

IFAD EB148 - Agenda Item No. 4 - Document R.11
Strategic Discussion with the President of IFAD
Statement on behalf of the State of Kuwait
Delivered by Executive Board Member Mr. Khaled F Alkhaled

Thank you Mr. Chair,

Kuwait welcomes this discussion on strengthening IFAD's engagement in fragile and crisis-affected contexts and join others in commending management for preparing this comprehensive document. We recognize that fragility has become an increasingly important feature of IFAD's operating environment and appreciate the institutional progress made since the Board's previous discussion in 2023, including the establishment of the Fragility Unit and the increased emphasis on resilience, prevention, conflict sensitivity and continuity of engagement during crises.

We particularly support IFAD's move toward a more risk-informed and adaptive approach. The introduction of fragility assessments, adaptive programming, RED components and simplified procurement procedures can provide greater flexibility where conventional implementation arrangements may not be effective. At the same time, such flexibility should remain accompanied by strong fiduciary safeguards, appropriate oversight and clear accountability.

We also agree with the paper's conclusion that operations in fragile contexts require realistic expectations regarding implementation capacity, costs and results. Particular attention should be given to countries' absorption and loan-servicing capacity. Resource allocation should therefore remain closely linked to implementation performance and debt sustainability, especially where fragility may result in suspension or cancellation of operations and the reallocation of unused resources.

Kuwait attaches particular importance to partnerships and co-financing. IFAD should continue strengthening cooperation with the Rome-based agencies, multilateral development banks and other development partners, based on clear comparative advantages and complementarity. For IFAD, its particular contribution should remain firmly anchored in its mandate and comparative advantage in rural development, smallholder agriculture and food security.

Regarding the expansion of non-sovereign operations in fragile settings, we would encourage a cautious and selective approach. The paper itself recognizes the limited availability of investable opportunities and the need for specific de-risking arrangements in such environments. Private-sector interventions should therefore demonstrate clear development additionality, sound risk assessment and strong complementarity with IFAD's sovereign operations.

Looking toward IFAD14, Kuwait would encourage IFAD to consolidate and evaluate the tools already introduced before significantly expanding its institutional architecture. Priority should be given to demonstrating that these measures translate into stronger implementation, measurable resilience outcomes and efficient use of resources.

We look forward to continuing the discussion and support IFAD's efforts to strengthen its effectiveness in fragile contexts while maintaining financial discipline, strong fiduciary standards and a clear focus on its core mandate.

Thank you.