and technological advances which have revolutionized crop yields across the world.

Poor management of land and water resources, along with weak economic and infrastructure links, have undermined agricultural development.

Outside support for agriculture has collapsed, with the proportion of overseas aid falling from 18 per cent in the late 1970s to just 3 per cent in recent years.

African farmers have also found themselves severely disadvantaged by an unbalanced global trade regime.

The continent faces unfair barriers both in export markets and in the development of food industries at home, while it remains a dumping ground for cheap food imports.

All this on the continent that the experts warn will be worst affected by the impact of climate change, depleting biodiversity, increasing water stress and desertification.

It was to tackle these challenges that I called, in my capacity as United Nations Secretary-General, for an African green revolution to help meet the first Millennium Development Goal of halving world hunger.

As you well know, it is a revolution already seen in Asia and Latin America with dramatic results.

Not only was widespread famine averted, but it also provided the foundation for higher levels of development and economic progress.

We now need to see a sustainable and uniquely African green revolution which mirrors these achievements while avoiding negative environmental impacts.

It was why I agreed, on leaving the United Nations, to chair the Board of the Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa: to help deliver this transformation on the continent.

Ladies and gentlemen, we have a long way to go to deliver on these ambitions.

But the progress being made across Africa in the last few years gives us real hope for the future.

Creative thinking, effective partnerships, leadership from governments and the efforts of smallholder farmers are helping drive the African development of agriculture.

Through investment, for example, to provide higher-yielding seeds and fertilizers, AGRA, IFAD and many public and private partners are responding both to farmers' needs and local conditions.

Best practice on improving soil fertility and other innovative approaches are also being shared and spread and are making a real difference.

But we also have to recognize the efforts of farmers. While they are vital, they cannot be seen in isolation; there must be improved support across the agricultural value chain.

So IFAD, AGRA and many other organizations are working to create national rural networks of retailers and agro-businesses.

Over 10,000 small-scale agro-dealers have been strengthened and have received business management and technical training supported by AGRA.

For example, this has cut the average distance farmers in western Kenya need to travel to buy seeds and fertilizers by two-thirds, saving valuable time and money.

Lack of accessible credit and other financial services – including crop insurance – have also been a huge constraint on agricultural development.

But all that is beginning to change thanks to innovative efforts to work with banks to share risk and boost lending to agriculture and farmers.

Partnering with the financial sector, IFAD and AGRA have been able to leverage US\$160 million in affordable loans to agriculture from commercial banks in Kenya, Uganda, Mozambique, Ghana and the United Republic of Tanzania. This may seem odd, because loans to farmers and agriculture should be the business of banks, but it simply does not happen in Africa: we somehow do not see agriculture as a business and very little money is invested in agriculture. We were talking to a central banker of one of the African countries who was shocked to discover that even though agriculture accounted for 40 per cent of his country's GDP, only 1 per cent was invested in agriculture.

I am delighted that IFAD's Executive Board recently approved US\$20 million to be used by the Government of the United Republic of Tanzania to develop a risk-sharing facility which will see an additional US\$200 million made available by banks to agriculture.

And then, of course, there is Nigeria. Nigeria is leading the way with its commitment of US\$500 million to develop a risk-sharing facility that could leverage US\$3 billion in new lending to the sector.

In fact, while increased official development assistance is essential in order to accelerate the improvements now under way, there are also huge opportunities for local commercial banks and other financial markets.

But if we are to achieve the rapid transformation needed, we also have to concentrate efforts and resources on those areas with the greatest potential to help meet the continent's food needs.

This is the thinking behind AGRA's "breadbaskets" initiative, which focuses on increasing yields and expanding cultivated land in fertile areas already endowed with a minimum of essential infrastructure.

We are bringing governments, development partners, farmer organizations and the private sector together in an integrated and comprehensive way to provide the financial and technical support needed.

This approach is already moving forward in Ghana, Mali, Mozambique and the United Republic of Tanzania, and is being supported by the "infrastructure corridor" initiative being launched by Yara International and other partners, starting with the United Republic of Tanzania.

Targeting a critical mass of resources and efforts in these regions and others that could grow a large share of the continent's staple food requirements will help deliver food and nutrition security within Africa.

It will also, in the longer-term, enable Africa to create a surplus for global export.

So ladies and gentleman, the right foundations are being put in place thanks to the efforts of many people, including the audience in this room.

Progress is being made, dramatic progress in some places.

In West Africa, over 300,000 farmers have adopted micro-dosing techniques to achieve higher yields from improved varieties of sorghum, maize and rice with only one-third of the recommended fertilizer – improving output while addressing environmental concerns.

In the United Republic of Tanzania, with the support of agro-dealers, smallholder farmers in the Southern Highlands produced five million tons of maize in 2009, more than any other region in the country.

The World Bank was so encouraged by the results that it is now providing US\$160 million to expand the initiative.

But we still remain a long way from our hoped-for destination.

So what are the broader lessons we can learn from the progress that has been made so far?

And what are the obstacles which still need to be overcome to transform Africa's ability to meet its increased food needs, to exceed those needs and to export?

First, and this might seem obvious, priority must be given to growing more food, not cash crops.

The market within Africa for staple food crops is estimated at US\$150 billion a year.

This far exceeds the revenue Africa receives for internationally traded cash crops like coffee, cocoa, tea, and cut flowers. Food – primarily for domestic consumption – must be our focus and the economics also make sense.

Second, the progress achieved underlines the importance of a coherent approach to investment right across the agricultural value chain.

Successful agricultural transformation, as we have seen in India, Tunisia and Morocco, depends on all parts of the agricultural system working together.

This requires the forging of strong private-public partnerships which are already delivering high impact results and creating opportunities for smallholder farmers in Ghana, Mozambique and Mali (to name just a few countries).

