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Investing in rural people

Governing Council

Thirty-seventh Session Report

Rome, 19-20 February 2014

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Chapter 1

Inauguration and proceedings

1. The thirty-seventh session of the Governing Council of IFAD was held in Rome on 19-20 February 2014. The list of participants is attached as annex I.
2. The Council held a total of three meetings, the summary records of which are contained in chapter 3, part A.

A. Opening of the session and inaugural meeting

3. The session was opened by His Excellency Miguel Ruiz Cabañas Izquierdo, Vice-Chairperson of the Governing Council and Governor of IFAD for the United Mexican States.

B. Agenda and documentation

4. The Governing Council adopted the agenda, shown together with the programme of events for the session in annex II. The documents placed before the Council are listed in annex III. The resolutions adopted by the Governing Council appear in annex IV.

C. Election of the Bureau of the Governing Council

5. In accordance with rule 12 of the Rules of Procedure of the Governing Council, an election was held by the Council from among its Governors for a new Bureau, for a term of office of two years, with results as follows:

Chairperson: His Excellency
Luc Oyoubi
Minister for Agriculture, Livestock, Fisheries
and Food Security of the
Gabonese Republic

Vice-Chairpersons: His Excellency
Afonso Pedro Canga
Minister for Agriculture of the
Republic of Angola

His Excellency
Pio Wennubst
Ambassador
Deputy Director, Development and Cooperation
and Head of Global Cooperation in the Federal
Department of Foreign Affairs of the
Swiss Confederation

Bureau of the Governing Council



His Excellency Miguel Ruiz Cabañas
Izquierdo
Ambassador and Permanent
Representative of the United
Mexican States to IFAD



His Excellency Luc Oyoubi
Minister for Agriculture, Livestock,
Fisheries and Food Security of the
Gabonese Republic



His Excellency Afonso Pedro Canga
Minister for Agriculture of the
Republic of Angola



His Excellency Pio Wennubst
Ambassador, Deputy Director,
Development and Cooperation and
Head of Global Cooperation in the
Federal Department of Foreign Affairs
of the Swiss Confederation

D. Inaugural meeting of the session

6. His Excellency, Miguel Ruiz Cabañas Izquierdo, Governor for the United Mexican States and Vice-Chairperson of the Governing Council, opened the thirty-seventh session of the Governing Council.
7. Mr Kanayo F. Nwanze, President of IFAD, welcomed special guests to the inaugural meeting of the session. These welcoming statements are reproduced in chapter 4.
8. His Excellency Fabrizio Saccomanni, Minister for Economy and Finance of the Italian Republic, delivered a keynote address. This address is reproduced in full in chapter 4.
9. Mr Abdullah Jummah Alshibly, Assistant Secretary-General for Economic Affairs, Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf, delivered a keynote address on behalf of His Excellency Dr Abdul Latif bin Rashid Al Zayani, Secretary-General of the Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf, the full text of which is reproduced in chapter 4.

E. Statement by the President of IFAD

10. The full text of President Nwanze's statement to the Governing Council appears in chapter 4.

F. Panel discussions

11. The first panel discussion "Spotlight on the International Year of Family Farming" dealt with the opportunities and constraints facing family farmers today. The panel provided a platform for women and men engaged in family farming from around the world to share their perspectives on the future of family farming and the challenges that need to be addressed in order for them to realize their potential contribution to food security and sustainable development.
12. A second panel event "Small farmers = Big business" focused on the role that private sector investment can play in combating poverty and hunger while creating long-term business solutions for private companies. The session began with a one-to-one discussion with Mr Paul Polman, Chief Executive Officer of Unilever, who outlined how partnerships with smallholder family farmers were adding value to Unilever's business model and ensuring its sustainability. In the second part of the event, panel members, including representatives from cooperatives, agricultural research organizations and development practitioners, discussed the necessary conditions to create a conducive environment for these partnerships and shared success stories from around the world.
13. The event "Stories from the field: Investment in the transformation of rural people's lives" showcased how IFAD-supported projects have truly transformed lives by generating employment opportunities, ensuring nutrition and food security, facilitating access to markets and raising the quality of life of its beneficiaries.
14. Details of the discussions at the Governing Council events can be found in a separate report entitled "Investing in smallholder family farmers ... for the future we want".

G. High-level Governors' round table

15. The statement made at the high-level round table with Governors, entitled "Investing in smallholder family farmers for the future we want" is provided in chapter 3, part B.

H. General statements

16. The general statements delivered by Governors in the plenary session are summarized in the summary records contained in chapter 3, part A. General statements submitted in writing by Member State representatives who did not make oral presentations are reproduced in full in chapter 3, part C. A statement

made on the occasion of the fifth global meeting of the Farmers' Forum, held on 18 February 2014 in conjunction with the Council session, is included in chapter 4.

I. Closure of the session

17. The President of IFAD presented closing remarks to the Council; these are reproduced in full in chapter 4.
18. The Chairperson of the Governing Council, His Excellency Luc Oyoubi, summarized the results of the Council's main deliberations and then closed the thirty-seventh session of the Governing Council. The text of the closing statement is reproduced in full in chapter 4.

Chapter 2

Decisions of the Governing Council

A. Application for non-original membership

19. The Governing Council considered document GC 37/L.2 and, on 19 February 2014, adopted resolution 179/XXXVII, approving the membership of the Russian Federation.

B. Report on the status of contributions to the Ninth Replenishment of IFAD's Resources

20. The Governing Council reviewed the report on the status of donor contributions to the Ninth Replenishment of IFAD's Resources contained in document GC 37/L.3. The Council was informed that, including the pledges received since the date of the report, pledges for the Ninth Replenishment amounted to US\$1,420 million, or 95 per cent of the overall target for donor contributions. It was further noted that instruments of contribution deposited, inclusive of those deposited since the date of the report, amounted to 98 per cent of pledges. Finally, the Council was informed that payments received for the Ninth Replenishment, inclusive of those received since the date of the report, amounted to US\$965 million, equivalent to 68 per cent of the pledged total.

C. Tenth Replenishment of IFAD's Resources

(a) Establishment of the Consultation on the Tenth Replenishment of IFAD's Resources

21. The Governing Council considered document GC 37/L.4/Rev.1 and adopted, on 19 February 2014, resolution 180/XXXVII establishing the Consultation on the Tenth Replenishment of IFAD's Resources. Based on the favourable experience of having an external chair during the Consultation on the Ninth Replenishment, the Governing Council approved the Executive Board's recommendation that the Consultation be chaired by Mr Johannes F. Linn.
22. In accordance with paragraph 3 of the resolution, the Consultation would consist of all Member States from Lists A and B, and 18 Member States from List C, as communicated to the President of IFAD by List C. In this respect, the Council took note of the following composition of List C Member States in the Consultation:
- Sub-List C1: Angola, Benin, Cameroon, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea and Mauritius;
- Sub-List C2: Afghanistan, Bangladesh, China, India, Pakistan and the Republic of Korea; and
- Sub-List C3: Argentina, Brazil, Dominican Republic, Guatemala, Mexico and an additional member to be identified in due course.¹

(b) Establishment of the special expenditure budget for IFAD replenishment exercises

23. The Governing Council considered document GC 37/L.5 concerning the Establishment of the special expenditure budget for IFAD replenishment exercises and adopted resolution 181/XXXVII thereon on 19 February 2014.

D. Consolidated financial statements of IFAD for 2012

24. The Governing Council considered and approved the financial statements showing the financial position of IFAD as at 31 December 2012 and the results of its operations for the year ended on that date, as contained in appendices A to L inclusive of document GC 37/L.6, the report of the external auditor thereon and the

¹ On 20 February 2014, the Secretariat was informed that Peru would be represented in the IFAD10 Consultation.

attestation on the effectiveness of internal controls over financial reporting of the external auditor.

E. IFAD's 2014 results-based programme of work and regular and capital budgets, the IOE results-based work programme and budget for 2014 and indicative plan for 2015-2016, and the HIPC and PBAS progress reports

25. After considering the proposed administrative budget comprising the regular and capital budgets of IFAD for 2014 and the budget of the Independent Office of Evaluation of IFAD for 2014, as presented in document GC 37/L.7/Rev.1, the Governing Council adopted resolution 182/XXXVII relating thereto on 19 February 2014.
26. The Council also took note of the information contained in the progress reports on IFAD's participation in the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC) Debt Initiative and the implementation of the performance-based allocation system (PBAS) at IFAD. Germany registered its abstention from the approval of the Fund's regular and capital budgets.

F. Final report on the special expenditure for reform actualization

27. The Governing Council considered document GC 37/L.8, which provided the final report on the special expenditure for reform actualization and noted the information contained therein.

G. Global Mechanism of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification

28. The Governing Council took note of the information contained in document GC 37/L.9 on the Report on IFAD's Hosting of the Global Mechanism of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa.

Chapter 3

A. Summary records

(including a summary of general statements delivered by Governors)

- (i) Summary record of the first meeting of the thirty-seventh session held on Wednesday, 19 February 2014 at 9.30 a.m.

**Outgoing Chairperson: Miguel Ruiz Cabañas Izquierdo (Mexico)
(Vice-Chairperson)**

Chairperson: Luc Oyoubi (Gabon)

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29. The meeting was called to order at 9.30 a.m.

