

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

6th Steering Committee Meeting
Tuesday, 24 January 2006, 10.30 – 12.30,
FAO India Room (A-327)

Chairman's Record of the Meeting

Attendance:

Host Country representatives:

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

Regional Representatives:

Africa :

H.E. Said Mansour, Deputy Representative, Permanent Representation of Egypt to FAO
Mr. Yasser Sorour, Alternate Permanent Representative, Permanent Representation of Egypt to FAO
Mr. Mohamed Elfaki, Permanent Representation of Sudan 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. Gabriel Bellon, Permanent Representation of Uruguay to FAO

Asia:

Mr. Johari Ramli, Permanent Representation of Malaysia to FAO
Mr. Ramaligam Pavasuvam, Permanent Representation of India to FAO
Mr. Noel D. De Luna, Chairman of the Steering Committee, Deputy Permanent Representative of the Republic of the Philippines

European Union:

Mr. Norbert Winkler, Permanent Representation of Austria
Mr. Vic Heard, Permanent Representation of the United Kingdom

European Group:

Mr. Yüksel Yücekal, Permanent Representation of Turkey to FAO

Near East:

H.E. Akram Al-Jaff, Permanent Representation of Iraq to FAO
Mr. Abdul Razak Ayazi, Permanent Representation of Afghanistan to FAO

North America:

Ms. Harriet Spanos, Permanent Representation of the United States Mission to FAO

FAO-ICARRD Executive Secretariat:

Parviz Koochafkan, Director, SDA, Executive Secretary of the ICARRD Secretariat; Thomas Price, Senior Programme Officer, Civil Society Cooperation, TCDS; Sieglinde Ring, Senior Coordination Officer, OCDC; Miriam Saif, GICO; Paul Munro-Faure, Chief, SDAA; Jenny Dey de Pryck, Chief, SDAR, Olivier Dubois, Senior Officer, SDAR; Eve Crowley, Senior Officer, SARD; Paolo Groppo, Land Tenure System Analysis Officer, SDAA; German Rojas, Senior Officer, GIIM; Nuria Felipe, GIIM, Stephane Jost, Technical Officer, SDAR; Catherine Gaury, Secretary, SDAD; Rosalud de la Rosa, SDAD/ICARRD Secretariat.

Observers

IFAD: Atiqur Rahman, Lead Strategist and Policy Coordinator, EAD

Agenda Items:

1 Introduction

- a. The Minutes of the 5th Steering Committee meeting were approved subject to Mr Yasser Sorour's clarification that his position is that of Alternate for the Permanent Representative of Egypt.
- b. The Committee received the report of the Alternate Permanent Representative for Egypt that the request for a nomination from the Africa region for election as Vice-Chairman of the Committee had been raised at a recent Africa Group meeting. It was agreed at that meeting that Egypt would continue to lead the Group's input into the Steering Committee. The Africa Group was not in a position to propose a candidate at the meeting. The election of a vice chairman was again deferred.

2 Progress on technical, administrative and financial matters

- a. Conference draft rules and procedure (follow up)
 - i. The Committee noted and approved the adjustments to the wording of Rules 5, 6 and 9. The Committee requested the insertion under Rule 17 of the approach to the participation of regional groups along the model adopted during the preparation of the Voluntary Guidelines on the Right to Food for approval of the next Committee meeting. Brazil requested that the Rule should reflect that different approaches are appropriate for the plenary sessions, where the conventional approach remains appropriate, and for the two Commissions, where the proposed "Voluntary Guidelines" approach is appropriate.
- b. Timetable and agenda of ICARRD
 - i. The Executive Secretary reported, and Ambassador Perri updated the meeting, on the agenda and arrangements for ICARRD. The Government of Brazil has invited the 12 heads of state of the South American Community of Nations and the head of state of the Philippines to the inaugural ceremony on 6 March, commencing at 4pm. The Government is also inviting all delegations to the inaugural ceremony. This will last for two hours and will be under the chairmanship of the President of Brazil. During that period each head of state present will be invited to take the floor, followed by heads of International Organizations and other appropriate heads of organizations. The inaugural ceremony will be followed by a reception offered by the Government of Brazil at 6 p.m.
- c. Review of list of participants financed by ICARRD Trust Fund
 - i. The Executive Secretary briefed the Committee on progress in securing funds and on requests for support. He informed the Committee that, in addition to the Trust Fund support for one delegate from each Least Developed Countries (LDC), additional options are being mobilised to support the attendance of delegates, including particularly through support by donors and International Financial Institutions funded projects. Requests for funding from non-LDC countries (Iraq, Panama and Ivory Coast) have also been received. The invitations request responses by 17 February.
- d. List of eminent personalities and panellists (follow up)
 - i. The Executive Secretary reported on progress in finalizing the list of eminent speakers. Main authors of the issues papers will be

invited and are expected to attend. Around ten eminent speakers are expected to be invited to attend the conference. The Secretariat will circulate to the Steering Committee the list of potential invitees, together with the prioritized list based on selection criteria, by close of business on 24 January. The Secretariat is still happy to consider additional proposals for inclusion on the list.