This brings me to my third point: Smallholder farmers are the mainstay of African agriculture; they have to be right at the heart of Africa's green revolution.

We need to ensure they are well organized and given the knowledge and support to play their full part in the transformation of food production through access to seeds, fertilizers and other resources.

Many smallholder farmers are women: We need policies that encourage them and remove the specific barriers they face – for example, access to land and credit.

We must also, as is happening with the breadbasket strategy, strengthen linkages between the smallholder and the larger, market-oriented farming operations.

This is not a matter of big farms versus small farms. Responsible, large-scale farming systems can play an important role in directly supporting small farmers through technical advice, transfer of new technologies and support and access to markets – as long as smallholder farmers are not undermined by large-scale land acquisitions.

But farmers will only be encouraged to grow more food if they can sell their surplus at prices that benefit both the consumer and the farmer.

This requires action at both the national and international levels.

National governments must adopt health and environmental standards to increase the value of their produce and ensure they can be sold in any market.

At the same time, the international community must finally provide effective, efficient and equitable market access policies so that African countries can compete on a level playing field.

This includes guarding against protectionist tendencies, which can be the knee-jerk reaction to rising prices.

We need structural reforms to protect the poorest of the poor from global shocks which all too often are difficult for them. They are often the first to be hit and are hit the hardest.

Priority must be given to stabilizing international supply and to moderating food commodity speculation so that farmers get fair prices for their produce and I am happy that this is on the G-20 agenda.

We also need – as this meeting recognizes – to look at the impact on the younger generation.

It is the young, of course, who are hit hardest when food is scarce.

It is to the younger generation as well that we must look to ensure that such scarcity belongs to history.

They deserve support to take advantage of the opportunities opening up, both on the land and in the wider agriculture-related activities. They need support for job creation, enterprise development, and to acquire relevant and appropriate skills.

Take, for example, Lovemore Chopi, a young man from Malawi, whose story shows how we can tap into the energy and entrepreneurial spirit of Africa's younger generation.

Lovemore sold vegetable seeds on the sidewalks of Blantyre, but decided he could aim higher.

So he enrolled in an AGRA-supported training course on business and marketing for agro-dealers.

With Malawi's landmark farmer-support programme increasing demand for improved seeds, he registered his rural agro-dealer shop as a government distributor.

The knowledge and confidence he gained has transformed the young Malawian into a small-scale, but successful entrepreneur, playing his part in his country's agricultural revolution.

There are thousands of stories like this across Africa – and millions more are possible if we get the support right.

It is this new generation of Africans – men and women – who can see the possibilities. They need our support, they need our help so they can make the most of these opportunities.

The march towards achieving an African green revolution is about scaling up thousands of small successes occurring across the continent to create sustained transformation.

It is also about making farming attractive to young people with ambition and drive. They are the generation we need to make this change sustainable.

Their imagination and energy is also, ladies and gentlemen, the reason why I am confident about my continent's future.

Africa has the land and the people. We have the potential to feed not just our own citizens but to help create a secure global food system.

A quiet revolution, led by Africa's smallholder farmers, is already under way.

We all need to work together to make sure these green shoots flourish by sharing knowledge, building partnerships, creating the right policy environment at the national level and delivering the increased international investment needed in agriculture.

We have to reform trade rules, too, which will allow crops to be sold at fair prices for farmers and consumers.

By putting these measures in place, we enable Africa's farmers to rise to the challenge of tackling hunger and food insecurity on their continent and across the world.

This is the enormous prize within our grasp: a successful green revolution which has equity and sustainability at its heart.

It is a revolution which you are helping lead and deliver.

Thank you.

**Keynote address by the Honourable Luigi Casero, Under-Secretary of State,  
Ministry of Economy and Finance of the Italian Republic**

Your Highness,  
President Kofi Annan,  
Madam Chairperson,  
Mr President,  
Honourable Governors,  
Distinguished Delegates,

It is truly an honour and pleasure for me to greet you on behalf of the Government of Italy on the occasion of the thirty-fourth session of the Governing Council. This is an important year for our country in that it marks 150 years of unity. The presence of the three organizations of the United Nations system in Rome is representative of our recent history, which we have managed to build thanks to all of you, IFAD Member States. I am sure that you will join us in this celebration.

I also extend a warm welcome to the Government of the Republic of Uzbekistan and the Government of Hungary; both of these countries have today become a part of the IFAD family. Never has there been a more pressing need to identify structural solutions to the ongoing shortage of food staples and their uneven distribution among – and within – countries.

Today, more than a billion people still suffer from hunger and poverty across the globe. Given that the survival of most of these people depends almost exclusively on farming, rural development has a decisive role in promoting food security and fighting hunger.

Despite the growing attention of the international community, the current economic situation and the dramatic consequences of increased food prices pose an ever-growing threat to stability and security in many regions of the world.

According to the World Bank, since June 2010 the increase in prices for agricultural products has consigned a further 44 million people to extreme poverty. The food price index rose by 15 per cent between October 2010 and January 2011 and is just three points below the peak reached in 2008, which triggered riots in many countries across the globe. The increase in extreme poverty caused by the food price increase has been accompanied by higher malnutrition levels.

To ensure greater food security worldwide, the production of food staples will need to grow by 70 per cent between now and 2050. This can happen only through a significant increase in productivity, especially among smallholder farmers. However, if these farmers are to benefit from the new market dynamics, they must be placed in a position to do so. Appropriate agricultural policies and adequate public investment are needed. The private and public sectors must collaborate with civil society to create thriving local markets. These will be among the priority themes for discussion by the G-20 Finance Ministers when they meet today in Paris.