OPENING OF THE SESSION (agenda item 1)

30. **A video introducing IFAD's new tagline, "Investing in rural people", was screened.**
31. **The outgoing CHAIRPERSON**, declaring open the thirty-seventh session, welcomed participants and said that IFAD was now able to look back on over 35 years of achievements in reaching out to rural men and women. The gains accomplished in 2013, moreover, demonstrated the continuing validity of IFAD's mandate and indeed its leadership role in the area of agricultural development. President Nwanze was to be congratulated for his strategic stewardship of the Fund's critical work of addressing poverty and hunger, raising smallholder agricultural productivity and boosting rural economic growth. He urged Member States to continue their support for IFAD and its mission during the upcoming negotiations for the Tenth Replenishment of IFAD's Resources and expressed confidence in a successful outcome to their discussions at the present meeting.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA (agenda item 2) (GC 37/L.1)

32. **The agenda (GC 37/L.1) was adopted.**

ELECTION OF THE BUREAU OF THE GOVERNING COUNCIL (agenda item 3)

33. **The outgoing CHAIRPERSON**, recalling rule 12 of the Rules of Procedure of the Governing Council, pursuant to which the three members of the Bureau served a two-year term of office, said that the last election of the Bureau had taken place at the thirty-fifth session of the Council, in February 2012. He had been informed of the nomination of Mr Luc Oyoubi, Governor for Gabon, for the office of Chairperson.
34. **Mr Luc Oyoubi (Gabon) was elected Chairperson of the Governing Council by acclamation.**
35. **The outgoing CHAIRPERSON** said that he had also been informed of the nomination of Mr Afonso Pedro Canga, Governor for Angola, and Mr Pio Wennubst, Governor for Switzerland, for the offices of Vice-Chairperson.
36. **Mr Afonso Pedro Canga (Angola) and Mr Pio Wennubst (Switzerland) were elected Vice-Chairpersons of the Governing Council by acclamation.**
37. **The outgoing CHAIRPERSON** said that it had been a pleasure and an honour for his country, Mexico, to have served the Governing Council. He conveyed the gratitude of the outgoing Bureau for the cooperation and support received from Member States and also thanked IFAD's staff for their dedication and commitment, which had ensured the Council's success and facilitated the work of the Bureau.
38. **Mr Luc Oyoubi (Gabon) took the Chair.**

STATEMENT BY THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE GOVERNING COUNCIL

39. **The CHAIRPERSON** made a statement, the full text of which is reproduced in chapter 4.

APPLICATION FOR NON-ORIGINAL MEMBERSHIP (agenda item 4) (GC 37/L.2)

40. **The CHAIRPERSON** invited the Governing Council to adopt the draft resolution contained in document G 37/L.2, approving the non-original membership of the Russian Federation.

41. **Resolution 179/XXXVII was adopted.**
42. **The CHAIRPERSON** said that the Russian Federation had already submitted its instrument of accession to the depositary and would therefore become a Member of the Fund with immediate effect. It was a great pleasure to welcome the Russian Federation to the IFAD membership.
43. **Ms VALKOVA** (Russian Federation) said that membership of the Fund was an important honour for her country, which was now set to become a bona fide IFAD donor through meaningful contribution to the Replenishment process. As a significant partner in the global food security dialogue, it looked forward to further productive collaboration with IFAD in that vital area of work, including through the Committee on World Food Security. She invited IFAD Members to participate in the Global Child Nutrition Forum, which was to be hosted by the Russian Federation in May 2014, in order to discuss and examine effective ways of ensuring the transition from school feeding programmes to comprehensive social protection systems.

INAUGURAL CEREMONY

44. **His Excellency Fabrizio Saccomanni, Minister for Economy and Finance of the Italian Republic, and Mr Abdullah Jummah Alshibly, Assistant Secretary-General for Economic Affairs of the Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf, were conducted to their seats.**

KEYNOTE ADDRESS BY THE MINISTER FOR ECONOMY AND FINANCE OF THE ITALIAN REPUBLIC

45. **Mr NWANZE** (President of IFAD) welcomed the Minister for Economy and Finance of the Italian Republic and said that Italy, always a strong ally in the fight against poverty and hunger, was to be applauded for its commitment to food security. In particular, Rome had been home to IFAD for over 35 years and could be considered the world's food security hub. As a central banker, the Minister had been at the forefront in identifying the core problems faced by the global financial system and in strongly advocating increased domestic investment, an approach echoed by IFAD in communities around the world insofar as increased investment in agriculture and rural communities was essential to unlocking brighter futures.
46. **Mr SACCOMANNI** (Minister for Economy and Finance of the Italian Republic) delivered a keynote address, the full text of which is reproduced in chapter 4.
47. **The CHAIRPERSON** expressed gratitude to the Minister for Economy and Finance of the Italian Republic for his statement and to Italy for the unwavering support and generous hospitality it had always shown towards IFAD.

MESSAGE OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE COOPERATION COUNCIL FOR THE ARAB STATES OF THE GULF, DELIVERED ON HIS BEHALF BY THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY-GENERAL FOR ECONOMIC AFFAIRS OF THE COOPERATION COUNCIL

48. **Mr NWANZE** (President of IFAD), greeting the Assistant Secretary-General of the Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf, said that the Cooperation Council was a long-standing partner of IFAD and had been a staunch supporter of the Fund and its mandate from the outset. It was heartening to welcome old friends into its midst and to strengthen cooperation for the benefit of rural people across the globe.
49. **Mr ALSHIBLY** (Assistant Secretary-General for Economic Affairs of the Cooperation Council of the Arab States of the Gulf) delivered a message on behalf of the Secretary-General of the Cooperation Council of the Arab States of the Gulf, the full text of which is reproduced in chapter 4.

50. **The CHAIRPERSON** said that, through the Assistant Secretary-General of the Cooperation Council of the Arab States of the Gulf, he wished to express sincere thanks to the Secretary-General of the Cooperation Council for his message.

STATEMENT BY THE PRESIDENT OF IFAD (agenda item 5)

51. **Mr Nwanze** (President of IFAD) made a statement, the full text of which is reproduced in chapter 4.
52. **The CHAIRPERSON** expressed the Council's appreciation to the President for his statement, paying tribute to the qualities he had shown in his guidance of the Fund and the definition of its vision. He likewise congratulated IFAD's staff for their dedication to fulfilling the Fund's mission.
53. **His Excellency Fabrizio Saccomanni, Minister for Economy and Finance of the Italian Republic, and Mr Abdullah Jummah Alshibly, Assistant Secretary-General for Economic Affairs of the Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf, were conducted from the meeting room.**

PANEL DISCUSSION: SPOTLIGHT ON THE INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF FAMILY FARMING

54. **The CHAIRPERSON** invited the Governing Council to watch a video documentary on the International Year of Family Farming.
55. **The video documentary was screened.**
56. Ms Lucy HOCKINGS (Moderator) said that her background growing up on a family farm in New Zealand meant that family farming was very dear to her. The experience of her own family, in which none of the five children had gone on to work on the farm, highlighted the important issue of why young people were not today returning to family farms. She drew attention to the word cloud behind her, which focused on certain concepts, including "land", "training", "equality", "tools", "policy", and particularly the vital issue of "credit". In the hope that the panel discussion would be lively and interactive, she would be encouraging questions and comments from the floor, including comments through Twitter.
57. Before commencing the discussion, she paid tribute to her friend and colleague Komla Dumor, the BBC journalist, who had planned to be present for the discussion. She expressed sympathy to the delegation of Ghana and to those close to him.
58. She then introduced the panel of six farmers, who had the difficult task of representing the 1.5 billion people involved in family farming worldwide. Their stories were inspirational and they had creative thoughts to share. She started by asking the panellists what family farming meant to the people of their countries.
59. **Mr Ibrahim COULIBALY** said that he cultivated about 20 hectares in Mali with his family, producing grains, fruit and vegetables, and breeding animals. He was President of the National Coordination of Farmers' Organizations of Mali and Vice-President of the Network of Farmers' and Agricultural Producers' Organizations of West Africa, and had been appointed special ambassador for the International Year of Family Farming. For Malians, and for farmers throughout the world, family farming first of all meant having a job, and then having the opportunity to employ their children when they were looking for work. It also meant being able to feed oneself and to sell products on the market. It was therefore an economic system and also a system of social protection because being born in a farmer's family, unless the child decided to leave, offered a secure job, which was important in the world of today.
60. **Mr Yazidi Rashadi SHAABAN**, a dairy farmer from Zanzibar in the United Republic of Tanzania, said that farmers in his country were very poor. He had

started with a small farm and a small house, and had acquired a local cow to feed his family. But he had then joined a group that had received training from IFAD, which had convinced him to move from the local cow to keep dairy cows. That had changed his life and allowed him to produce more. The example of farmers who were trained to adopt new methods and products, such as the use of manure and the cultivation of vegetables and bananas, was then followed by others in their communities.

