

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

7th Steering Committee Meeting
Tuesday 31 January 2006, 10.30 – 12.30,
FAO India Room (A-327)

Chairman's Record of the Meeting

Attendance:

Host Country representatives:

Ms. Ligia Maria Scherer, Permanent Representation of Brazil to FAO
Mr. Aurimar Nuñez, Permanent Representation of Brazil to FAO

Regional Representatives:

Africa :

LAC:

Ms. Liz Haydee Coronel Correa, Permanent Representative of Paraguay to FAO

Asia:

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

European Union:

Ms. Nathalie Feistritzer, Permanent Representation of Austria

Mr. Vic Heard, Permanent Representation of the United Kingdom

European Group:

Near East:

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; Sieglinde Ring, Senior Coordination Officer, ODCD; Miriam Saif, GICO; Paul Munro-Faure, Chief, SDAA; Paul Mathieu, Senior Officer, SDAA; 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

CSO Observer: Antonio Onorati, International Planning Committee, IPC

Agenda Items:

1 Introduction

- a. The Minutes of the 6th Steering Committee meeting were approved.
- b. The election of a vice chairman was deferred.

2 Progress on technical, administrative and financial matters

The sequence of items in the agenda was adjusted by the Chair with the agreement of the Steering Committee. This is reflected in these minutes.

- a. List of eminent personalities and panellists (follow up) (formerly 2 b. on the agenda)

- i. The Executive Secretary reported that those on the list of eminent personalities and panellists circulated with the agenda had been invited to ICARRD and several acceptances had been confirmed. The IPC representative, as observer, informed the meeting that civil society's proposals of up to four additional names would be confirmed shortly to the Secretariat.
- b. Participation of the civil society organisations to ICARRD (formerly 2 c. on the agenda)
 - i. The Executive Secretary reported on civil society participation in the preparation of ICARRD, indicating in particular that, following the Government of Brazil's signature of the Memorandum of Understanding with FAO, the funds included under that agreement to support civil society participation at the conference were being made available to IPC under a Letter of Agreement. Other donors have also been approached by the secretariat to secure additional funding for civil society participation, with a number of countries expressing interest in offering such support, but with no concrete offers of resources to date. The Executive Secretary reported that the case studies would enable a further around 30 civil society participants to attend the conference.
 - ii. The IPC representative reviewed the civil society preparations and plans for the period of the conference. The Civil Society Forum that will take place in parallel with the conference is viewed as a process. Civil society has targeted around 400 invited people from all countries around the world to participate in this forum and in the preparation of the civil society outputs. The anticipated civil society activities are:
 - 1. 4-5 March: Mass gathering of landless people movements on land access
 - 2. 5 March: Meeting of researchers and academicians on agrarian reform from a civil society perspective
 - 3. 6, 7, 8 March: Civil Society Forum. During evenings large scale debates are planned.
 - 4. 8 March: March of rural women's groups on access to land
 - 5. 9 March: Rally to submit civil society's formal statement to ICARRD.
 - iii. The IPC representative indicated three main bridges between the civil society forum and ICARRD, in addition to the civil society prepared issue paper and participation in the case studies. These were the keynote issues paper speaker; inputs into the open dialogue and presentation of the final declaration.
 - iv. The IPC representative drew attention to two remaining problems, visas and financial support, while recording the thanks of the IPC for the support of the government of Brazil, FAO and ICARRD Secretariat. The importance of securing participants' visas quickly was responded to by the representative from Brazil who informed the Steering Committee that Brazilian Embassies and consulates are being informed of the need to address applications promptly. On the issue of resources, the Executive Secretary responded that he was hoping for further positive news in the coming days.
- c. Communication strategy (formerly 2 f. on the agenda)
 - i. The Secretariat briefed the Committee on progress in updating the ICARRD webpage, on the printing of the ICARRD brochure and on the preparation of a poster, based on the brochure.
- d. Review of conference facilities (formerly 2 g. on the agenda)

- i. The Executive Secretary reported on progress in preparation of the conference facilities. This is going well with good logistical facilities so far. Registration for each of the special events (thematic session; partnership; poster presentation, etc.) is now available online, and members were asked to identify their space requirements.
 - ii. The IPC representative requested accreditation of 50 civil society passes as floating passes to be available for civil society selected participants to participate in the conference, as was the practice during the World Food Summit meetings held in Rome. The Chairman requested the Secretariat to take this issue up with the government of Brazil, together with issues relating to accreditation and credentials of participants.
- e. Case studies update (formerly 2 e. on the agenda)
 - i. An updated table showing progress in the preparation of the case studies was tabled during the meeting.
- f. Review of the issues papers (formerly 2 a. on the agenda)
 - i. The Secretariat made a brief presentation of issue paper 1.
 - ii. The Steering Committee agreed, in view of the time constraint, that the Secretariat should proceed with translation of the internally finalised papers and send both the originals and translations to member countries, and post them on the website, as soon as they become available.
- g. Review of the elements for a conference declaration
 - i. The Chair recorded the gratitude of the Steering Committee to the representative of the UK for his effective chairing of the conference declaration working group
 - ii. The Steering Committee received this preliminary draft and requested that the draft should be translated as soon as possible into the official languages of FAO and circulated to the member countries with a view to start its negotiation. The Executive Secretary agreed to have the translations ready for circulation by cob 3 February 2006. It was agreed by the Steering committee that negotiations would start on the draft declaration on 16 February under the continuing chair of the UK representative. The Chair proposed that the negotiating group should comprise two representatives from each region, with other members entitled to attend as observers. The UK representative expressed a preference for this to be increased to three representatives per region.

3 Any other business

- a. No other business was raised.
- b. The date of the next meeting is to be advised.