

**STATEMENT BY THE VICE-CHAIRPERSON,  
HIS EXCELLENCY MIGUEL RUIZ CABAÑAS IZQUIERDO ,  
CLOSING THE THIRTY-FIFTH SESSION OF THE GOVERNING COUNCIL**

Mr President,  
Distinguished Governors and delegates,  
Ladies and gentlemen,

We have reached the conclusion of the thirty-fifth session of the Governing Council. We have had the privilege of listening to the words of President Nwanze who today and yesterday has repeated his personal commitment and the commitment of all IFAD staff to this cause, which is the rural development of the poor in developing countries.

I think the Governing Council has been extremely intense, extremely rich. We had the privilege and the honour to have His Excellency Paul Kagame, President of the Republic of Rwanda and also to listen to His Excellency Mario Monti, President of the Council of Ministers and Minister for Economy and Finance of the Italian Republic. We had the privilege to listen to His Excellency Joseph Nyuma Boakai, Vice-President of Liberia and the Minister for International Cooperation and Integration Policies of Italy, His Excellency Andrea Riccardi, and also the various Ministers in this extremely diverse panel, Nigeria, Turkey and Bolivia, three Ministers who shared with us their knowledge and know how. We also had the participation of two fresh points of view such as those of Dr Lindiwe Majele Sibanda and Bill Gates, who suggested new points of view, new ideas that I am sure will be taken up in the debates of the Executive Board and other organizations in Rome.

I would also like to welcome two new states, Estonia and South Sudan, and the best thing is that we discussed all the subjects on our agenda, nothing was left out.

I would especially like to stress that the main objective of this Governing Council was that of animating and strengthening the Ninth Replenishment and it was a success. To date 49 countries have made pledges for the Ninth Replenishment for a sum that is already close to US\$1 billion. In the last few days, ten countries have made new pledges for around US\$90 million. I think that is proof of what we have seen here today: this is an IFAD that has known how to restructure, how to show that it is more dynamic and now it is receiving the support of governments, civil society, and other international associations. I think that this is good news for all of us.

I would like to contribute to the food security of everyone and would like to close this session as it is 1.30 p.m. We will close the meeting.