61. **Mr Oliver OLIEM** emphasized the relevance of family farming for his community in the Philippines. His forefathers had passed on coffee growing to him, and he would in turn pass it on to his children. Family farming was of great importance in providing food and income to support the family's everyday needs, including the education of children.
62. **Mr Luiz Carlos RIBEIRO DE LIMA**, from central Brazil, spoke of the important initiatives benefiting family farming in his country over the past decade and the many challenges involved in further developing agriculture in an agroecological and sustainable manner. Solidarity was a fundamental aspect of family farming, involving the sharing of knowledge and know-how, based on respect and consideration for other workers. In his own semi-arid area, where there was no electrical power, it was vital to face the difficulties together.
63. **Ms HOCKINGS** (Moderator), introducing Ms Báez, recalled that violence in Colombia had displaced five million people, or 10 per cent of the population, and that family farming was an important means of combating violence.
64. **Ms Cielo BÁEZ** described her association of small-scale farmers. The members included entire families, who were all involved in agroecological farming in the Cajamarca area of Colombia. The association brought together families in the very rich agricultural basin of Cajamarca, where up to 50 different products were cultivated to feed the families, but also the rest of Colombia and other countries.
65. **Ms HOCKINGS** (Moderator) expressed sadness at what was happening in the Syrian Arab Republic and asked Ms Aziz what family farming had meant for her before the onset of the civil war.
66. **Ms Georgette Ebrahim AZIZ** said that she and her husband had a farm in the province of Al-Hasakah in the north-east of the country. She was a member of a women's association and a farming cooperative. Agriculture in the province had been very productive, based on growing fruit, vegetables, cereal and grains, and accounted for most of the income of rural families. However, over the past decade the province had suffered the effects of climate change, with the river Khabur and the wells used for irrigation gradually drying up. That had been compounded by a lack of agricultural inputs, including seeds and chemicals, and more recently the soaring prices of fuel and the almost disappearance of the economy.
67. **Ms HOCKINGS** (Moderator) asked Ms Báez and Mr Coulibaly to identify the biggest challenge facing family farmers in their areas.
68. **Ms BÁEZ** said that in her country there had been a serious problem of guerrilla warfare. Although the violence had now abated, mining multinationals were now depleting the country's oil reserves and were searching for gold. Their activities constituted a very significant challenge for ecological agriculture and family farming. The world should be told about the terrible environmental deterioration that was resulting from their activities.
69. **Mr COULIBALY** said that in Mali, and perhaps in Africa in general, the main challenge was the negative image of agriculture, which was stigmatized as being backward and ineffective. That image was propounded by policymakers and also by the education system, with children being told that if they did not do well at school they would end up being farmers. Even though the importance of farming

was emphasized in public speeches, there was still an idea that it was not an honourable and worthy activity. People needed to be told that agriculture was an important part of the solution. In the absence of industry and the tertiary sector, 80 per cent of the population worked in agriculture. It was therefore of great importance to support family farming. If policymakers could be persuaded that supporting agriculture contributed to the well-being of the nation as a whole, it would be fairly easy to resolve the technical issues.

70. **Mr ABOUHADID** (Egypt), while agreeing that family farming was a very important issue, emphasized that it needed to go a little further than feeding the family. Greater importance should be attached to cooperatives to improve the availability of agricultural inputs, the choice of appropriate crops and the strengthening of links with markets as a means of raising incomes and building the national economy.
71. **Mr COULIBALY** observed that in the past the constraints placed on farmers had limited their latitude for manoeuvre and their ability to market their produce. Now cooperatives were being created and farmers were enjoying greater freedom. Although cooperatives could do much to resolve the problems of supplying cities, farmers wanted to develop their economic activities in such areas as processing and the collective marketing of produce, for which support was needed from external funders. IFAD had done a lot to reach out to small-scale farmers. However, care needed to be taken when encouraging vulnerable groups to take out bank loans, for example to purchase equipment, as that could constitute a trap for them.
72. **Mr RIBEIRO DE LIMA** indicated that many of the conditions for high quality agricultural production were still lacking, such as secure land tenure, investment and technical assistance that was respectful of the agroenvironmental approach. Although there had been major initiatives, such as the Dom Helder Camara Project, which had provided support and guidance to many farmers, they did not amount to a general public policy. If family agriculture were to become more profitable and offer good returns, it would be necessary to ensure investment and support, particularly training.
73. **Mr NWANZE** (President of IFAD) welcomed the fact that the international community had finally come to realize the importance of smallholder family farming, which was the focus of IFAD. The issue was not only to increase investment in smallholder farming, but in particular to call on the governments of developing countries to go beyond words and to take firm action through the right policies and environment, the encouragement of investment by domestic and international development partners in the private sector and the provision of all the necessary services in rural areas. It was necessary to invest in rural development so that rural areas could be transformed and become attractive for youth as a source of jobs and a place to work.
74. **Mr RAHMAN** (Bangladesh) asked Mr Shaaban where he had found the inspiration to turn to dairy farming. He added that in Bangladesh the Government had launched the One House One Farm project to encourage food production by rural families with small plots of land, or even without land.
75. **Mr AL-TARAWNEH** (Jordan) raised the question of the reasons for the exodus from rural areas. Was it due to climate-related problems, the lack of support, the search for a better standard of living or the desire for jobs in the tertiary sector? What type of projects could promote family farming?
76. **Ms AZIZ** said that there were several reasons why young people were leaving family farming, including environmental and climatic effects, the scarcity of public resources and the high cost of inputs, which all had a negative impact on the quality of life in rural areas. IFAD had helped the Syrian Government to take

action to promote rural development, including in the Al-Hasakah region, particularly through youth and women's groups and training and development programmes for villages. In view of their limited availability, it was important to ensure that resources, and particularly water, were used in the best possible manner, for example through training in the maintenance of irrigation networks. However, recent events had affected the continuity of those efforts and had had a terrible impact.

77. **Mr OLIEM** agreed that the exodus of the young from rural areas was the major challenge in the northern Philippines, where young people were much more interested in modern communication technology than in farming. His cooperative had developed a plan based on value chains and product development. Instead of selling green coffee beans, a roasting machine had been obtained through the Department of Agriculture. During the vacations, he encouraged young people to help with the packaging and to become involved in the processing of coffee products, which had resulted in some of them becoming interested in going on to work in coffee growing.
78. **Mr SALHA** (New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD)) noted that, despite the good policies that had been adopted, the impression remained that little progress had been made in their implementation. He asked Mr Coulibaly what was lacking and why those who had left rural areas, who were in the majority, especially in Africa, were not ready to go back to help move things in the right direction?
79. **Mr COULIBALY** agreed that, although there were some excellent and even revolutionary policies, including a detailed NEPAD programme for agriculture, they were never actually implemented. The main problem was that although funding was not necessarily lacking, investment was not being directed towards rural development. The call made by the African Union in 2003 for 10 per cent of national budgets to be devoted to agriculture had not been implemented in full, which meant that 75 per cent of the population was having to make do with less than 10 per cent of national budgets. He therefore called for investment in rural development and the legal recognition of farmers as workers, which was not the case under much African legislation. There could be no real development while three quarters of the population were marginalized. Policymakers needed to be courageous, for example by investing the financing currently used for food imports in the local production and processing of food commodities.
80. **Mr BERHE** (Eritrea) welcomed the discussion and emphasized the critical importance of water and energy. Integration was also vital, as families should not depend on a single commodity. For example, a good starting point would be one cow for a family, a small plot for vegetables, some fruit and some production of animal feed. Productivity, rather than production, was very important.
81. **Ms TAGLIANTE-SARACINO** (Côte d'Ivoire) said that on a recent visit to a cocoa farm in her country she had been able to observe that the working methods had not changed for many decades and that the work remained extremely arduous. Despite the availability in other regions of tools that would ease their work, African farmers continued to suffer, particularly from back injuries. She also emphasized the need for farmers to be mobile and autonomous. Means of transport were necessary to take sick children and adults to medical facilities, take children to school and deliver produce to markets. There were many aspects to improving family farming, including the acceptance of new technology in areas that were rooted in tradition. Africa would have no future without such progress.
82. **Mr COULIBALY** emphasized the need, in order to solve the major problems, for credit systems that were accessible to all at reasonable rates, and not the very high rates that applied in many areas. Although traditional attitudes could give rise to problems, they could be overcome. But transport was a real issue. Many

family farmers were prepared to sell plots of land to be able to buy a motorcycle because it was the only viable means of transport, for example, to take sick family members to hospital. Although it was a very heavy investment for them, they were prepared to make it.