- e. Review of dialogue with civil society and their participation
 - i. The Executive Secretary reported a continuing constructive dialogue with civil society and that the civil society parallel conference starts one day before the start, and ends one day before the end of the ICARRD conference, thus allowing civil society's resolutions to be put before ICARRD. Civil society expects 4-5,000 people to attend their conference and has requested that 400 core participants, selected by civil society, should be allowed to attend ICARRD. They are seeking funding for this event. IFAD confirmed the IPC has submitted a request for \$200,000 support and that this will be provided subject to the necessary approvals in IFAD. The preparation of the CSO issue paper is being finalized with constructive contribution to ICARRD. Upcoming CSO meetings that will be held in Bamako (during the FAO Regional Conference) and Venezuela (Social Forum) will also have relevance to ICARRD. Ambassador Perri mentioned that several events preparations by international CSOs with Brazilians will contribute to the success of inter-change.
- f. Conference outputs and outcomes (follow-up).
 - i. Review of the elements for a conference declaration
The chair of the working group preparing the draft declaration (Mr Heard from the UK Permanent Representation) reported on progress. In the Steering Committee's discussions, the importance of the inclusion of the lasting platform and indicators of progress was emphasised (as identified in the Council and Conference endorsed Concept Note), but without creating a new UN body. A possible format for such a platform was proposed as a special sub-committee of the CFS. The chair of the Steering Committee reminded the working group of the original deadline of 31 January for submission of the draft. He requested that the group have one further meeting (subsequently fixed for 2.30pm, 26 January). This should produce a final draft for consideration by the Steering Committee and for subsequent release to the member countries for their comments.
 - ii. Case studies update
The Secretariat reported that 15 case studies are actively under preparation with meetings completed or set for specific dates. Of these, four reports have been received to date. A further 15 case studies are under discussion/preparation. The Permanent Representative of Paraguay, Ms Correa, requested a consolidated list of all deadlines relating to ICARRD and its preparation. The Secretariat agreed to prepare this for inclusion on the ICARRD website and on the Permanent Representatives' website and will inform the Steering Committee accordingly.
 - iii. Review of the issues papers
The chair indicated that the steering committee would start to operate as an editorial committee now that the issues papers are becoming available in their final draft forms. It was clarified that the editorial role of the committee is to ensure conformity with FAO's

standards, and therefore that matters of substance are not a concern. The documents are issues papers and are not statements of FAO policy. The Executive Secretary reported that each paper has been subject to substantial internal and external peer review before being presented to the Steering Committee. Two issues papers were circulated with the present Steering Committee agenda and the remaining three will be circulated before 27 January. The Steering Committee's inputs to all issues papers are requested by 3 February to enable finalisation and translation, with the intention of having translated versions by mid-February. The chair indicated that the Steering Committee will only review and edit the five issue papers except for the civil society paper in order to give CSOs the freedom to write their views. Ambassador Perri encouraged the distribution of the issue papers to all stakeholders at the country level for inputs prior to ICARRD. National Reports can be accepted up to the final date prior to the Conference.

iv. Review of lasting platform and list of indicators

This was referred to under 2 f. i.

v. Partnership fair

The Executive Secretary reported that, whereas the special theme sessions are typically designed around presentations, panel discussions and debate, the partnership fair sessions aim at developing a project and extending partnerships. Registration forms for both are available on the website and applications and proposals are encouraged. At present the Secretariat has received 21 proposals for special sessions. These, and others, are planned to be accommodated in parallel sessions in the large number of rooms available. The Steering Committee requested that the theme of coastal fisheries should be included if possible in the special sessions.

vi. Review of special forum lists and technical panels

This was referred to under 2 f. vi.

vii. Private sector involvement

The Executive Secretary reported that little interest has been expressed by the private sector in ICARRD to date. Reflecting some enquiries, the Executive Secretary requested an indication of the Government of Brazil's position on private sector participants who wished to present their products at the conference. Ambassador Perri indicated that it would be only natural that the private sector wished to participate. He added that he would be seeking information on possible modalities for that participation and on whether private sector approaches have been made to the Brazil National Committee.

g. Communication strategy (brochure)

- i. Mr Rojas (GII) reported on the preparation of the FAO brochure and tabled the prototype, indicating that it would be printed and ready for distribution by 3 February. It was requested that the dates on the front cover be amended to 6-10 March, reflecting the inaugural session on 6 March. The statistics on the website, specifically requested by the 5th Steering Committee meeting, indicated a total of 7,500 hits to date and a steady pattern of increasing numbers and durations of hits. The webpage is being promoted by the ICARRD newsletter, the first copy of which was distributed on 23 February. Press kits are being prepared and FAO's media team will go to Brazil in advance of the start of the

conference. The costs of webcasting and live video coverage are being assessed by GII.

- h. Letter of invitation
 - i. It was confirmed that the invitation by the Director General of FAO to the government of each country is scheduled to go out today and the text was tabled. Ambassador Perri mentioned that his preference would be simply to mention that the Government of Brazil is inviting the heads of state of the South American Community of Nations, rather than mention MERCOSUR etc. It was confirmed that ICARRD is an FAO conference at ministerial level and not a Summit.
- i. Review of conference facilities
 - i. The Executive Secretary relayed the Brazil National Committee's report that preparations are proceeding well.

3 Any other business

- a. The chair proposed that the Steering Committee should meet on a weekly basis from now until the conference.
- b. The proposal that ICARRD be dedicated to Josue de Castro was approved by the Steering Committee.