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EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL
CABINET DU SECRETAIRE GENERAL

REFERENCE:

12 November 2009

Dear Mr. Nwanze,

On behalf of the Secretary-General, I would like to thank you for your letter of 3 November 2009, inviting him to address the thirty-third session of the Governing Council of the International Fund for Agricultural Development, to be held in Rome on 17 and 18 February 2010.

Unfortunately, I have to inform you that the Secretary-General will be unable to take part in this session, owing to prior commitments. Nevertheless, I am pleased to take this opportunity to convey his best wishes for a successful event.

Yours sincerely,

Vijay Nambiar
Chef de Cabinet

Mr. Kanayo F. Nwanze
President
International Fund for Agricultural Development
Rome

29-11637



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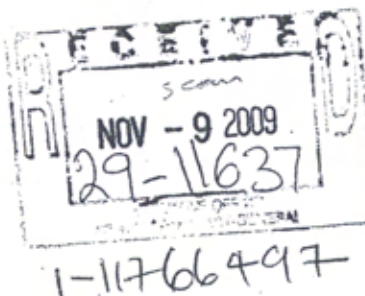
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Enabling poor rural people to overcome poverty

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THE PRESIDENT

3 November 2009

Mr Secretary-General,

The representatives of IFAD's 165 Member States will meet in Rome, Italy for the thirty-third session of IFAD's Governing Council on 17 and 18 February 2010, and it is my honour to invite you to deliver a keynote address at the inaugural ceremony of the session on the morning of 17 February 2010.

Your presence at this event would greatly honour the Governing Council audience, made up largely of Ministers for Agriculture, Development and Finance. Most importantly, your participation would focus attention on rural poverty reduction issues. Your address would also reinforce the powerful message to the world at large that especially at such a crucial point in time -- a time when we are facing a global financial crisis, climate change issues and unprecedented food insecurity -- the rural poor must not be forgotten. It is thus imperative that we stand united in order to broaden support for the economic empowerment of the 1 billion men, women and children living in poverty.

On behalf of the Fund, its Member States and on my own behalf, allow me to reiterate our hope that the Thirty-third session of the Governing Council will be honoured by your presence and ask you to accept, Mr Secretary-General, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Kanayo F. Nwanze

His Excellency
Ban Ki-moon
Secretary-General
United Nations
New York

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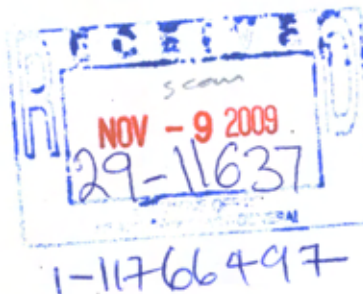
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