83. **Mr RIBEIRO DE LIMA** said that farmers in Brazil traditionally considered work in the fields to be a sacrifice. Those who did not do well at school were told that they would have to farm. There was a real need for education in rural areas so that farmers could improve their image. If young people were to stay in rural areas, it was crucial to ensure the existence of the necessary infrastructure, including education, health care, leisure facilities, sanitation and water. In the absence of those structures, young people would emigrate in search of something better. Another challenge arose from the commercial availability of cheap pre-packaged goods, which could compete against farmers' produce.
84. **Ms HOCKINGS** (Moderator) said that she had received a tweet asking how family farming could be made attractive for the young and asked Ms Báez whether the introduction of new technology could help.
85. **Ms BÁEZ** emphasized the need to make work in the fields more attractive to the young. Her organization, which was helped by agroecologists, tried to involve families and to promote the exchange of knowledge between farmers. It was important to ensure that young people stayed in rural areas and to make agricultural work easier. The solutions could sometimes be simple. She was currently working with the Ministry of Agriculture, visiting communities to help them seek funding to improve their processing and to market their produce, which could help in providing incomes for young women. Her organization also tried to approach consumers to inform them about their products.
86. **Mr LAZARO** (Philippines) asked the panellists about their expectations for the International Year of Family Farming and how they envisaged the future of family farmers, smallholder farmers, pastoralists and fishers worldwide. He added that in his view the celebration of the International Year was just a start in promoting awareness of their situation and interests.
87. **Mr COULIBALY** replied that it should be considered an international process which would not be limited to 2014. The seeds were being sown and now needed to grow and bear fruit. He called on the African Union to adopt guidelines or legislation emphasizing the importance of family farming. African countries should also create social mechanisms for farmers, and not only for employed persons receiving a salary. Finally, there should be a commitment to the allocation of 10 per cent of national budgets to agriculture to fund farming and farmers. If that were done, the world would change.
88. **Mr SHAABAN** said he hoped that the International Year would be taken as a lesson and a challenge. Family farmers were poor, but their target was to feed themselves and the people of their nation. It was necessary for them to learn what others were doing with the aim of helping their daughters and women to produce, feed themselves and obtain more for their children.
89. **Mr OLIEM** stressed the importance of the International Year in improving recognition of the contribution of family and small-scale farming to achieving sustainable farm production and the development of rural areas. He called on governments and IFAD to give full support to all families involved in farming and to empower farmers' organizations through cooperatives so that they could manage businesses that increased the investment of their members, improved family income and generated employment for women and young people. Farmers needed more information and skills on how to run a business and on farm management, including simple accounting, budgeting and risk management, so that they could improve production planning and incomes.

90. **Mr RIBEIRO DE LIMA** said that, as a member of the trade union movement of rural workers in Brazil, he hoped that the International Year would be used as an opportunity to mobilize workers and to develop guidance on the demands that they should make. It was of great importance to recognize the support provided by IFAD to workers' organizations, which was fundamental in making them feel stronger at the international level and within their own countries. The International Year offered an important opportunity to project a stronger image of farming so that real progress could be made in policies to improve life in the rural environment.
91. **Ms BÁEZ** said she considered that it was an important year for empowering farmers and rural workers in general. Governments needed to realize that farmers were not the problem, but part of the solution. Rather than top-down policies, she called on governments to work together with farmers from the grass-roots level to determine what was needed to achieve the development that was expected worldwide.
92. **Ms AZIZ** observed that if the situation were normal in the Syrian Arab Republic, the International Year would be welcomed in view of the importance of family farming in producing important commodities that were necessary for survival. The Government in her country had traditionally helped rural families, for example through lower prices for commodities, and had provided specific support for women and young farmers. She hoped that when peace returned those projects that had been discontinued would be implemented once again.
93. **Mr CLEAVER** (Associate Vice-President, Programme Management Department of IFAD) welcomed the contribution of the panellists who represented so many farmers and had an important message to convey. He emphasized that there should not be a small farm versus large farm controversy. Large farms were also needed. Indeed, all types of farmers were necessary to feed nine billion people, particularly in light of the environmental degradation that farmers, among others, were creating. The economic reason for IFAD's focus on smallholder farmers was that the production gap in those farms was very wide. Their production was not optimal because they did not have access to finance or to markets. Moreover, although some smallholder farmers were organized, many were not. They frequently experienced land tenure issues. Land grabs typically involved large farms taking land from small farms. There were also educational gaps, with large farms tending to be run by people who were better educated because they had more money. And their problems of access were exacerbated by policy, as most countries provided subsidies and support as a function of the economic power of the recipient. It was true everywhere that most subsidies were provided to large and industrial farms, not to small farms.
94. In other words, it was necessary to fill those gaps by: investing in financial services that served small farmers and in cooperatives so that they could group together for market strength; switching subsidies from the economically powerful to the economically less powerful; doing so in a way that conserved the environment; subsidizing cooperatives rather than large enterprises; improving security of land tenure and of access to water; investing in secondary and rural roads, and not just main roads; and providing agricultural extension services to smallholder farmers, for example through cooperatives, as IFAD was doing.
95. There was now a lot of evidence that those approaches were effective where they were applied, as shown by the work of IFAD, which was reaching nearly 80 million farmers through its projects. However, such methods were not applied more widely because many governments did not believe in them. A prerequisite, therefore, was to listen to the prime beneficiaries, who were saying the same as IFAD.

96. **Ms HOCKINGS** (Moderator) finally asked each of the panellists to outline the message that they hoped would be taken away from the discussion.
97. **Ms AZIZ** said that she represented women farmers in the Syrian Arab Republic and she hoped that her country would be able to return to living in peace and coexistence with everyone. She also hoped that the families that had left rural areas would return to their homes and regions, and that they would play a bigger role than in the past and be able to fulfil their dreams and live in peace.
98. **Ms BÁEZ** reaffirmed that smallholder farmers were not the problem, but part of the solution. She therefore hoped that they would be given better opportunities. In her country, it had been seen that investment worked, but that it was not sufficient and that a lot more was needed. Finally, she re-emphasized her belief in the grass roots, in people and in a bottom-up process.
99. **Mr RIBEIRO DE LIMA** appealed to all those present to trust in the potential of family farmers and to help them make the countryside a sustainable and profitable place where people could live in good conditions. It was necessary for urban populations to understand the idea of alternative development in rural areas. That vision needed to be discussed with all the different layers in society to create an understanding of its great importance for the world. He called for investment in organizations that represented workers as a means of building confidence and helping them to enjoy better working conditions and to produce more. The results would be significant.
100. **Mr OLIEM** called for IFAD and the Government of the Philippines to give full support to family farming systems and to continue investing in the potential of cooperatives and rural communities.
101. **Mr SHAABAN** urged donors to focus on the poor and on rural people and to invest from the grass-roots level so that the rural poor could come to afford food and housing. The goal was to enable rural people to develop a place where they could become richer and make themselves a life.
102. **Mr COULIBALY** recalled that nine years previously IFAD had created the Farmers' Forum, which had provided a platform for it to listen to and get to know better the farmers who were the direct beneficiaries of its projects. He emphasized that an investment in IFAD was a good investment. The great majority of the funds invested through IFAD reached organizations of smallholder farmers. The same results would not be achieved elsewhere. He also called for acceptance of the request for representatives of the Steering Committee of the Farmers' Forum to attend the Executive Board and the Governing Council as observers so that they could make the same points there as they had during the panel discussion. They already participated in the Committee on World Food Security, which had not caused problems. It should be recognized that it was necessary to listen more closely to smallholder farmers in order to be able to help them more effectively. Finally, he emphasized that he was from a country that had been a model of democracy and good governance. However, that had changed overnight and the United Nations peace mission in his country was very costly. It would undoubtedly be cheaper to invest in family farming, which offered the opportunity of dignified employment to those who were becoming increasingly marginalized. In an ever more unstable world, it was important to understand that security could only be achieved in the longer term by ensuring that everyone had a chance. His message was therefore that support for family farming would secure the future of the world.
103. **Ms HOCKINGS** (Moderator) said that, as promised, the messages delivered by the panel had been inspirational. Their stories, their sense of solidarity, knowledge sharing, trust and empowerment, the role of women and the need to encourage the young to return to family farms had come through loud and clear. She

therefore thanked the panellists for their willingness and courage in coming to the Governing Council and sharing their viewpoints.

104. **The CHAIRPERSON** thanked the Moderator and panellists for a very enlightening debate.
105. **A video documenting the experience of a family farmer from Papua New Guinea was screened.**

REPORT ON THE NINTH REPLENISHMENT OF IFAD'S RESOURCES (agenda item 7) (GC 37/L.3)

106. **Mr KELLET** (Associate Vice-President, Financial Operations Department of IFAD) said that the report before the Council, together with its annexes, provided an update on the status of the Ninth Replenishment of IFAD's Resources (IFAD9) as at 12 December 2013. Since the date of the report, further pledges had been received from the Russian Federation and additional instruments of contribution had been submitted by Finland, Switzerland and the United Kingdom. Further payments had also been received from Albania, Canada, Cape Verde, Denmark, Finland, France, India, Indonesia, Israel, Norway, Republic of Korea, Sri Lanka, Switzerland, Viet Nam and the United Kingdom. Total pledges now amounted to US\$1.420 billion, or 95 per cent of the IFAD9 target, and Member States that had not yet made a pledge were encouraged to do so. Instruments of contribution corresponding to 98 per cent of pledges had been received and Member States that had not yet deposited those instruments were requested to do so. Payments received as at 11 February 2014 totalled US\$965 million, representing 68 per cent of pledges.
107. **Ms LEE (Republic of Korea)** expressed appreciation for the efforts made by IFAD to achieve the tangible results reported and to improve efficiency and development effectiveness during the remaining IFAD9 period, particularly in the light of the rapidly changing world economy and shifts in traditional aid flows as a result of domestic difficulties experienced in donor countries. The task of performance diagnosis and measurement would be considerably facilitated by the provision of concrete evidence.
108. **The CHAIRPERSON** said that the speaker's view on that score had been noted.
109. **The Governing Council took note of the report on the Ninth Replenishment of IFAD's Resources.**

