

**FIFTEENTH COORDINATION MEETING ON
INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION**

Population Division
Department of Economic and Social Affairs
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**CONTRIBUTION
TO THE FIFTEENTH COORDINATION MEETING ON INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION¹**

International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)

¹ The views expressed in the paper do not imply the expression of any opinion on the part of the United Nations Secretariat.

**A. IFAD'S CONTRIBUTION TO THE MIGRATION-RELATED COMMITMENTS OF THE 2030 AGENDA
FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NEW YORK
DECLARATION FOR REFUGEES AND MIGRANTS**

IFAD's mandate is to invest in rural women, men and youth to improve their livelihoods and ultimately overcome poverty. It does so with a holistic approach that addresses the creation of economic opportunities, social empowerment, quality of life improvements, institutional development and good governance, and the restoration and improved management of natural resources. In recent years, IFAD has also increasingly invested in strengthening the resilience of poor rural households and smallholder farmers with respect to climate change and a variety of risks and stressors. Accordingly, the programmes and projects that IFAD supports aim to address many of the root causes of migration from rural areas, linked to poverty, food insecurity, precarious access to natural resources, instability, and natural resource degradation. IFAD's Strategic Framework for 2016-2025 recognizes that remittances from migrant workers can make a major contribution to inclusive growth, but also that limited livelihood opportunities in rural areas can result in high levels of out-migration, and deprivation of the human capital needed to achieve rural transformation.

Over the past 35 years, IFAD has developed innovative approaches to build entrepreneurship opportunities for the rural poor, with specific attention to women and youth, and has been leveraging remittances and diaspora investment to improve the living standards of migrant families in communities of origin. Through its programmes, IFAD intervenes both in refugees, IDPs and migrants' host communities and countries of origin. IFAD helps not only refugees to cope, but also supports migrants by providing further opportunities to return home, thus reducing the push factors of migration. In this context, IFAD's multi-donor Financing Facility for Remittances (FFR) has financed over 50 innovative projects in more than 40 countries, focused on maximizing the impact of remittances and migrant investments for development. With the U.S. Department of State, IFAD also launched the Diaspora Investment in Agriculture (DIA) initiative in 2011, aimed at promoting the role of diaspora in investing back home, particularly in fragile and post-conflict contexts. These are some of the many concrete examples of IFAD's efforts in leveraging the contribution of migrant workers and encouraging the engagement in sustainable economic development through investment in agriculture.

Please find below the requested information:

**B. SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES UNDERTAKEN DURING 2016 TO SUPPORT THE
IMPLEMENTATION OF THE MIGRATION-RELATED COMMITMENTS OF THE 2030
AGENDA**

In 2016, IFAD's FFR launched its 5th Global Call for Proposals on Scaling-Up Remittances and Diaspora Investment, awarding six innovative projects on remittances to be implemented in 2017. The FFR also successfully continued to strengthen its scaling-up approach by mainstreaming remittances into IFAD-supported operations. As a result, IFAD's Executive Board approved two projects in 2016:

1. in Mali, focused on diaspora investment contributing to rural inclusiveness by promoting remunerative and sustainable employment, and sustainable access to financial services for rural young people; and
2. in Senegal and Morocco, engaging diaspora communities in Italy in collaborative efforts to support rural development and youth employment in their countries of origin.

In its ongoing operations, IFAD is currently financing several programmes in Asia, Africa, and Latin America and the Caribbean, aimed at providing sustainable sources of income to poor households, migrant families and returnees, engaging with diaspora by supporting the creation and expansion of family, micro, small and medium rural enterprises, both in the on- and off-farming sectors.

Furthermore, IFAD continued its efforts in the framework of the African Postal Financial Services Initiative (APFSI), promoting the role of postal operators in leveraging remittances for development in Africa. The initiative is currently rolling out a large technical assistance programme in several African countries, supporting the provision of remittance transactions in rural areas, enhancing competition in the market, and increasing access to finance by rural population through post offices.

In 2016, IFAD also launched the Facility for Refugees, Migration, Forced Displacement and Rural Stability (FARMS) to increase support for rural communities affected by forced displacement and migration, including both host communities and communities of origin for refugees, IDPs, returnees and vulnerable migrants. Funds mobilized through the Facility will be invested in addressing causes and consequences of these crises that lie within IFAD's mandate, and support efforts to bridge the humanitarian/development gap. In December 2016, IFAD's Executive Board approved US\$4 million in seed funding for FARMS. In this context FARMS will also promote learning and sharing of best practices in bridging the humanitarian-development gap and addressing the rural dimensions of forced displacement and migration through development-oriented approaches.