Italy has consistently made food security a priority in its international policy, most recently apparent in the adoption of the L'Aquila Food Security Initiative at the G-8 meeting in 2009. That occasion served not only to highlight the key role of agriculture in the fight against poverty but to recognize for the first time that food insecurity is a multidimensional problem that must be dealt with accordingly. Italy intends to reiterate this important point in the context of the G-20.

Italy is convinced that supporting smallholders is one of the most effective ways of achieving sustainable growth in developing countries. No initiative aimed at addressing food insecurity can be successful without long-term support to agriculture and, in particular, small-scale farming.

Such support translates into increased investments in agriculture; the establishment of more transparent and competitive markets; more accessible rural financial services; non-farm employment opportunities; enterprise development; and a renewed focus on the crucial role that women play in rural communities.

Italy is aware of the vital role that the three Rome-based agencies – with their diverse but complementary mandates – play in achieving such goals. Italy is grateful to be in a position to host these agencies and provide them with steadfast support. We believe that this is a tangible sign of our commitment to ensuring food security for all countries and for all populations through a multilateral and inclusive system.

Italy therefore commends the reforms being undertaken by the agencies to work more effectively and efficiently, and acknowledges the guiding role that IFAD has assumed in this regard. In moments of crisis such as today's, governments – and to an even greater extent international organizations – are called upon to act with transparency to ensure the efficient use of public resources.

The international financial architecture recognizes IFAD's comparative advantage in funding the activities of smallholder farmers. In many regions of the world, thanks to the experience it has gained over 30 years of operations, IFAD is the international financial institution that provides most resources to agriculture.

Italy has fervently supported the recent reforms initiated by IFAD, foremost the changes made to its operating model. We are pleased to see its strengthened capacity to mobilize external resources for its programmes. This underlines that, rather than acting as an obstacle, IFAD's hybrid nature as both specialized agency of the United Nations and international financial institution endows the Fund with its own specific value added.

Madam Chairperson,  
Mr President,

Next Monday, the Fund will embark on the Ninth Replenishment of its resources. In institutional terms, this is a time of the greatest importance; a time in which our Members will discuss with IFAD Management the strategic objectives for the three-year period spanning 2012 to 2015 and the funds needed to achieve those objectives with maximum efficiency.

I am certain that this exercise will provide IFAD with new opportunities to develop and strengthen its operations, honouring the expectations that the international community has of this institution.

May I thank you and wish you a productive session and pleasant stay in Rome.

## **Statement by the President of the International Fund for Agricultural Development Mr Kanayo F. Nwanze**

Madam Chairperson,  
Excellencies,  
Distinguished Governors,  
Guests,  
Ladies and gentlemen,

On behalf of all of us at IFAD, it is my privilege and pleasure to welcome you to the thirty-fourth session of the Governing Council.

These are difficult days for those of us concerned with the state of rural poverty and global food security. With floods – in Australia, Brazil, and Sri Lanka – once more in the headlines; with recent droughts in China, Kenya and Somalia; with food prices soaring in many parts of the world. Climate change, social unrest, a world that is becoming overcrowded as the population grows, to a projected 7 billion this year, and 9 billion by 2050. And the instability created by financial markets and the collapse of economies.

It is clear that there is nothing simple about reducing poverty and ensuring food security for today or for tomorrow.

Operating in this complex environment is a challenge, but it is one that IFAD is well positioned to meet. Today, I am pleased to be able to report on the progress we have made that is paving the way for IFAD to be more efficient, more agile and, most importantly, more effective in contributing to global food security today, and in the years ahead.

### **Highlights of 2010**

When we met at our Governing Council last year, I showed you where we were coming from and what we had achieved in 2009. Since then, we have reached a number of milestones. We have increased the amount of cofinancing by about 140 per cent to a total of US\$1.6 billion; our disbursements reached a record of US\$457.6 million dollars; we continued to expand our country presence, with 30 country offices approved by the end of last year by the Executive Board; and we introduced our first-ever Medium-term Plan. This is a three-year rolling workplan that will help IFAD make the most efficient use of every resource to reduce rural poverty.

And there is ongoing reform on many fronts, including human resources management, administrative efficiency, financial management and organizational effectiveness.

The details of these, and of all our operational achievements in 2010, are reported in depth in our annual report. A draft is available for you to read at your leisure.

So instead of elaborating on our past achievements, I would like to look ahead – to where IFAD would be by 2015, the end point of the Millennium Development Goals. We must never lose sight that our work is closely intertwined with the first of these goals – to reduce by half the proportion of people living in extreme poverty and hunger.

### **IFAD's new thinking**

Rural areas of our planet hold the key to solving some of the most critical challenges facing humanity. The development of rural areas is central to overcoming hunger and poverty, mitigating climate change, achieving energy security and protecting the environment.

You will have noticed that there has been a subtle but important change in IFAD's thinking in recent years. The contexts and prospects for agricultural development are changing rapidly. We have seen fast growth in the reach of supermarkets, locally, nationally and globally, and the development of modern, consolidated value chains for agricultural products. These new and evolving markets offer opportunities for poor rural people to generate more income than ever before, but only if they are able to offset the high entry costs.

As a result, while our core mandate and our target population have not changed and will not change, we are sharpening our approach.

Rather than romanticizing the concept of lifting poor rural women, men and children above the poverty line, like a plague that can be eradicated by charity and humanitarian gestures, we are advocating the proactive creation of vibrant rural economies. Rural economies where young people see a future for themselves; rural economies that offer a range of attractive opportunities for people to choose from; rural economies that allow them to fulfil their individual aspirations.

IFAD's aim is to enable smallholder farmers and other poor rural people to have a significantly better standard of living than they do today. They will then be able to spend and invest in their own livelihood opportunities and in the local economy.