CONSULTATION ON THE TENTH REPLENISHMENT OF IFAD'S RESOURCES (agenda item 8)

- (a) ESTABLISHMENT OF THE CONSULTATION ON THE TENTH REPLENISHMENT OF IFAD'S RESOURCES (GC 37/L.4 and Corr.1 to be revised as GC 37/L.4/Rev.1)
 110. **The CHAIRPERSON**, noting that the panel discussion on the International Year of Family Farming had highlighted the need for greater investment in IFAD, drew attention to the draft resolution contained in document GC 37/L.4 on the establishment of the Consultation on the Tenth Replenishment of IFAD's Resources (IFAD10), to be chaired by Mr Johannes F. Linn. It was also indicated in the draft resolution that the Consultation would consist of all Member States from Lists A and B, and 18 Member States from List C, to be appointed by the List C membership. The Secretariat had been informed that, after consideration within each List C sub-list, the Member States proposed as List C members of the Consultation were: from sub-List C1, Angola, Benin, Cameroon, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea and Mauritius; from sub-List C2, Afghanistan, Bangladesh, China, India, Pakistan and South Korea; from sub-List C3, Argentina, Brazil, Guatemala, Mexico

and the Dominican Republic. One further member would be appointed in due course.

111. **Resolution 180/XXXVII on the establishment of the Consultation on the Tenth Replenishment of IFAD's Resources was adopted.**
 112. **The CHAIRPERSON** expressed confidence in the ability of the Member States participating in the Consultation to ensure that IFAD had the resources needed to continue ever more forcefully as an active player in advocating for smallholder farmers and their key role in advancing poverty reduction and food security.
- (b) ESTABLISHMENT OF THE SPECIAL EXPENDITURE BUDGET FOR IFAD REPLENISHMENT EXERCISES (GC 37/L.5)
113. **Mr KELLET** (Associate Vice-President, Financial Operations Department of IFAD), introducing the document on the item, recalled that in February 2011, the Governing Council had approved a special expenditure budget of US\$2 million for funding the Ninth Replenishment exercise. The amount thus far spent in that Replenishment amounted to US\$849,000, which, together with an additional requirement of some US\$100,000 for funding of the midterm review, brought the total estimated cost to US\$949,000. However, actual budget utilization was significantly lower than the approved budget amount on account of tight cost controls, the convening of fewer sessions than originally envisaged and, primarily, the failure of the potentially costly external session to materialize. The proposal now was that the resulting unutilized IFAD9 budget, amounting to US\$1.051 million, should be utilized for the IFAD10 exercise. In that event, it would be transferred to a separate account for IFAD10 and the Executive Board would receive updates in accordance with standard reporting requirements. On the basis of current estimates, no requirement for additional funding beyond the balance remaining from IFAD9 was anticipated.
 114. In order to enhance streamlining and effectiveness, the Governing Council was also requested to provide a delegation of authority empowering the Executive Board to review and approve further appropriations of special expenditure budgets for IFAD replenishment exercises.
 115. **Resolution 181/XXXVII on the special expenditure budget for IFAD replenishment exercises was adopted.**

CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS OF IFAD FOR 2012

(agenda item 9) (GC 37/L.6 and Inf.2)

116. **The CHAIRPERSON** recalled that, at its 108th session in April 2013, the Executive Board had reviewed the audited financial statements and recommended that they be submitted to the Governing Council for approval.
117. **Mr KELLET** (Associate Vice-President, Financial Operations Department of IFAD) said that the consolidated financial statements of IFAD as at 31 December 2012 were contained in document GC 37/L.6. In the opinion of the external auditors, the financial statements presented "fairly, in all material aspects, the financial position of the Fund and its financial performance and cash flows for the year ... in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards." He drew attention to the first independent attestation on the assertion by Management that IFAD maintained effective internal controls over financial reporting, which had been issued by the external auditors with their opinion on the consolidated financial statements.
118. **The CHAIRPERSON** invited the Council to approve the financial statements showing the financial position of IFAD as at 31 December 2012 and the results of its operations for the year ending on that date, as contained in appendices A to L inclusive of document GC 37/L.6, the report of the external auditors thereon and

the independent attestation on the effective internal controls over financial reporting.

119. **It was so decided.**

GENERAL STATEMENTS (agenda item 6)

120. **Mr MAIGA** (Mali) said that the theme of the current session was particularly relevant in Mali, where most of the food was produced by smallholder farmers, who played a key role in ensuring food security and mitigating and adapting to climate change by their management of natural resources and biodiversity. IFAD's cooperation for over three decades had enabled over 350,000 households to escape poverty, its action being particularly valued in the Sahel-Saharan areas, badly affected by climate change and insecurity. Two years earlier, Mali had been prevented from honouring its commitments towards its partners owing to conflict in the northern parts of the country and the resulting humanitarian and food crisis. It was therefore especially grateful that IFAD had persevered and taken up its action once again in those areas.
121. Mali and IFAD also shared a vision of the need to strengthen the role of family farming worldwide. With the support of IFAD, the national focus on family farming had emphasized increased incomes, resulting in an almost 90 per cent rise in average family income in the lakes region, for example, over the past five years. Successful IFAD-supported projects included savings and credit funds for women's groups, 282 microprojects, the building of rural roads, agricultural and livestock development, training for rural youth and employment creation. Emigration had been curbed by giving young people a reason to stay in their villages. Experience in Mali proved the need to see agriculture primarily as a commercial activity, to improve and diversify the knowledge of farmers, encourage the organization of communities, promote the inclusion of vulnerable categories and build bridges between producers and markets. The Malian authorities had concluded an agreement with IFAD in January 2014 which would be essential in supporting vocational training, insertion and enterprise development by young people in rural areas.
122. **Mr MUJAWAR** (Yemen) said that Yemen was adversely affected by the worldwide economic and food crisis, climate change and global disease, as well as by such exceptional challenges as lack of natural resources, limited arable land area and undersized smallholdings. In the country's food production sector, family farming predominated, with almost two million smallholder families cultivating approximately one hectare of land each. Factors implicated in the successful development of such farming included agroecological conditions and territorial characteristics; policy environment; access to markets, technology, extension services and finance; demographic, economic and sociocultural conditions; and availability of specialized education.
123. In 2011, reduced purchasing power and job losses had hit many Yemeni families, leading in turn to rising levels of poverty and food insecurity. Efforts were under way to promote rural development and create an environment conducive to investment in agriculture, which was not only the main income source for rural families but also contributed substantially to non-petroleum exports and played a vital role in poverty alleviation, job creation and food security, as well as in improving living standards and limiting rural-to-urban migration. With particular reference to a new rural development project funded by IFAD and other donors to the tune of US\$127 million, he expressed profound gratitude to IFAD for its support of those efforts and reaffirmed his Government's firm commitment to such projects in order to achieve the desired aims.
124. **Ms LECLERC** (Canada) said that the theme of the current session resonated with Canada, since most of the country's farms were family-owned enterprises.

Smallholder family farmers produced the majority of food consumed in developing countries, yet comprised the largest portion of the developing world's undernourished population. Continuing chronic hunger and hidden hunger globally called for increased long-term investment in smallholder agriculture and rural development, with IFAD well placed to take the lead. Supporting poor smallholder farmers, the majority of whom were women, was a high priority for Canada. IFAD's renewed focus on nutrition was also welcome and should be translated into concrete operations and results at the country level. Investment in nutrition represented an investment in sustainable economic growth, and IFAD should therefore redouble its efforts to make its investments more nutrition-sensitive.

125. She welcomed IFAD's efforts to enhance its partnerships, particularly with the private sector, with a view to mobilizing additional resources and stimulating agricultural innovation among smallholders. Such partnerships were also essential in order to improve agricultural output, boost income and employment opportunities and improve food security and nutrition in disadvantaged rural areas. Women should be at the heart of any measures taken, since they played a key role in family farming and subsistence. IFAD should also seek innovative funding arrangements and, through dialogue with Member States and other development partners, establish new approaches to risk and identify the tools and skills it needed.
126. Lastly, she commended the progress made by IFAD throughout the year, as noted in the 2013 evaluation of the Multilateral Organisation Performance Assessment Network (MOPAN), in particular with regard to internal capacities and the results achieved with respect to equality between men and women and adaptation to climate change and mitigation of its effects.
127. **Mr MOLEBATSI** (Botswana) having welcomed the Russian Federation as a new Member of IFAD, said that the theme of the current session was highly appropriate, since about 80 per cent of developing countries' food came from family farming. In Botswana, some 70 per cent of rural households derived part of their livelihood from agriculture, with around 40 per cent involved in cattle-rearing, which accounted for around 80 per cent of agricultural output. Crop production centred mainly on rainfed farming and was dominated by smallholder family farmers with an average farm size of five hectares. Such farmers were key contributors to global food security and the mitigation of climate change, yet remained a largely untapped resource and made up a disproportionately large percentage of the world's poor people.
128. The potential economic and social returns on investment in smallholder family farmers were enormous. In line with the Fund's objective of improving food production, particularly in rural areas, and eradicating poverty, Botswana had introduced a number of initiatives, including programmes to support arable agriculture, livestock management, infrastructure development and dairy development and recently, in partnership with IFAD, the Agricultural Services Support Project, focused on farm mechanization and farming inputs for smallholder family farmers. It was essential for the Fund to create vibrant rural communities by investing in smallholder family farmers and helping them to be more productive and efficient. He therefore appealed to Member States to introduce domestic policies and investments that would provide an enabling environment for such farmers.
129. **Mr KÜSEK** (Turkey) said that smallholder family farming was important because it accounted for 80 per cent of food production for the developing world and involved 2.5 billion farmers. However, despite their contribution to world food security and nutrition, most of those farmers lived in absolute poverty and were particularly vulnerable to global issues such as changes in land use, low productivity, rising fertilizer and fuel prices, access to credit, climate change and

changing markets. The priority, therefore, was to take proactive measures and engage in cooperation to ensure sustainable smallholder agriculture and notably to develop appropriate policies for investment in infrastructure so as to help such farmers increase their output and incomes and improve their quality of life.

