

International Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development (ICARRD)
New challenges and opportunities for revitalizing rural communities

5th Steering Committee Meeting
Friday, 9 December 2005, 15h00-17h00,
FAO Nigeria Room (C-215)

Chairman's Record of the Meeting

Attendance:

Host Country representatives:

H.E. Flávio Miragaia Perri, Ambassador to FAO, Permanent Representative of Brazil to FAO
Mr. Saulo Ceolin, Permanent Representation of Brazil to FAO
Ms. Ligia Maria Scherer, Permanent Representation of Brazil to FAO

Regional Representatives:

Africa :

Mr. Yasser Sorour, Permanent Representation of Egypt to FAO

LAC:

Mr. Sergio Insunza Becker, Deputy Permanent Representative of Chile to FAO
Ms. Liz Haydee Coronel Correa, Permanent Representative of Paraguay to FAO
Mr. Horacio Maltez, Permanent Representation of Panama to FAO
Mr. Gabriel Bellon, Permanent Representation of Uruguay to FAO

Asia:

Mr. Noel D. De Luna, Chairman of the Steering Committee, Deputy Permanent Representative of the Republic of the Philippines

European Union:

Mr. Vic Heard, Permanent Representation of UK
Natalie, Feistritz, Permanent Representation of Austria

Near East:

North America:

FAO-ICARRD Executive Secretariat:

Parviz Koohafkan, Director, SDA, Executive Secretary of the ICARRD Secretariat; Thomas Price, Senior Programme Officer, Civil Society Cooperation, TCDS; Paul Munro-Faure, Chief, SDAA; Jenny Dey de Pryck, Chief, SDAR, Olivier Dubois, Senior Officer, SDAR; Paolo Groppo, Land Tenure System Analysis Officer, SDAA; Nuria Felipe, GIIM, Edgar Guardian, FAO Manila, Rosalud de la Rosa, SDAD/ICARRD Secretariat.

Observers

IFAD: Atiqur Rahman, Lead Strategist and Policy Coordinator, EAD
CSO Observer: Beatriz Gasco-Verdier, International Planning Committee

Agenda Items:

1 Introduction

- a. The Minutes of the 4th Steering Committee meeting were approved.
- b. The Election of Vice-Chairman was postponed until the next Steering Committee meeting in January when a proposal will be forthcoming from the Africa region.

2 Progress on technical, administrative and financial matters

- a. Result of deliberation of the FAO Conference
 - i. The Executive Secretary reported on the deliberation of the FAO Conference on ICARRD. There was strong support from the

Conference, but no direct offers of finance from members; although Spain and Norway had responded positively to proposals. IFAD reaffirmed its commitment to ICARRD.

- ii. Concerns had been expressed by delegates to the Conference about the timing of the arrival of invitations and the level of participants. The Executive Secretary reported that all FAORs had already been requested to inform countries of the ICARRD and of the forthcoming invitation to the government to attend the conference. A similar request would also be made through an invitation by the Director General to the Permanent Representatives (see 2 h i). Ambassador Perri Representative of the host country reported that the Director General had indicated his preference that the Government of Brazil invites Heads of State. It was agreed that the Director General would send invitations to governments "at large" which could then decide their appropriate level of representation. The Steering Committee requested that this should be sent out as early as possible.
 - iii. The possibility of dedication of ICARRD to Josue de Castro was not raised during the FAO Conference, and it was considered that this could be decided by the Steering Committee. It was agreed that information on Mr de Castro should be circulated to the Steering Committee members to help in their deliberations.
- b. Conference draft rules of procedure (follow-up)
- i. The Executive Secretary reported that a revised wording of the draft rules of procedure is addressing concerns about the identification of the Presidency and Acting Presidency of ICARRD. The revisions will also accommodate the approach to the participation of regional groups along the model adopted during the preparation of the Voluntary Guidelines on the Right to Food. The updated draft rules will be circulated by the Executive Secretary to the Steering Committee in January 2006.
- c. Timetable agenda
- i. The chairman reminded the Steering Committee members that the timetable and the agenda of the Conference need to be finalised as soon as possible at least in the draft form as it should accompany the FAO Director General's invitations to ICARRD.
 - ii. There was general agreement on the content and the time table of the agenda of ICARRD but suggestions were made to accommodate possible time requirements for the statements by heads of the delegations. Adjustments were also made to allow more panel discussions, exhibitions and poster presentations. The Executive Secretariat clarified that the process of registration will take place through internet prior to the Conference and direct registration the day before the start of ICARRD.
 - iii. In response to the IPC representative's request, it was clarified that civil society organizations would be invited to be represented at the opening ceremony.
 - iv. Given that all heads of delegations will want to speak, it was agreed that the plenary should continue until all had spoken, if necessary running in parallel with other sessions. For day 2 and the following days this implies that three sessions would run concurrently. Since the FAO Conference decided that there should be a maximum of two concurrent sessions, it would require an

