
Closing statement by President Alvaro Lario

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Distinguished delegates and colleagues,

As we conclude the 137th session of our Executive Board, I would like to thank you for the rich discussions, and the dedication you have shown to IFAD's mission and mandate.

During this Board, we discussed important topics that will have an impact on IFAD's operations. I welcome the approval of the Policies on Engagement with Indigenous Peoples and on Data Governance, and the Strategy on Disability Inclusion, as well as the support for the midterm review of the Private Sector Engagement Strategy.

I would like to thank you for your guidance on how to leverage the opportunities offered by climate finance for rural and food systems transformation, which I believe is at the heart of our mandate.

Moreover, let me reiterate that our Targeting Policy is one of my key priorities, and I look forward to additional fruitful consultations in the months ahead that, I am sure, will allow to further clarify and strengthen the policy. It is, after all, a key objective from IFAD12.

In closing, allow me to take a moment to express some words of thanks.

First to you, our Board members, for the trust and support that you have shown during my first Board as Chair. I do not take your support for granted, and I will endeavour to strengthen it further. Today, it gives me great confidence as we strive to deliver on IFAD12, and enter the IFAD13 Consultation.

In particular, I would like to express gratitude to Eric Hilberink, from the Kingdom of the Netherlands, as this is his last meeting with us. Eric has participated in Board sessions and in the Evaluation Committee since 2018. Eric, your contributions to our deliberations have been key, constructive and much appreciated, and we wish you all the best for your future endeavours.

Second, to the IFAD workforce, for their professionalism and commitment to the institution, as evidenced by the smooth organization of this Board meeting and their work throughout the year.

In particular, Alessandra Zusi, who many of you will know and who will retire at the end of this year. Alessandra has been a driving force behind the organization of IFAD's governing bodies for many years.

I would also like to recognize Sylvie Martin's outstanding contribution to the institution, first within our legal division, and then leading the setting up and management of the Ethics Office as its Director until March 2023.

Finally, let me conclude by reiterating my thanks to Dominik Ziller. He will still be with us for a couple of months, but I want to publicly commend his unfailing commitment to IFAD. Dominik, I wish you all the best for the chapter ahead.

With that, I look forward to a fruitful 2023.

Thank you. Safe travels, and happy holidays.