To achieve this – and I believe this is the pivotal issue – it is essential to recognize that we are not going to get people out of poverty if we operate in a mode of “business as usual”. For a transformation to take place, there must be, first and foremost, a change in mindset. The first step is recognizing that farming of any scale is an economic activity, a business. And businesses need clear links along the value chain – from production to processing, marketing and consumption.

The second step is to unlock the potential of an asset that all of us have, whether rich or poor, landed or landless. That asset is our ability to be creative, to be innovative, to be entrepreneurial. A poor person, even if they have land, will remain poor if they are not creative. But a poor person, even if they are landless, can break out of poverty if they have the means to be creative and innovative.

Achieving IFAD's aim calls for three types of investment: Investment of **political capital** to spearhead a transformation of the rural sector. Investment in **human capital** to develop and equip poor people, particularly the young; and investment of **financial capital**.

Take Elysée Nkundabagenzi of Rwanda. In her community, where people were extremely poor and malnourished, she and her neighbours received small loans, goats and cows, and training on how to establish a kitchen garden.

Elysée now produces enough vegetables and milk to eat, and extra to sell in the market. She can send her children to school and buy health insurance. And she has been able to move out of her grass hut into a new house. In all of the IFAD-supported programmes and projects I have visited in the last two years, I have been impressed, even awed, by the desire and the ability of people to transform their own lives when the right investments have empowered them to do so – even the poorest among them.

Investing in young rural women and men is also crucial for vibrant rural economies.

Current events show the energy, creativity and power of young people, and also the importance of ensuring they can see a future for themselves in the societies in which they live.

In rural areas, these young people are the next generation of farmers, producers and workers. Give them the skills and confidence they need to run profitable farms or start businesses, and they will become the upstanding citizens and community leaders of tomorrow. Ignore them, and they will have little option but to leave their homes and families to search for work in the cities seeking better lives but often finding only more misery.

### **Creating more vibrant rural economies**

IFAD is already taking steps to create more vibrant rural economies. The programmes and projects we support are generating the conditions for smallholders and other poor rural people to become entrepreneurs in the new, evolving markets. This includes advocating reducing transaction costs, supporting rural producers' organizations, expanding financial services into rural areas, and ensuring that small farmers have

access to infrastructure, utilities and information – taking full advantage of existing and emerging information and communication technologies. Encouraging partners to invest in good governance is another key ingredient.

Indeed, the IFAD of 2015 will capitalize on what IFAD already does best: advocating for poor rural people; bringing partners together to fund sustainable rural development programmes; empowering poor rural people; and expanding our “bottom up” model so that poor rural people are true partners in their own development.

IFAD has an **absolute** advantage when it comes to working with and advocating for smallholders. As an international financial institution and a United Nations specialized agency, we are the only such organization dedicated exclusively to reducing rural poverty in developing countries.

We have a proven track record in rural and agricultural development spanning more than 30 years, because we have stuck firm to our focus even during times when many donors and governments were turning their attention to other areas.

### **Partnership**

Increasingly, our national and international development partners are investing their own resources through IFAD’s programmes through cofinancing. Let me quote one figure from our results in the first year of the Eighth Replenishment of our resources – that is, 2010 – that speaks to the strength of our partnership-building: For every dollar contributed to the replenishment, IFAD mobilized another six dollars from its partners for rural development programmes.

Our traditional partnerships will continue to define IFAD in 2015. But in recent years, we have expanded our partnership strategy to involve the private sector. We see **responsible** private-sector engagement as an essential element in optimizing economic opportunities in rural areas. We will be looking to attract private-sector investments through partnerships with IFAD. Simultaneously, we will be looking to invest in and strengthen the small and medium-sized enterprises necessary to underpin thriving rural economies, such as agroprocessing, marketing and financial services. We will also increase our partnerships with the agro-industrial and agribusiness sectors. Unless the rural space is transformed into vigorous and competitive economies, poor people will remain behind and unable to participate in new economic opportunities.

IFAD will also look at new and innovative financial partnerships that can help us further expand our programme of work. One example is the Spanish Food Security Cofinancing Facility Trust Fund, which was approved by our Board in 2010. Through a loan of over EUR 285 million – equivalent to about US\$400 million – from the Government of Spain, and a grant of EUR 14.5 million, we will be able to scale up our operations, while at the same time continue to provide much needed financial support to small-scale farmers.

The new Spanish Trust Fund is testament to IFAD’s credibility and reliability as a partner in rural and agricultural development, and to its ability as an international financial institution. Indeed, IFAD has recently received endorsements from the OECD’s Development Assistance Committee and the Multilateral Organisation Performance Assessment Network as being a strong, results-focused organization.

Our experience and our investment in efficiency and transparency are paying off. IFAD is highly trusted by our Member States, by farmers’ organizations, and by women and indigenous peoples.

We have worked to build this trust – on the ground, where we are creating new country offices and extending our presence; in Rome, where our biennial Farmers’ Forum brings together leaders of farmers’ organizations from around the world to interact with IFAD staff and partners; and within our newly established Indigenous Peoples’ Forum, which I am happy to announce has been formally established at IFAD, following a workshop held over the last two days. Its **first global meeting is expected to be in 2013 in conjunction with IFAD’s Governing Council.**

### ***Rural Poverty Report 2011***

Looking to the future, the IFAD of 2015 will also be shaped by the findings of our recently released ***Rural Poverty Report 2011***. The report is the most comprehensive and current assessment of the state of rural poverty. Our work is already being guided by its findings, including four essential steps to eliminate poverty and hunger.

These are:

- To help poor rural people better manage the risks they face
- To sustainably increase agricultural production recognizing the profound impact that climate change is already having
- To facilitate equitable access to new and changing marketplaces by viewing smallholder farms first and foremost as businesses
- To encourage the growth of non-farm rural jobs

### **Conclusion**

As IFAD looks to the future, we will continue to scale up the work we do on the ground, while also expanding our advocacy efforts for rural development. Because we know that smallholder agriculture can lead economic growth in developing countries and lift millions out of poverty, but only if it is market-oriented, profitable and environmentally sustainable.

