

IFAD EB148 - Agenda Item No. 5 - Document R.12
IFAD 2027 Program of Work and 2028-2029 Outlook
Statement on behalf of the State of Kuwait
Delivered by Executive Board Member Mr. Khaled F Alkhaled

Thank you Mr. Chair,

Kuwait joins other members in commending Management for its efforts in developing this comprehensive document and for providing the Board with a useful early overview of IFAD's 2027 programme of work and budget, as well as the outlook for 2028–2029.

We welcome the continued alignment of the 2027 programme with IFAD13 priorities, particularly the emphasis on fragile contexts, climate resilience and biodiversity, and private sector engagement, while ensuring readiness for the transition to IFAD14. We also welcome the shift from pipeline preparation towards implementation and stronger portfolio performance.

Kuwait appreciates Management's continued attention to budget discipline and efficiency. In particular, we note that the proposed regular budget of US\$204.75 million represents a real decrease of 0.5 per cent, despite the nominal increase resulting mainly from inflation and exchange-rate adjustments. We also welcome the efforts to meet emerging priorities through internal reprioritization, process simplification, automation and more efficient use of staffing resources.

At the same time, we encourage Management to ensure that these efficiency measures do not adversely affect IFAD's operational capacity, project quality or implementation support at the country level, particularly in fragile and complex contexts.

We also take note of the proposed capital budget of up to US\$7 million for digital transformation, including AI, automation and cybersecurity. We encourage Management to ensure that these investments are clearly linked to measurable improvements in operational efficiency and development effectiveness.

Regarding the Independent Office of Evaluation, Kuwait welcomes its continued efforts to expand evaluation coverage while maintaining budget discipline, and recognizes the important contribution of independent evaluation to institutional learning, accountability and improved development effectiveness.

In conclusion, Kuwait takes note of the high-level preview presented in the document and looks forward to reviewing the more detailed programme of work and budget proposals later in the year.

Thank you.