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Synthesis of deliberations at the first meeting of the Ad Hoc Working Group on Governance

Note to Governors

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Ad Hoc Working Group on Governance — First Meeting
Rome, 14 April 2015

For: Information

Synthesis of deliberations at the first meeting of the Ad Hoc Working Group on Governance

1. The first meeting of the Ad Hoc Working Group on Governance was held on 14 April 2015, at IFAD headquarters. Members participated from Angola, Argentina, Denmark, Indonesia, Italy, Pakistan, the United Kingdom, the United States of America and the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela. Representatives for Benin, China, France, Germany, India and Norway attended as observers.
- A. Opening of the meeting and election of the Chair and Vice-Chairpersons of the Working Group**
2. As prescribed by its terms of reference, the Working Group elected ad personam His Excellency Claudio Rozencwaig of Argentina, as Chair from List C; Ms Elizabeth Nasskau of the United Kingdom to represent List A as Vice-Chair, and Mr Tazwin Hanif, of Indonesia, to represent List B as Vice-Chair.
- B. Adoption of the agenda**
3. The agenda of the meeting was adopted without amendment.
- C. Terms of reference of the Working Group**
4. The Secretariat delivered detailed PowerPoint presentations on (i) the Working Group on Governance and IFAD's List system; and (ii) a review of IFAD's replenishment process.
 5. Members found both presentations very useful, and requested that the contents of each be turned into more comprehensive background documents, to be used as a basis for discussion at subsequent meetings. Members were invited to submit their comments to the Secretariat so that these could be taken into consideration in finalizing the documents in question.
 6. During deliberations, a number of issues were raised, including the need to:
 - (a) Look for flexibility within the existing parameters of the Agreement Establishing IFAD and to avoid the need to amend the Agreement;
 - (b) Clarify further the benefits of a four-year replenishment cycle versus a three-year cycle. In this regard, Management informed participants that a meeting of representatives of various international financial institutions was scheduled to take place in Rome in May, with a view to sharing views on reform implementation in terms of resource mobilization and other issues;
 - (c) Compile comparative data on the Lists with respect to contributions and number of contributing Member States over time; and
 - (d) Provide further information on IFAD's vote allocation system.

The Secretariat would take these issues into consideration in drafting documentation for the Working Group's consideration at future meetings.
 7. Members were reminded that a dedicated section for background documentation, open to all Member States, had been created on the Working Group's home page on the Member States Interactive Platform. This documentation pertained to prior reviews that had been undertaken with respect to IFAD's governance and provided historical context. Members' proposals for inclusion of additional documentation were welcome.
- D. Workplan for 2015 and the way forward**
8. The meeting considered the proposed Workplan for 2015 (WGG 2015/1/L.2). There was broad agreement that a systematic approach should be adopted and that a

comprehensive and accurate review of the List system would be required before addressing other topics, including the duration of replenishment cycles. Some flexibility on the content of the meetings would therefore be necessary. To ensure timely and thorough preparation, Members requested that documents for consideration at working group meetings be provided two weeks in advance of each meeting. Resource people should be present from the Office of the General Counsel at each meeting and the Independent Office of Evaluation of IFAD would be invited to present relevant findings of the corporate-level evaluations on efficiency and on IFAD's replenishments.

9. Procedures for reporting on the deliberations of the Working Group were discussed and it was agreed that:
 - (a) A synthesis of the deliberations of each meeting would be prepared for the approval of the Chair and Vice-Chairs. This document would form the basis of the progress reports to be delivered by the Chair to the Executive Board.
 - (b) The final report to be provided to the Executive Board in December 2016, including conclusions and recommendations, would be considered in a meeting of the working group, prior to its submission to the Executive Board. Member States that were not members of the working group would be able to submit their views through their List representatives in the working group.
10. Bearing in mind cost-efficiency principles and the importance of language parity, it was agreed that interpretation services would be provided for working group meetings on a demand-driven basis. Member States would be requested to confirm their attendance at working group meetings one month in advance, indicating whether and in which of the Fund's official languages interpretation was required.
11. In conclusion, the meeting approved the proposed workplan for 2015, with the following amendments: (i) the second meeting scheduled for 3 June would be moved to 17 June; (ii) alternative dates for the October meeting would be identified bearing in mind possible conflicts with International Monetary Fund/World Bank meetings; and (iii) a date for a possible additional meeting in December would be identified. Informal seminars on specific topics would also be arranged if appropriate and required.