

Chair's summary - CRI

Allow me to begin by recalling once again, that I stand with the Secretary-General in his call to end hostilities in Ukraine. As I have already said, IFAD is extremely concerned about the global impacts of the war – especially in the context of other shocks like climate change and COVID-19.

The agenda item “Implications for food security and rural communities arising from the aggression of the Russian Federation against Ukraine” was included on the agenda at the request of 14 Member States. Two Member States noted their concern with the wording of the item title. The Board was asked whether to extend an invitation to the Russian Federation to present its views in the Board proceedings, but objections to this were received. However, as any other IFAD Member States, Russia participated as a silent observer.

The Board's feedback was sought in support of the facility for IFAD's Crisis Response Initiative and in support of IFAD's efforts to mobilize resources. I am pleased that in the Board discussion, all members expressed strong support for both the CRI and IFAD's speed of response.

The comments shared by Board members have been noted and will be recorded in the minutes of this session. The importance of IFAD's contribution to initiatives currently under design by the international community to reinforce smallholder farmers' resilience, such as the “Food and Agriculture Resilience Mission (FARM)” initiative and the “Global Alliance on Food Security” endorsed by the G7 and others was also highlighted. Let me assure you on behalf of IFAD Management that we share the urgency expressed by Member States on this global food crisis and will continue working together with development partners, GCRG members and our sister Rome-based agencies to contribute in the best way possible.

The vast majority of the Board clearly condemned the unprovoked, illegal and unjustified Russian aggression against Ukraine and requested an immediate cessation of hostilities. We further note that the vast majority of the Board expressed that aggression by the Russian Federation against Ukraine poses major threats and has already critical negative impacts on food security, nutrition and rural development in IFAD partner countries, in turn leading to increased difficulty for the Fund to fulfil its objective and its functions. A number of other members stressed the need to mitigate politicization of development



Investing in rural people and focus more closely on IFAD's important mission supporting the rural poor most affected by the growing global food crisis.

The Board, in its vast majority, referenced the General Assembly resolutions (ES-11/1 and ES-11/2) on the aggression against Ukraine that called for an end to military operations, as adopted by a majority of 141 countries, and to the decision adopted by the FAO Council on 8 April 2022 at its 169th session, including a call for civilian and human rights protection, and humanitarian access in Ukraine. A few noted that such resolutions were not fully based on consensus and one member suggested to delete all reference to these resolutions. IFAD's key role as a UN specialized agency aligns with resolutions and decisions of UN bodies and the General Assembly.

With your continued support, including for IFAD's Crisis Response Initiative, I have no doubt that IFAD will be able to quickly scale up our work to tackle the alarming impacts that this war is having on global food, fertilizer and energy markets as well as the current fragility of global food systems. I am grateful to the Government of the Kingdom of the Netherlands for their contribution of EUR10 million and call on other Member States to do the same.