

IFAD

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Submission No:6.....

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2nd March 2004

RECEIVED
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Mr Andrew Southcott MP
Chairman
Joint Standing Committee on Treaties
Canberra, ACT
Australia

BY: *Gillian Gould*

Dear Mr Southcott,

Re: Proposal to Withdraw from IFAD Membership

Australia's proposal to withdraw from its membership of IFAD seems to be based on the misguided judgement that IFAD is an ineffective organisation whose objectives do not marry with those of the Australian aid programme.

As an international agricultural consultant with some 25 years of experience in 40-odd countries, I am concerned that the Government has got it wrong about IFAD. I completed my first assignment for IFAD in 1979 and have worked for the organisation on and off since then. I have also worked for many other international organisations and bilateral aid agencies, and network closely with other consultants who do likewise. My colleagues and I all believe that IFAD is one of the best and most effective international organisations which fully deserves ongoing support from Australia.

I understand that one of the reasons given for the proposed withdrawal is that IFAD does not focus its efforts on our region. If this is a valid reason then Australia should also withdraw from numerous other international organisations. The European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) would appear to be a logical candidate for withdrawal on the basis of regional interest.

I therefore request that the Joint Standing Committee on Treaties give due consideration to the views of people who know IFAD well and respect its achievements in delivering developmental assistance to the rural poor.

Yours Sincerely,

David Young