And it is beginning to happen. Look at Viet Nam. Look at the United Republic of Tanzania. Look at Ghana. In each of these countries, smallholders are leading agricultural and economic growth.

With your continued support, IFAD will have the strength, creativity and determination to rise to the challenges of operating in an ever-more complex environment – and to successfully meet those challenges head on.

We are now actively working to meet this challenge in the Eighth Replenishment period. In order to provide for the timely review of resources before this period expires, the Executive Board has endorsed a draft resolution for the Establishment of the Consultation on the Ninth Replenishment of IFAD's Resources, for approval during this session of the Governing Council.

I encourage you to give this timely consideration in order to authorize the beginning of the Consultation.

As we turn our attention to these matters, and other areas of business over the next two days, I hope that we will all be able to keep the vision of IFAD in 2015 in mind. For the work we do today will lay the foundations for the achievements of tomorrow.

### **Call to action**

To ensure that these achievements materialize, I would like to issue a call to action to each and every one of us in this room today.

To our developing country Members, I call on you to make tangible commitments to investment of political capital, of financial capital and in human capital at home to create the conditions for successful rural development. Because change cannot be imposed from outside, it must be cultivated from within.

To our donor country Members and other partners, I call on you to recognize where countries have shown the commitment, by supporting them with the right policies and investments.

And to IFAD staff, I call on you to continue to work tirelessly to scale up our support to rural development on the ground, to show results, and to champion a new and more dynamic vision of rural development.

The future is in our hands.

Thank you all for your attention.

**Statement by the Chairperson, Her Excellency Clémentine Ananga Messina, closing the thirty-fourth session of the Governing Council**

Mr President,

Distinguished Governors and delegates,

Ladies and gentlemen,

The thirty-fourth session of the Governing Council is now drawing to a close. This year's Council focused on the future and, in particular, on young rural people who, with the help of IFAD and its partners, must be positioned at the forefront of global strategies for food security, poverty reduction and income growth.

At the opening ceremony, we had the privilege of welcoming the United Nations Messenger of Peace, Her Royal Highness Princess Haya Al Hussein. In her address to the Governing Council, Her Royal Highness sounded a wake-up call to the international community.

Noting that IFAD's mission is more timely than ever, Her Royal Highness urged Members to join her in committing to do more to combat the continuing scourges of hunger and malnutrition.

The Governing Council was also honoured with the presence of Mr Kofi Annan, Chairman of the Board of the Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa and former United Nations Secretary-General.

Addressing the Council, Mr Annan outlined a compelling vision of Africa that would achieve its potential not only to feed its own citizens but to help create a secure global food system. Mr Annan underscored that IFAD and its Member States, united in the belief that efforts to end poverty need to be accelerated urgently, have an integral role in bringing this vision to fruition.

Representing IFAD's host nation, the Honourable Luigi Casero, Under-Secretary of State, Ministry of Economy and Finance of the Italian Republic, addressed the Council at an important milestone in Italy's rich history, as the country prepares to celebrate the 150th anniversary of its unification. The Governing Council took pride in the appreciation of IFAD's presence in Rome, serving as a tangible symbol of Italy's commitment to international cooperation, and welcomed our host government's continued generosity and support.

In his inaugural statement, President Nwanze looked towards the end point of the Millennium Development Goals and expanding the Fund's "bottom up" model so that poor rural people become true partners in their own development. As IFAD is the only international agency exclusively dedicated to reducing rural poverty in developing countries, the President called for increased investment in political, financial and human capital to help create more vibrant rural economies. The President's statement is both a forceful and hopeful declaration of just how the Fund envisions its future path.

The Council welcomed the creation of the Indigenous Peoples' Forum and was pleased by what promised to be a valuable addition to the events organized around the Governing Council sessions.

In concluding the opening ceremony, the Governing Council paid tribute to the recipients of the IFAD staff awards for their outstanding achievements. This tribute should favour a competitive spirit among staff.

Over the past two days we have heard many powerful statements by IFAD's Governors, affirming the importance that the Member States and the international community place on the Fund's work and renewing the call for a united effort to bring about a better future for the world's rural young poor people.

Distinguished Governors,

Turning to the business of the session, we had the pleasure of welcoming the Republics of Uzbekistan and Hungary as new Members of the Fund. I am sure I speak on behalf of all Governors in welcoming both these countries to our organization.

The Council took note of the status of the Eighth Replenishment of IFAD's resources. More significantly, the Council established the Consultation on the Ninth Replenishment of IFAD's Resources. With this decision we have entrusted the Consultation with reviewing the adequacy of our Fund's resources, with a view to further enhancing its capacity to respond to the needs of rural poor people. This task is critical for the future vitality of IFAD, and I wish the Consultation members every success.

The Council approved IFAD's consolidated financial statements for 2009. The Council also approved the budgets of IFAD and of the IFAD Office of Evaluation for 2011 and, in so doing, Governors endorsed a record programme of IFAD loan and grants for 2011, totalling US\$1 billion. The summary records of this session will place on record the abstentions by Germany and Italy in regard to the budget.

Governors adopted a resolution concerning the Voluntary Separation Programme for IFAD.

The Council postponed consideration of the revision of IFAD's Lending Policies and Criteria to the thirty-fifth session of the Governing Council. The Council adopted a resolution on the re-establishment of the Emoluments Committee, noting the change in composition with respect to the initial proposal made during the preliminary discussions, whereby List B, or Indonesia, has been replaced by Gabon. Finally, the Council heard reports on the implementation of the performance-based allocation system and the Global Mechanism of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification.

