

BRAZIL's Statement at 138th Session of the IFAD Executive Board

Strategic discussion with the President of IFAD

Addressing fragility through a focus on rural livelihoods: a reflection on IFAD's present and future role.

"Thank you, Mr. President. Firstly, I would like to thank IFAD for the warm welcome. I also would like to salute all my fellow colleagues.

Bearing in mind IFAD's role in fragile contexts, Brazil commends the important work that has been carried out by IFAD for playing a significant role in promoting food security, fighting against social inequality, and promoting development actions in fragile areas. The Fund has been an important ally of Brazil in the promotion of nutritional security and the fight against starvation.

The semiarid region of Brazil has a population of about 25 million. This area suffers frequent droughts, which leads to high levels of fragility and vulnerability. IFAD activities in this region of Brazil has been fundamental to build resilience, increase income of communities, reduce poverty and hunger, and improve overall quality of life, which in turn can increase resilience to environmental shocks.

As an example, I would like to highlight the 2022 Impact Assessment of the Dom Helder Camera Project, which benefits rural families of eleven states in the semiarid region of Brazil. The assessment reveals a significant increase of 16% in the total agricultural income of the beneficiaries. This project had also a significant impact on Women and Youth Participation Index, providing an increase of 27% in the joint empowerment of women and youth in beneficiaries families. The assessment also concludes that "technical assistance has changed the lives of family farmers in the Brazilian semiarid region for the better and that when technical assistance is associated with productive funding, the livelihood improvement is even more significant."

Another important aspect of addressing fragility and vulnerability is adopting innovative and sustainable land use practices to reduce soil erosion. The IFAD's action in these areas of fragility carries a multifaceted approach that involves solutions to build resilience and coordinated effort between governmental actors and local communities to promote sustainable development practices while also promoting long term impacts and supporting economic growth.

In view of the current global dynamics and emergent demands, we also are very supportive of the concept of fragile that considers other variables such as: multidimensionality of poverty, the effects of climate change on rural areas, and the impact of global crises.

Those aspects have changed the global scenario and deeply affected people that depend on rural activities to grant their survival. The environmental issue affects even more the rural poor and threatens other groups with a downspin of their economic conditions. In addition to that, global economic crises have disrupted value chains and aggravated the situation of rural poor, that have even less means to defend themselves against the shortage or higher prices of inputs.

Income is now just one of the many elements that must be taken into account to define fragility situations. Having in mind how many countries are affected by a systemic vulnerability, Brazil recognizes member's needs for substantial support in the creation of institutional structure, capacity building and development of a resilient economic framework. Therefore, looking into the future, we encourage that discussion on fragility should consider all regions where rural poverty is a reality.

Regarding the population in rural areas, we cannot forget the increasing number of land related conflicts, when traditional peoples and small producers, until this day, have been forced out of their land. Moreover, indigenous land has been invaded and ravaged by illegal miners and landlords that cause massive environmental and human catastrophes.

Those are surely instances of permanent conflicts that deeply affect people that live in such places. For future actions, IFAD should consider equally the vulnerability of people in every part of the world for continuing to deliver efficient and sensible actions. After all, social inequality destroys opportunities and hides potentials in the same unfair way and our mission is to promote fair conditions to those who historically have not been offered an equal chance.

Thank you, Chair."