- initial decision by the ICARRD to endorse this at the initial opening of the Conference.
- v. The Steering Committee agreed that the Statement by Civil Society should be delivered at ICARRD in the morning of Day 4 so as to give civil society the opportunity to share their ideas to the delegates before the adoption of the Conference report and Conference declaration.
 - vi. The Steering Committee agreed that the draft timetable should be placed on the ICARRD web site and included in the ICARRD brochure.
- d. Case studies update and presentation during the Conference
- i. The Secretariat reported on progress in the preparation of the case studies and tabled an update of the list to the previously circulated list. Clarification was made on two countries that were deleted from the prior list, Guatemala which was withdrawn by the office of the Permanent Representative to FAO and Fiji which intended to contribute a national report and not a case study.
 - ii. Mr. Guardian from FAO Manila office provided an update on the developments of the preparation of case studies and the thematic dialogue in the Philippines, as well as participation of the Secretary of Agrarian Reform to ICARRD.
 - iii. The Steering Committee noted that there is a lack of case studies and experiences of the countries in transition and central Asia in the existing list and that the fundamental land reforms in these countries since the early 1990's are critically important experience of land reform. The UK representative agreed to approach the next EU Coordination Meeting to identify appropriate case studies and support for this.
- e. List of eminent personalities and guest speakers (follow-up)
- i. The Executive Secretary agreed to prepare a paper by early January on the Secretariat's recommendations for the themes to be discussed in panels (as identified in the issues papers) and on available "eminent persons and panellists" as the basis for decisions on their invitation to ICARRD based on logistics and resources.
 - ii. The Steering Committee agreed that the IPC could nominate 2 out of a total of around 18 anticipated panellists and that these should represent institutions rather than personalities.
- f. Conference outputs and outcomes (follow-up).
- i. The Steering Committee agreed to the formation of a working group to deal with the drafting of the declaration with Government representatives and regional groups in Rome prior to the Conference. The working group will be chaired by the United Kingdom and will start its work on 6 January with a deadline suggested of 30 January for a draft.
 - ii. The Steering Committee requested that the next draft declaration be much shorter than the existing draft. It was agreed to divide the outcomes into three parts, (1) a preliminary report of the expected conference deliberations (2) a short declaration and a Plan of Action which should not be more than two pages.
 - iii. The point was made by the Africa Region representative regarding the draft declaration, that (page 2, second para, line 2), in addition

to human rights, religious and other rules were also critical in relation to the examination and formulation of policies and practices for securing access to and control over land and productive resources. Chile, Brazil, Austria and Paraguay stated that the drafting of Declaration in early stage should enable the regional groups to begin the process of consultations with their capitals that will be going to ICARRD. Likewise, it will ensure the continuity of decisions between Rome, the capitals and Porto Alegre and the avoidance of last minute negotiations.

- g. Communication strategy
 - i. The Executive Secretary reported on the communication strategy, including the web site and preparation of a brochure.
 - ii. The Steering Committee approved the communication strategy but agreed that part of its section 6 be removed.
 - iii. The Permanent Representative of Brazil indicated that GII would be very welcome to visit with their Brazilian counterparts in Porto Alegre to ensure that international and national needs are well coordinated.
 - iv. The Chair requested to monitor the number of 'hits' on ICARRD website to gauge the public interest on ICARRD.
- h. Letter to Permanent Representatives
 - i. It was confirmed (as noted under 2 a ii) that, in addition to the letter to the Permanent Representatives and the agenda, there will be a separate invitation by the Director General of FAO to the government of each country with copies made to the Permanent Representatives.

3 Any other business

- a. The Steering Committee reaffirmed the need for 6 languages coverage of the conference, although it was noted that if China was prepared to accept not to have interpretation that alternative arrangements may be made for Chinese.
- b. The representative of the IPC was introduced and provided a summary of civil society's preparations and expectations for the parallel civil society consultation and for the ICARRD. The Civil Society Forum will be from 6-9 March 2006. Attention was drawn to the need for finance for this activity.
- c. The date for the next meeting of the Steering Committee would be set some time after 18 January 2006.