Distinguished Governors,

Once again Governors benefited from a lively interactive discussion in plenary session and compelling parallel events on regional themes. These events afforded Members an opportunity to exchange views, showcase IFAD's achievements and provide an important impetus for its future work.

Fellow Governors,

I am sure I speak for the Council in offering our thanks to the IFAD staff who have shown commendable expertise in planning and organizing this conference. A special word of thanks goes to the interpreters, the technical staff and, of course, the conference messengers. Their efficiency, thorough organization and professionalism have ensured and contributed to the success of this session.

I would like to express my appreciation for having been honoured with the duty of presiding over these past two sessions of the Governing Council. Serving as Chairperson of the Council has indeed been an enriching experience. I must truly thank my colleagues on the Bureau for their generous support and assistance. And of course, I wish to thank each and every one of you for your hard work and dedication to the cause of enabling rural poor people to overcome poverty.

Ladies and gentlemen,

As members of the highest-level governance mechanism of IFAD, we should all be pleased with the work we have accomplished over the last two days. The thirty-fourth session of the Governing Council has been extremely fruitful. Our work has been all the more facilitated by the efforts of the Executive Board, which it should be recalled, held its 100th session in 2010.

Before ending the work of the current session, may I wish those of you leaving Rome a pleasant journey home to your respective countries, and productive discussions to the

delegations attending the first session of the Consultation on the Ninth Replenishment of IFAD's Resources here tomorrow.

I hereby adjourn this thirty-fourth session of the Governing Council.





Enabling poor rural people  
to overcome poverty

المنذبون في الدورة الرابعة والثلاثين لمجلس المحافظين

## Delegations at the thirty-fourth session of the Governing Council

## Délégations à la trente-quatrième session du Conseil des gouverneurs

## Delegaciones en el 34º período de sesiones del Consejo de Gobernadores

الرئيس:

**Chairperson:** Clémentine Ananga Messina  
**Président:** (Cameroon)  
**Presidente:**

نانبا الرئيس:

**Vice-Chairpersons:** Jan de Bock (Belgium)  
**Vice-Présidents:** Gladys Francisca Urbaneja Durán  
**Vicepresidentes:** (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela)

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	Bajram KORSITA Manager First Albanian Financial Development Company (FAF-DC) Tirana

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**LESOTHO**

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المراقبون من المنظمات الحكومية الدولية

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المراقبون من المنظمات غير الحكومية

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Document: GC 34/L.1/Rev.2  
Agenda: 2  
Date: 19 February 2011  
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**E**

Enabling poor rural people  
to overcome poverty

## Agenda and programme of events

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Governing Council — Thirty-fourth Session  
Rome, 19-20 February 2011

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For: **Approval**

## Agenda

1. Opening of the session
2. Adoption of the agenda
3. Applications for non-original membership
4. Statement of the President of IFAD
5. General statements
6. Report on the Eighth Replenishment of IFAD's resources
7. Ninth Replenishment of IFAD's resources
8. Consolidated financial statements of IFAD for 2009
9. IFAD's capital and administrative budgets and the budget of the IFAD Office of Evaluation for 2011
10. Report on the special expenditure for the Voluntary Separation Programme for IFAD for 2009-2010
11. Revision of IFAD's Lending Policies and Criteria
12. Progress report on implementation of the performance-based allocation system
13. Progress report on the Global Mechanism of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification
14. Emoluments of the President
15. Other business

## Programme of events

### Saturday, 19 February 2011

#### Morning session 9 a.m. to 1.30 p.m.

- 9 a.m. to 10.30 a.m. Inaugural ceremony
- 10.30 a.m. to 1.30 p.m. Consideration of agenda items

#### Afternoon session 3 p.m. to 7 p.m.

- 3 p.m. to 5p.m. **Interactive dialogue on the theme of the Governing Council:** "Feeding future generations – Young rural people today, prosperous farmers tomorrow". The panel will be composed of two to three guest speakers and two to three heads of delegation. Each will speak for five minutes, followed by a question-and-answer session.
- 5p.m. to 7.30 p.m. Further agenda items, including general statements
- 7.30 p.m. to 10 p.m. Reception for all delegates

### Sunday, 20 February 2011

#### Morning session 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

- 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. Side events (in parallel):  
Weathering the global economic crisis: opportunities and challenges for rural youth in the Asia and the Pacific region
- Unleashing the potential of young rural people in Near East, North Africa and Europe
- 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Side events (in parallel)
- Rural Youth: Investing today for a better tomorrow in sub-Saharan Africa
- Supporting rural youth microenterprises in Latin America and the Caribbean
- 1 p.m. to 1.20 p.m. General statements
- 1.20 p.m. to 1.30 p.m. Closure of the session

### Monday, 21 February 2011

First session of the Consultation on the Ninth Replenishment of IFAD's Resources<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> For Member States participating in the replenishment Consultation.

## List of documents placed before the thirty-fourth session of the Governing Council

Document No.	Agenda Item	Title
GC 34/L.1/Rev.2	2	Provisional agenda and programme of events
GC 34/L.2	3	Applications for non-original membership
GC 34/L.3	6	Report on the status of donor contributions to the Eighth Replenishment of IFAD's resources
GC 34/L.4/Rev.1	7	Establishment of the Consultation on the Ninth Replenishment of IFAD's Resources
GC 34/L.5	8	Consolidated financial statements of IFAD as at 31 December 2009
GC 34/L.6	9	IFAD's 2011 results-based programme of work and administrative and capital budgets, and the IFAD Office of Evaluation's results-based work programme and budget for 2011 and indicative plan for 2012-2013
GC 34/L.7	10	Special expenditure for the Voluntary Separation Programme for IFAD for 2009-2010
GC 34/L.9	12	Progress report on implementation of the performance-based allocation system
GC 34/L.10	13	Progress report on the Global Mechanism of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification
GC 34/L.11/Rev.1	14	Establishment of the Emoluments Committee
GC 34/INF.1 + Add.1		Thirty-fourth session of the Governing Council - Organizational aspects
GC 34/INF.2/Rev.1		IFAD Policy on the Disclosure of Documents (2010)
GC 34/INF.3		IFAD's participation in the Debt Initiative for Heavily Indebted Poor Countries