130. Almost all farms in Turkey were smallholder farms, and the Government had adopted effective policies and measures to reduce the impact on them of global challenges. Agricultural production in Turkey had tripled in the past decade and the total budget for rural development programmes had doubled between 2012 and 2013. A programme to support investment in rural development was also being implemented.
131. **Ms RUIZ MALEC** (Argentina) said that IFAD's support in her region had made it possible to pursue the priority objective of social inclusion through the development of rural markets and businesses, the strengthening of South-South cooperation and the promotion of sustainable development. Family farming was a productive sector that was taking on increasing importance in the socio-economic development of Latin American countries; accordingly, her Government was promoting it as part of rural development policy. It was not merely a means of providing social assistance but was a viable alternative for ensuring equitable growth and contributing to food security in the region.
132. IFAD was financing a number of successful projects in Argentina, in particular the Inclusive Rural Development Programme (PRODERI), which was helping to improve social and production conditions and increase the income of poor rural families, taking due account of gender and equity considerations. Her Government remained committed to contributing to the Ninth Replenishment of IFAD's Resources and was taking the necessary legislative steps to that end.
133. **Mr HADIYANTO** (Indonesia) said that the theme of the current session was particularly relevant at a time when the international community was faced with the challenge of strengthening global development cooperation. IFAD should have a comprehensive strategic framework to assist developing countries and empower smallholder farmers. Although the world economy had expanded considerably, it was not strong, balanced or sustainable. There were still around 1 billion people in the developing world living on less than US\$1.25 a day, 70 per cent of whom lived in rural areas. The small-scale farming economy was underdeveloped and characterized by low investment in areas such as infrastructure, marketing and technology. His delegation therefore supported IFAD's efforts to promote investment opportunities and improve smallholder family farmers' livelihoods, in line with the post-2015 development agenda.
134. Indonesia was one of the 10 largest producers of agricultural commodities in the world and had around 20 million family farmers, 80 per cent of whom were smallholders in rural areas and provided jobs for some 20 per cent of the workforce. Smallholder farmers were therefore one of the key engines of economic activity, and it was essential to boost their capacity. Governments should facilitate access to resources for such farmers and provide them with risk management expertise and appropriate fiscal incentives. Such steps would help to reduce poverty and increase food security. Lastly, he expressed appreciation for the IFAD programmes and projects being implemented in Indonesia.
135. **Ms VERBURG** (Netherlands), speaking on behalf of the Benelux countries, expressed support for IFAD's goal of creating an enabling environment for smallholder farmers and its inclusive and community-driven approach, its support for local authorities and civil society, its work on rural finance, land ownership, water and nutrition, and its leadership role in empowering women. IFAD had also won the Momentum for Change award for its pioneering Adaptation for Smallholder Agriculture Programme. A remaining challenge was to mainstream climate in IFAD's entire portfolio of activities. Nonetheless, at a time of

- unprecedented cuts in other areas, money must be spent wisely. IFAD should seriously consider holding sessions of the Governing Council biennially, as suggested in the corporate-level evaluation of IFAD's institutional efficiency.
136. There was a need for cooperation among development organizations without duplication of effort. IFAD should serve as a broker of excellence, bringing together different actors, including Rome-based agencies, other international financial institutions, civil society and the private sector, and paying particular attention to women and young people in agriculture at all stages of programme design and implementation. IFAD should also step up its knowledge management in order to increase impact and scale up successes.
 137. The Benelux countries supported IFAD's work with the private sector at the global and local levels to promote investment and smallholder entrepreneurship and influence business models in favour of smallholders and rural development. In particular, the local private sector should be engaged in project implementation. The countries also looked forward to seeing IFAD play a leading role in meeting the Zero Hunger Challenge as part of the post-2015 agenda and in promoting food security and nutrition in general.
 138. **Mr ZHANG** (China) said that IFAD should play a more influential role in global poverty reduction and agricultural development by becoming more financially capable and strategically flexible. The upcoming Tenth Replenishment would be a good opportunity for all Member States, particularly donor countries, to show their support for IFAD both in financial terms and by providing policy guidance for the identification of more innovative funding mechanisms. IFAD should further strengthen its engagement with all developing Member States, including low- and middle-income countries and fragile and conflict-affected States.
 139. Knowledge cooperation and South-South cooperation should be deepened with a view to sharing development experience. IFAD should become a world leader and think tank for smallholder agriculture development and take concrete steps to promote South-South cooperation. It could achieve more by focusing on those areas where it had comparative advantage, such as working directly with smallholder farmers; promoting agricultural technology transfer, rural youth employment and microfinancing, value chains with market access and climate change adaptation; and strengthening rural infrastructure investment. IFAD should also improve its governance structure, deepen human resources reform and increase the representation of developing Member States.
 140. The Chinese Government would continue to prioritize agriculture and rural development, strengthen its cooperation with IFAD, support the reform and long-term development of the Fund, and promote global poverty reduction through mutually beneficial mechanisms such as South-South cooperation.
 141. **Ms ANANGA MESSINA** (Cameroon), having welcomed the Russian Federation as a new Member, said that her Government appreciated IFAD's efforts to free rural populations from poverty. The Consultation on the Tenth Replenishment of IFAD's Resources would begin at the end of the current session and would again benefit from the experience of an external Chairperson. Cameroon was pleased to have made a modest contribution to the replenishment exercise. The Consultation was not only a fund mobilization mechanism but also a forum for strategic discussions, and it should therefore discuss the impact of IFAD's operations so as to assess the added value of the resources made available to it. IFAD would need to innovate in order to meet the challenges it faced.
 142. The theme of the current session was appropriate, given that 2014 had been declared the International Year of Family Farming. Her delegation appreciated the positive attitude to boosting IFAD's investment in that area.

143. **Mr BOSAN** (Pakistan), having welcomed the Russian Federation as a new Member of IFAD, commended the theme of the session which was particularly relevant to Pakistan. Smallholder and family farming were critical to eradicating hunger and poverty, ensuring food security and nutrition, improving livelihoods, managing natural resources, protecting the environment and achieving sustainable development. IFAD's interventions had helped ensure that family and smallholder farming were given due attention in national policies and budgets, and his Government was seeking the most effective methods of channelling resources and services to such farmers.
144. Agriculture was vital to sustaining growth in Pakistan's economy; it accounted for 21.4 per cent of gross domestic product and was the main source of livelihood for 67 per cent of the population. One of the Government's main goals was to eradicate rural poverty by creating opportunities for small farmers and young people, including young women, in rural areas, and by providing access to financial services, vocational training and skills enhancement. The Government valued its partnership with IFAD and looked forward to receiving further assistance for programmes aimed at tackling more recent challenges, such as natural disasters, depleted river flows and climate change. Pakistan, one of the founding Members of IFAD, had made cumulative contributions of US\$31.8 million to the Fund to date. IFAD had undertaken 25 important projects in Pakistan, including a sustainable microfinance project, and was an excellent and responsive partner. Pakistan welcomed the President's reform efforts and looked forward to a constructive dialogue among all Member States on the Tenth Replenishment of IFAD's Resources.
145. **Ms JACOBY** (Sweden), speaking on behalf of the Nordic countries, welcomed the Russian Federation as a new Member and said that 2014 would be an important year for IFAD, as the Tenth Replenishment would be negotiated and the post-2015 development agenda would take shape. It was essential for IFAD to focus on its unique mandate to eradicate rural poverty and support smallholder agriculture, where it had delivered proven results. The corporate-level evaluation of IFAD's efficiency had found that IFAD was spreading itself too thin; greater country and thematic selectivity was needed. IFAD's prime focus should be on low-income countries and fragile states. Greater engagement in fragile and conflict-ridden countries would require long-term commitment, risk tolerance and flexibility, as well as sufficient resources and solid partnerships on the ground. In middle-income countries with large pockets of rural poverty, IFAD could make a difference by focusing on innovation and scaling up, including higher cost-sharing from those countries themselves. External resource mobilization should proceed cautiously, transparently and in close consultation with IFAD's governing bodies so as to preserve the Fund's unique business model and comparative advantage.
146. Jobs were the cornerstone of development and the route out of poverty. Smallholder agriculture was a major employer in many countries, and the theme of the current session might provide a platform for sharing experience and best practice with regard to job creation, particularly for rural women and young people. IFAD could play a strong knowledge-broker role in order to foster private investment. IFAD had achieved impressive results with regard to mainstreaming the environment, climate and gender into its programmes. However, it must allocate adequate resources in order to maintain its status as a leader on gender equality and women's empowerment. There was a lack of women in senior positions, and the Nordic countries hoped that special consideration would be given to qualified women when the current senior vacancies were filled.
147. **Mr ABOU HADID** (Egypt), outlining Egypt's robust pursuit of a road map to full political stability and economic liberalization, was pleased to report that the country's new Constitution included a commitment to delivering the essentials for farming and animal husbandry; guaranteeing the purchase of staple crops at a

