



Investing in rural people

Governing Council — Thirty-eighth Session
Rome, 16-17 February 2015

Resolution 189/XXXVIII

Proclamation of an International Day of Family Remittances

The Governing Council,

Recalling the Declaration of the High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development, unanimously adopted by the General Assembly and Member States on 3-4 October 2013;

Recalling Resolution 55/93 adopted by the General Assembly, proclaiming 18 December as International Migrants Day, which calls for the protection of their human rights;

Welcoming the recommendation, unanimously endorsed by representatives of the public and private sectors and civil society during IFAD's Global Forum on Remittances, held in Bangkok on 20-23 May 2013, to declare an International Day of Family Remittances;

Considering that in many developing countries, international remittances constitute an important source of income to poor families, projected to exceed US\$500 billion annually from 2016 onward;

Noting that the transformative impact remittances have on access to education, food, health and housing is most apparent in communities of the developing world, particularly in rural areas where poverty rates are highest;

Recognizing the critical contributions of migrants in supporting their families living in fragile states and during times of crisis;

Recognizing the work done by Member States, the United Nations system and the role of civil society organizations in promoting the development impact of family remittances;

Recognizing the role of the private sector in developing cost effective and accessible financial transfer services;

Noting that families, as basic units of social life, are major agents of sustainable development at all levels of society and that their contribution to that process is crucial for its success;

Stressing that South-South remittances can represent an important element for international cooperation among developing countries, in their collective pursuit of economic growth and sustainable development;

Mindful that millions of families in rural areas are also supported by domestic remittances sent by family members typically living in urban locations;

- (a) **Proclaims** 16 June to be the International Day of Family Remittances;
- (b) **Invites** all governments, private-sector entities, civil society representatives and inter-governmental and non-governmental organizations to undertake special efforts in observance of this Day;
- (c) **Focuses** attention on the receiving end of family remittances, and the need to capitalize on their potential to further help meet the economic, social and environmental challenges confronting developing countries, particularly in rural areas;
- (d) **Encourages** the private sector to facilitate the sending of remittances and to link these flows to a range of financial services and products for migrants and their families;
- (e) **Invites** civil society organizations to bring forward initiatives based on synergies and partnerships with international organizations, governments and the private sector, that enhance the development impact of remittances in communities of origin; and
- (f) **Calls upon** the United Nations General Assembly to endorse the observance of this day.