

Executive Board 146th Session, Rome 9-10 December 2025

Agenda Item 4: Strategic discussion with the President of IFAD

Pathways out of poverty: Balancing scale and depth of impact

Statement by Denmark

Check against delivery

Mr. President, distinguished colleagues,

Let me begin by congratulating IFAD on this rich and compelling evidence-based analysis. It is an important piece of work. We have long stressed that our interventions must be guided by solid evidence—by what works, and by what works best. This paper provides exactly the kind of clarity we need: a strong demonstration that bundled interventions, value chain approaches, and deeper private sector engagement lead to measurably greater impact for rural people.

Evidence must guide our interventions. But for Denmark, evidence alone is not sufficient. Our development cooperation is guided not only by what works, but also by **our global values**—values that shape the kind of world we work for, and the kind of partnerships we want to build.

This Summer, the Danish Government launched **Denmark's new Strategy for Development Cooperation**. It is built on strong and equal partnerships, and on the recognition that we operate in a rapidly changing world—one that will require reform, not least within the multilateral system. It is also a world where development financing is increasingly scarce. In such a context, we must ensure that every krone and every dollar work harder.

This means we must look at development cooperation more as an **investment**—one that delivers the maximum possible development impact. We need our investments to be **catalytic**, to crowd in additional capital, and to bring the private sector much more actively into rural development. We must embrace innovative and blended financing approaches. In short, we need to **gear and multiply** our resources.

At the same time, our cooperation must accelerate progress in areas that are fundamental to reducing poverty and building opportunity: **jobs for young people, enhanced trade and investments, and stronger economic linkages between rural communities and markets**. And with the escalating pressures of climate change, we must support a **fair, sustainable and green transformation**, ensuring that rural people can adapt, prosper, and contribute to global climate solutions.

These priorities are not separate from the evidence presented by IFAD today. On the contrary—they are deeply aligned. They are integrated components of the pathways out of poverty. Evidence shows that when IFAD links farmers to value chains, brings in private actors, promotes climate-smart solutions, and strengthens rural organizations, the results are deeper, more sustainable, and more transformative.

Denmark strongly supports IFAD's continued efforts to deliver evidence-based rural transformation—rooted in partnership, driven by private-sector engagement, and aligned with global values that promote fairness, sustainability, and shared prosperity.

Thank you.