On advocacy at global level, IFAD continues to raise awareness on the enormous impact remittances have in the development of migrant workers' home countries through its contributions to the international debate. To this end, the International Day of Family Remittances (IDFR), celebrated each year on 16 June, has been adopted by over 80 money transfer operators as well as GSMA (the biggest network of mobile operators), together with IOM and the Global Migration Group (GMG).

Subsequently, the IDFR has been firstly recognized in the Report on International Migration and Development A/71/296 (paragraphs 43-44) of UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon at the 19th September High-level Summit to Address Large Movements of Refugees and 3

Migrants¹. In December 2016, the IDFR was included in the UN Draft Resolution on International Migration and Development A/C.2/71/L.48 (paragraph 18)² adopted by the Second Committee on Globalization and Interdependence: International Migration and Development.

In 2016, IFAD also organized several events, among which the second African Conference on Remittances and Postal Networks in Abidjan (Ivory Coast). Over two days, some 120 high-level delegates across sectors (postal operators, postal banks, regulatory authorities, governments, the private sector, international organizations and civil society) met to discuss challenges and opportunities related to African remittance markets and regulatory frameworks, as well as to encourage and facilitate the initiation of business partnerships among public-private entities. In addition, IFAD hosted technical workshops, in collaboration with key partners, on the role of remittances for development.

¹ www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/71/296

² www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/C.2/71/L.48

C. INITIATIVES THAT WILL BE UNDERTAKEN DURING 2017 TO SUPPORT THE IMPLEMENTATION
OF THE NEW YORK DECLARATION FOR REFUGEES AND MIGRANTS.

1. The Global Forum on Remittances and Development (GFRD) 2017 - New York, 15-16 June 2017

The 2017 edition of the GFRD is organized by International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), in partnership with the World Bank and the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN-DESA).

The GFRD2017 will be a milestone of the newly-established Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration, and it will focus on the development impact of remittances linked to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the Addis Ababa Action Agenda (AAAA), and to the challenges and opportunities of the current global remittance market.

The Forum will be held in New York at the United Nations headquarters and will see the participation of key stakeholders working in the field of remittances (governments, private sector and civil society). The GFRD2017 will serve as a platform for sharing lessons learned and best practices on innovative business models, stimulating long-lasting partnerships, and raising awareness towards a more enabling remittance market. In doing so, the event will contribute to the global governance of and enhance coordination on remittances and diaspora investment, pursuing the efforts to significantly decrease the costs of transferring remittances and maximizing their impact for development.

The GFRD2017 Agenda will encompass plenary and technical sessions featuring an international line-up of globally-renowned technical experts and advocates.

During the Forum, the latest publication of the series “Sending Money Home” will be launched. It will be an update of the first publication launched in 2007, entitled ‘Sending Money Home: Worldwide remittance flows to developing and transition countries’.

The first day of the GFRD, 15 June, will be dedicated to the exchange between various sectors, bringing financial industry representatives and technology entrepreneurs together 4

with government policymakers and regulators, in order to share new innovative instruments, promote synergies and partnerships, and discuss burdens and regulations, with the aim to increase access to financial services, foster competition in the remittance markets, and promote remittance channels open to developing countries.

The second day of the Forum will be dedicated to the third celebration of the International Day of Family Remittances, aimed at recognizing the fundamental contribution migrant workers make to their communities of origin through the money they send back home.

A Remittance Marketplace will also run parallel to the Forum on 15 June and will provide a space for the private sector, development organizations and civil society stakeholders to showcase their products, initiatives and projects, so as to create a platform for building stronger alliances and sharing best practices among key players in the remittance market. The Marketplace will also serve as a networking arena to promote partnerships and worldwide cross-learning experiences. Leading companies representing migrant associations, MTOs, mobile money companies, commercial banks, credit unions, international organizations, NGOs, regulators and donors will be invited to participate.

The past editions of the GFRD focused on different geographic areas (global, LAC, Africa, Asia-Pacific and Europe) and were organized together with key partners such as the Inter-American Development Bank, the African Development Bank, the World Bank and the European Commission.

The GFRD has become, over the last decade, a unique global event in which to discuss both global and regional remittance-related issues and find solutions to maximize the development impact these funds represent. The forums are always well attended, with over 400 participants from all sectors (private, public, and civil society) of the remittance arena. They provide an opportunity for different players to engage in the global discussion on remittances, migration and development by raising further interest from different perspectives.

As the only organization which is both an IFI and a specialized agency of the UN, IFAD has the capacity to play an important role in multi-stakeholder approaches to addressing migration. As the only IFI exclusively focused on investing in rural areas, which are the starting point for many vulnerable migrants and host a large share of the world's displaced persons and vulnerable migrants, IFAD brings an unique perspective in addressing the rural dimensions of migration, and its impacts on rural communities.