- price that realized a profit margin for farmers; allocating a percentage of reclaimed land to small farmers and young graduates; and securing the role of women and the protection of farmers and agricultural workers from exploitation.
148. Through its programmes to alleviate poverty and improve living standards, IFAD was a key partner in Egypt's efforts to develop agriculture and combat rural poverty, and its country office in Cairo was the Fund's link with all neighbouring countries. Over one million families had benefited from IFAD's investment in model projects that had successfully increased small farmer incomes, promoting overall agricultural development in the target areas, which included some of Egypt's most disadvantaged villages. A new project was now in progress to build the marketing capacities of small farmers.
 149. Egypt's sustainable development strategy to 2030 focused on the achievement of agricultural growth at an annual rate of 4 per cent and on the improvement of food security. With agriculture as the mainstay of its economy and the driver of its economic growth, Egypt welcomed the focus of the current meeting on investing in smallholder family farmers for the future. It also followed with interest the Fund's efforts to develop its activities in line with its Members' requirements and to expand its borrowing services and projects on the basis of the development framework in each individual country.
 150. **Mr VARGAS HERNÁNDEZ** (Dominican Republic) said that his Government was working with IFAD to tackle the challenges set out in the national development strategy for 2010-2030. Sustainable agricultural development was a pillar of Government policy and included support for smallholder farmers, with a special focus on gender and youth. The aim was to increase agricultural productivity and competitiveness, including market access, with a view to improving quality of life in rural areas. Every weekend, President Medina met with farmers' organizations so as to hear directly from them about the challenges faced by smallholders and solutions that might meet their needs.
 151. The President had also launched a special fund to support exports and development. Development could be achieved only by investing in human resources, and his Government was therefore committed to strengthening its cooperation with IFAD in that regard. Capacity-building, partnerships, technology transfer, the inclusion of best practices in public policies, the strengthening of rural organizations, more flexible credit and a focus on disadvantaged areas could all help to boost the rural economy. That vision would give farmers the opportunity to become business partners and to share in the benefits of the global economy by becoming part of existing value chains.
 152. He welcomed IFAD's support for projects in the Dominican Republic, including in the border regions with Haiti. IFAD was a vital channel in cooperation for development and Members must therefore contribute to its expansion. His delegation would participate in the negotiations on the Tenth Replenishment in that spirit. His country reiterated its commitment to the Fund.
 153. **The meeting rose at 1.35 p.m.**

- (ii) Summary record of the second meeting of the thirty-seventh session held on Wednesday, 19 February 2014 at 6.25 p.m.

Chairperson: Pio Wennubst (Switzerland)
(Vice-Chairperson)

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154. **The meeting was called to order at 6.25 p.m.**
155. **A video documenting the experience of a farmer from The Gambia was screened.**

IFAD'S 2014 RESULTS-BASED PROGRAMME OF WORK AND REGULAR AND CAPITAL BUDGETS, THE IOE RESULTS-BASED WORK PROGRAMME AND BUDGET FOR 2014 AND INDICATIVE PLAN FOR 2015-2016, AND THE HIPC AND PBAS PROGRESS REPORTS (agenda item 10) (GC 37/L.7 and Add.1 to be revised as GC 37/L.7/Rev.1)

156. **The CHAIRPERSON** said that at its 110th session the Executive Board had reviewed the proposed budgets for the Fund and its Independent Office of Evaluation (IOE) and had recommended that they be put before the Governing Council for approval. He drew attention to the draft resolution contained in document GC 37/L.7.
157. **Mr KELLET** (Associate Vice-President, Financial Operations Department of IFAD) recalled that at its 110th session the Executive Board had approved a programme of IFAD loans and grants for 2014 totalling US\$1.06 billion. The lending and grants shortfall in 2013 would be made up by an increase in programmes of work in 2014 and 2015 in order to attain the US\$3 billion target set for the IFAD9 period. An amount of US\$0.225 billion was also projected in cofinancing directly managed and supervised by IFAD. The proposed regular budget for 2014 was US\$149.64 million, representing a US\$5.5 million or 3.8 per cent nominal increase over 2013, which comprised an increase of US\$2.28 million in recurrent costs owing to the replacement of the loans and grants system; additional recurrent costs of US\$2 million associated with actions proposed by Management in response to the corporate-level evaluation of IFAD's efficiency (CLEE); and US\$1.22 million in other increases.
158. The budget proposal assumed that all price inflation increases on non-staff costs would be absorbed within the regular budget. No net salary increases were envisioned for staff in 2014. In addition, the provision for salary increases for Professional staff, withheld since 2012 and amounting to US\$680,000, would be carried forward again, as the recommendations of the International Civil Service Commission (ICSC) for 2014 had resulted in a zero increase in the net salaries of Professional staff. Those savings would not be used without consultation with the Executive Board.
159. The proposed IFAD capital budget and one-time adjustment budget for 2014 of US\$5.4 million and US\$2.1 million respectively, to be implemented over the next two to three years, focused primarily on the action plan in response to the CLEE and on normal capital expenditure requirements, including programmed hardware replacements. Lastly, in response to commitments made in the IFAD policy on gender equality and women's empowerment, IFAD had developed a methodology for providing gender-based data on IFAD's loan portfolio and had attempted to do the same in relation to the regular budget. Further refinements of the methodology would be incorporated into future budgets.
160. **Mr TUINENBURG** (Officer-in-Charge, Independent Office of Evaluation of IFAD) said that the IOE results-based work programme and budget proposal for 2014 had benefited from the guidance of the Executive Board and its Audit Committee and Evaluation Committee. On the basis of the selectivity framework that IOE had developed and adopted for the first time in preparing its work programme and budget documents, IOE proposed in 2014 to undertake a corporate-level evaluation of IFAD's engagement in fragile states, in addition to completing the ongoing corporate-level evaluation of grants. The corporate-level evaluation on IFAD replenishments would be presented to the second session of the

Replenishment Consultation in June. With regard to the work programme to be carried out in the field, IOE had ensured a good mix of countries in terms of regional representation and size of the portfolio. It proposed seven country programme evaluations for: Bangladesh, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), China, Senegal, Sierra Leone, the United Republic of Tanzania and Zambia. It would also carry out eight project performance assessments and one impact evaluation in 2014, validate all the project completion reports made available during the year, and work on two evaluation syntheses, one on IFAD's engagement in middle-income countries and the other on pastoral development, in conjunction with the Office of Evaluation of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO).

161. With regard to resource requirements in 2014, IOE had undertaken a detailed strategic work planning exercise in 2013, including in particular a review of its current staffing numbers and staff grading composition, and had compared those with the estimated workload for implementing the proposed work programme for 2014. On the basis of the outcome of that exercise, IOE proposed maintaining the same number of staff in 2014 as in 2013. However, through the renewal of the partnership with the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), it had been agreed that a senior staff member from SDC would be seconded to IOE. The Swiss Government would cover all staff-cost-related expenses and IOE would cover operational costs relating to evaluation work.
162. Lastly, IOE had applied IFAD's corporate parameters for the administrative budget: an inflation rate of 2.1 per cent for non-staff costs; no increase in staff salaries; and an exchange rate of US\$1 to EUR 0.72. IOE's final budget proposal for 2014 was therefore around US\$5.98 million, compared with US\$6.01 million in 2013, a reduction of 0.5 per cent.
163. **Mr CLEAVER** (Associate Vice-President, Programme Management Department of IFAD) said that during 2013 the performance-based allocation system (PBAS) had continued to be applied to all loans and country-specific grants presented to the Executive Board for approval, except those financed under the Adaptation for Smallholder Agriculture Programme (ASAP). Approximately 96 per cent of the resources available for commitment had been allocated according to the PBAS guidelines, with the remainder consisting of global and regional grants, which were not country-specific, and grants under ASAP. The 2013 country performance scores were based on updated data on portfolio and rural sector performance in each country, as well as figures for the rural population and gross national income per capita. The scores were available in document GC 37/L.7/Add.1 and were posted on the IFAD website. The updated data were reflected in the overall 2013 country scores and in the 2014 PBAS allocation to each country.
164. The document also invited the Governing Council to take note of the interim status of implementation of the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC) Debt Initiative and IFAD's participation in that Initiative.
165. **Ms BÖLLHOFF** (Germany) welcomed the fact that IFAD's budget proposal for 2014 did not foresee salary increases and that IFAD was in a position to absorb inflation-induced cost increases. However, her delegation would have to abstain from approval of IFAD's 2014 regular and capital budgets, since IFAD was well positioned to offset potential cost increases with efficiency gains and the resulting savings through rigorous implementation of the reform agenda. She therefore encouraged IFAD to take further steps to improve efficiency and cost-effectiveness.
166. **The CHAIRPERSON** invited the Council to adopt the draft resolution contained in document GC 37/L.7.