GC 34/INF.4	Financial highlights of the year ended 31 December 2010
GC 34/Resolutions + Add.1	Resolutions adopted by the Governing Council at its thirty-fourth session
GC 34/Closing	Statement by the Chairperson, Her Excellency Clémentine Ananga Messina, closing the thirty-fourth session of the Governing Council

Document:	<u>GC 34/Resolutions</u>	<b>E</b>
Date:	<u>20 February 2011</u>	
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Original:	<u>English</u>	



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## **Resolutions adopted by the Governing Council at its thirty-fourth session**

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Governing Council — Thirty-fourth Session  
Rome, 19-20 February 2011

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**For: Information**

## **Resolutions adopted by the Governing Council at its thirty-fourth session**

1. The Governing Council, at its thirty-fourth session, adopted resolutions 159/XXXIV, 160/XXXIV, 161/XXXIV, 162/XXXIV and 163/XXXIV.
2. These resolutions are transmitted for the information of all Members of IFAD.

## **Resolution 159/XXXIV**

### **Approval of non-original Members of the Fund**

**The Governing Council of IFAD,**

**Taking into account** articles 3.1 (a), 3.2(b) and 13.1(c) of the Agreement Establishing IFAD and section 10 of the By-laws for the Conduct of the Business of IFAD;

**Having considered** the applications for non-original membership by the Republic of Uzbekistan and by the Republic of Hungary, transmitted to the Council in document GC 34/L.2, and the recommendation of the Executive Board thereon;

**Approves** the membership of the Republic of Uzbekistan and the Republic of Hungary.

## **Resolution 160/XXXIV**

### **Establishment of the Consultation on the Ninth Replenishment of IFAD's Resources**

#### **The Governing Council of IFAD,**

**Recalling** article 4, section 3, of the Agreement Establishing IFAD, which provides that, in order to assure continuity in the operations of the Fund, the Governing Council shall periodically review the adequacy of the resources available to the Fund;

**Further recalling** that the period established by Governing Council resolution 154/XXXII/Rev.1 for the Eighth Replenishment of the Fund's resources will conclude on 31 December 2012;

**Having considered** the statement of the President on the need for a review of the adequacy of the resources available to the Fund and document GC 34/L.4/Rev.1 thereon;

**Having further considered** the need for the establishment of a Consultation on the Ninth Replenishment of IFAD's Resources;

#### **Decides that:**

1. A Consultation on the Ninth Replenishment of IFAD's Resources ("the Consultation") shall be established, chaired by Mr Johannes F. Linn, to review the adequacy of the Fund's resources and to report to the Governing Council. The tasks of the chair of the Consultation are annexed to this resolution.
2. The first session of the Consultation shall be held on 21 February 2011.
3. The Consultation shall consist of all Member States from Lists A and B and 18 Member States from List C, the latter to be appointed by the members of List C and communicated to the President no later than 20 February 2011. The Consultation may subsequently invite such other Member States to participate in the Consultation as may facilitate its deliberations.
4. The Consultation shall submit a report on the results of its deliberations and any recommendations thereon to the thirty-fifth session and, if required, subsequent sessions of the Governing Council, with a view to adopting such resolutions as may be appropriate.
5. The President is requested to keep the Executive Board informed of the progress of the deliberations of the Consultation.
6. The President and the staff are requested to provide such assistance to the Consultation as may be necessary for the effective and efficient discharge of its functions.

## **Annex to resolution 160/XXXIV - Tasks of the chair of the Consultation**

Under the authority of the Consultation on the Ninth Replenishment of IFAD's Resources, the chair will:

- (a) Chair formal consultation meetings;
- (b) With the support of the Secretariat, synthesize discussions and prepare the chair's summary of each meeting, concisely and accurately reflecting the status of negotiations;
- (c) Ensure that the final report and recommendations of the Consultation respond to the terms of reference of the Consultation – as set forth in the present resolution – and conform to the Agreement Establishing IFAD and other basic documents adopted by the Governing Council;
- (d) Oversee all aspects of the Consultation meetings, discussions and deliberations, including providing guidance and support to the Secretariat of the Governing Council;
- (e) Critically review and comment on draft documentation and reports prepared for each consultation, ensuring good quality control and strategic coherence;
- (f) Lead and facilitate discussions and negotiations among the membership, as well as between the IFAD's leadership and the membership, to build consensus to achieve successful outcomes for the review of the adequacy of the resources of the Fund; and
- (g) Work with the President and staff on the preparations for meetings or negotiations to ensure issues are presented effectively.

## **Resolution 161/XXXIV**

### **Administrative and capital budgets of IFAD for 2011, Ninth Replenishment budget, extraordinary compensatory budget for the 2011 Governing Council and administrative budget of the IFAD Office of Evaluation for 2011**

#### **The Governing Council of IFAD,**

**Bearing in mind** article 6.10 of the Agreement Establishing IFAD and regulation VI of the Financial Regulations of IFAD;

**Noting** that, at its 101<sup>st</sup> session, the Executive Board reviewed and agreed upon a programme of work of IFAD for 2011 at a level of SDR 640 million (US\$1 billion), which comprises a lending programme of SDR 598 million (US\$935 million) and a gross grant programme of US\$65 million;

**Having considered** the review of the 101<sup>st</sup> session of the Executive Board concerning the proposed administrative and capital budgets of IFAD for 2011, Ninth Replenishment budget, extraordinary compensatory budget for the 2011 Governing Council and the administrative budget of the IFAD Office of Evaluation for 2011;

**Recalling** resolution 124/XXIV adopted by the Governing Council at its twenty-fourth session in 2001, establishing a Programme Development Financing Facility (PDFF) as a separate programme from the programme of work and the administrative budget of IFAD. The purpose of the PDFF being to finance the expenditures required for the design and implementation of projects and programmes financed by IFAD's loans and grants;

**Further recalling** that the Governing Council at its thirty-third session in 2010 approved, in its resolution 157/XXXIII, the integration of the PDFF expenditures into the administrative budget, starting from 2010;

**Aware** that, in 2004, Governing Council resolution 133/XXVII authorized the amendment of regulation VI, paragraph 2 of the Financial Regulations of IFAD, to allow unobligated appropriations at the close of the financial year to be carried forward into the following financial year up to an amount not exceeding 3 per cent of the said financial year;

**Conscious** that the aforementioned 3 per cent carry-forward currently applies to the administrative budget with the exclusion of the PDFF expenditures, and noting the need for a 6 per cent cap for carrying forward country programme development and implementation unspent balances into the 2011 financial year;

**Approves** firstly, the administrative budget of IFAD for 2011 in the amount of US\$140.59 million, secondly, the capital budget of IFAD for 2011 in the amount of US\$15.19 million, thirdly, the Ninth Replenishment budget in the amount of US\$2 million, fourthly, the extraordinary compensatory budget for the 2011 Governing Council in the amount of US\$0.49 million and, fifthly, the administrative budget of the IFAD Office of Evaluation for 2011 in the amount of US\$5.88 million, as they are set forth in document GC 34/L.6, determined on the basis of a rate of exchange of EUR 0.72/US\$1.00;

**Determines** that in the event the average value of the United States dollar in 2011 should change against the euro rate of exchange used to calculate the budget, the total United States dollar equivalent of the euro expenditures in the budget shall be adjusted in the proportion that the actual exchange rate in 2011 bears to the budget exchange rate; and

**Further approves** that unobligated appropriations at the close of the financial year 2010 for country programme development and implementation may be carried forward into the 2011 financial year up to an amount not exceeding 6 per cent of the corresponding appropriations.

## **Resolution 162/XXXIV**

### **Extension of the appropriation of the special expenditure for the Voluntary Separation Programme for IFAD for 2011**

#### **The Governing Council of IFAD,**

**Bearing in mind** article 6, section 10, of the Agreement Establishing IFAD and regulation VI of the Financial Regulations of IFAD;

**Recalling** resolution 156/XXXII adopted by the Governing Council at its thirty-second session in 2009 approving the special expenditure in the amount of US\$5.5 million to finance the Voluntary Separation Programme for IFAD for the financial years 2009 and 2010;

**Having considered** the recommendation of the 101<sup>st</sup> session of the Executive Board concerning the extension of the appropriation of the special expenditure for the Voluntary Separation Programme for IFAD for 2011;

#### **Decides that:**

The extension of the appropriation of the special expenditure for the Voluntary Separation Programme for IFAD for 2011, as contained in document GC 34/L.7, is approved and requests the President to submit a final report including expenditures to the Governing Council in February 2012.

## **Resolution 163/XXXIV**

### **Re-establishment of a Committee to review the emoluments of the President**

#### **The Governing Council of IFAD,**

**Considering** that, at its ninety-ninth and 101<sup>st</sup> sessions, the Executive Board recommended to the Governing Council that guidelines be developed regarding the housing arrangements of the President of the Fund and the overall emoluments and other conditions of employment of the President;

**Considering therefore** that it is advisable to revisit the emoluments of the President;

**Having considered** document GC 34/L.11/Rev.1, the proposal therein and the Executive Board's recommendation thereon, and acting under rule 15 of the Rules of Procedure of the Governing Council;

#### **Decides:**

- (a) To re-establish an emoluments committee to review the overall emoluments and other conditions of employment of the President of IFAD. The committee shall submit to the thirty-sixth session of the Governing Council, through the Executive Board, a report thereon together with a draft resolution on the subject for adoption by the Governing Council;
- (b) The committee shall consist of nine Governors (four from List A, two from List B and three from List C) or their representatives who shall be nominated by the Chairperson pursuant to rule 15.2 of the Rules of Procedure of the Governing Council; and
- (c) The committee shall be provided with specialist staff to offer such support and advice as the committee may require.

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## **Resolutions adopted by the Governing Council at its thirty-fourth session**

### **Composition of the Consultation on the Ninth Replenishment of IFAD's resources and of the Emoluments Committee**

#### **Note to Governors**

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Governing Council — Thirty-fourth Session  
Rome, 19-20 February 2011

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**For: Information**

## **Resolutions adopted by the Governing Council at its thirty-fourth session**

### **Composition of the Consultation on the Ninth Replenishment of IFAD's resources and of the Emoluments Committee**

1. The **Consultation on the Ninth Replenishment of IFAD's resources** will consist of all Member States from Lists A and B and the following 18 Member States from List C:

Sub-List C1: Angola, Cameroon, Egypt, Burkina Faso, Senegal and Uganda.

Sub-List C2: China, India, Pakistan, Republic of Korea, Turkey and Afghanistan.

Sub-List C3: Argentina, Brazil, Ecuador, Guatemala, Mexico and Uruguay.

2. The composition of the **Emoluments Committee** will be the following:

List A: Denmark, Germany, Italy and the United States of America.

List B: The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela and Gabon

Sub-List C1: Angola

Sub-List C2: Bangladesh

Sub-List C3: Brazil