167. **Resolution 182/XXXVII on the administrative budget comprising the regular, capital and one-time budgets of IFAD for 2014 and the budget of the Independent Office of Evaluation of IFAD for 2014 was adopted.**

GLOBAL MECHANISM OF THE UNITED NATIONS CONVENTION TO COMBAT DESERTIFICATION (agenda item 12) (GC 37/L.9)

168. **The CHAIRPERSON** drew attention to document GC 37/L.9, containing a report and update with respect to the hosting arrangements for the Global Mechanism, which had been considered by the Executive Board at its 110th session and was now before the Governing Council for information.
169. **Ms MENON** (Associate Vice-President, Corporate Services Department of IFAD) recalled that, at its ninth special session in May 2012, the Executive Board had adopted a resolution on the amendment to the Memorandum of Understanding between the Conference of the Parties (COP) of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) and IFAD regarding the modalities and administrative operations of the Global Mechanism and had reported on it to the Governing Council at its 2013 session. Document GC 37/L.9 outlined the further progress made with regard to the relocation of the Global Mechanism and its staff to the UNCCD Secretariat in Bonn, in line with the decision of COP11 in September 2013, and the handover of the financial accounts. It had also been decided at COP11 to establish a liaison office in Rome and to staff it appropriately. The President had met with the new Executive Secretary of UNCCD, Ms Monique Barbut, who wished to implement the decisions of COP11 as quickly as possible. To that end, as of April 2013 all the Global Mechanism staff had been appointed as UNCCD staff in accordance with the United Nations Staff Rules and Regulations. UNCCD hoped to finalize decisions regarding staff movements and relocations to Bonn in the first quarter of 2014.
170. In accordance with the COP decision and the revised Memorandum of Understanding, IFAD and UNCCD had worked on a plan for the handover of the Global Mechanism accounts. On 22 October 2013, IFAD had transferred US\$1.4 million, representing the balance of funds in the Global Mechanism accounts held by IFAD less an amount set aside for potential liabilities, to the UNCCD bank account. The retention of the Global Mechanism funds to be put in an escrow account was a precautionary and provisional measure pending a suitable arrangement between the Fund and UNCCD on the question of liability over the Global Mechanism. That measure was in line with the advice provided by the Office of the Legal Counsel of the United Nations to UNCCD in July 2012, which had concluded that, in the absence of any rule or other arrangement that might be entered into by the COP and IFAD, the issue should be resolved between the UNCCD Secretariat and IFAD, with the guidance of the COP if necessary. To that end, IFAD and the UNCCD Secretariat had been collaborating with a view to reaching a mutually acceptable solution in order to close the account and release funds back to the Secretariat. Only a few days previously, UNCCD had informed IFAD of certain actions that could result in the reduction of those liabilities. When formal confirmation of those actions was received, IFAD would release the corresponding resources currently held in the escrow account.
171. The President of IFAD and the Executive Secretary of UNCCD had held detailed bilateral consultations on all pending issues relating to IFAD's hosting of the Global Mechanism and had established a plan for the way forward. IFAD expected all such issues to be resolved in the near term. As in the past, the Executive Board would be kept informed of the outcome of any matters relating to the Global Mechanism.
172. **Ms STENSETH** (Norway), having welcomed the update provided, said that, as her delegation had stated at the Executive Board session in December, it was

disappointed with IFAD's handling of the matter at hand and had raised concerns about the basis for IFAD's decision to set aside funds in an escrow account to cover some or all of the identified liabilities. Those views could have been better reflected in the document transmitted to the Governing Council. However, she welcomed the fact that Management was committed to reaching a successful conclusion, in close coordination with UNCCD; until that was achieved, the matter would continue to be a cause of concern.

173. **Ms ARRIBALZAGA** (Spain) said that her delegation shared the concerns expressed by the representative of Norway but also welcomed the fact that an agreement was about to be reached.
174. **The Governing Council took note of the information provided in document GC 37/L.9.**

STATEMENT OF THE FIFTH GLOBAL MEETING OF THE FARMERS' FORUM

175. At the invitation of the Chairperson, Ms Elizabeth MPOFU, representative of the Farmers' Forum, delivered a summary of the statement of the Fifth Global Meeting of the Farmers' Forum, which had been held in Rome on 17 and 18 February 2014 in conjunction with the thirty-seventh session of the Governing Council. The full text of the statement is reproduced in chapter 4.

GENERAL STATEMENTS (agenda item 6) (continued)

176. **Mr ELAMIEN MOHAMED** (Sudan) stressed the fundamental role of smallholder family farming in terms of food security, sustainable rural development, the eradication of hunger and unemployment, social cohesion and the balanced and sustainable use of natural resources. Family farming accounted for at least 70 per cent of all agriculture in the Sudan, and largely involved women, but had been adversely affected by global crises, rural migration, lack of agrarian reform and climate change pressures that exacerbated conflict over natural resources, reduced production levels and aggravated poverty.
177. Despite meagre resources, the Sudanese Government prioritized spending on the agricultural sector and had started to create a favourable environment by mapping optimum land use and developing microfinance facilities for small producers, graduates and young persons. It was implementing such key agricultural development initiatives as the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme and a regional drought response programme, and had prepared a country strategic opportunities paper for the period 2013-2018 and a strategic paper on development of the traditional rainfed farming sector. It was also implementing various IFAD projects focused on family farming, an area that offered abundant opportunities but also comprised challenges. Policy measures were needed, inter alia, to boost public investment in rural areas in particular; reduce risks associated with loans to small farmers; establish new financing institutions responsive to farmers' needs; resolve smallholding and land ownership issues; support women's and youth projects, with a focus on access to markets and finance; manage natural resources using environmentally-friendly technologies; promote research and information exchange; and increase added value for producers. The Sudan remained fully committed to IFAD's work.
178. **Mr OEHLER** (Austria) commented, with regard to the Ninth Replenishment period, now in its second year, that the question was whether the ambitious goal of contributing to lifting 80 million people out of poverty would be achieved by 2015. The Members had agreed that, in order to do so, it would be necessary to improve the Fund's development impact, raise its operational effectiveness, achieve institutional efficiency and strengthen financial management. He urged the Fund to continue its efforts to achieve that goal. The findings of the results, impact and development effectiveness reports were encouraging, but emphasized the fact

that only well-planned and implemented projects yielded successful development results, and that operational and institutional effectiveness and efficiency were key.

179. He drew attention to the important role of borrower governments, which also needed to strengthen their commitment and dedication to development issues. Recipient countries had to create an enabling environment for successful development interventions. The fact was that only one year prior to the deadline for reaching the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), the number of poor remained very high and the figure for people living in abject poverty who suffered severe hunger was still around one billion. The majority of them were rural poor, which meant that the mandate of the Fund and its development partners was far from being accomplished. He wished the Fund a successful Tenth Replenishment and a road map consistent with the post-2015 development agenda. The midterm review exercise was a good starting point for considering accomplishments and shortcomings. Finally, he welcomed the Russian Federation as a new Member of the Fund.
180. **Mr AL TARAWNEH** (Jordan) said that agriculture was a key economic sector in Jordan, playing a vital role in development, particularly in rural communities, and in ensuring food security. It accounted for a substantial proportion of Jordan's exports and provided an essential income for many families, even though the cultivated land area had been reduced on account of urbanization, fragmented land ownership and poor land productivity. Future directions in the country's agricultural sector were encapsulated in seven objectives: household food security and rural poverty reduction; development of plant and animal resources through the delivery of support and services to farmers; forest protection, forestation and development of grazing land; marketing infrastructure development, including legislation to increase exports; introduction of modern farming technology and techniques; improvement of investment data in order to boost investment in farming; and development of farming legislation and institutional capacity-building in the farming sector.
181. The main theme of the current session merited support and attention, smallholder family farming being the commonest form of agriculture in the majority of developing countries, including Jordan. Smallholder projects must therefore be encouraged, given the role of such farming in promoting agricultural development, food security, sustainability of natural resources and sustainable development in its widest sense. Smallholder farmers were the focus of Jordan's socio-economic development plans and he therefore looked forward to benefiting from the discussions on that theme.
182. **Mr CANGA** (Angola) welcomed the choice of family farming as the theme of the current session, the proclamation of 2014 as the International Year of Family Farming and its designation by the African Union as the Year of Agriculture and Food Security. Sustainable agricultural development was essential to achieving economic diversification, reducing dependence on the oil sector, achieving food self-sufficiency and improving the living conditions of the population, particularly smallholder farmers. The huge challenges currently faced by the rural world could only be adequately addressed if due priority was given to the concerns of farmers.
183. Angola was promoting the integrated development of agriculture by providing assistance to farmers and fishers and to their associations or cooperatives, while also encouraging the private sector. The focus was on the rehabilitation and creation of infrastructure to facilitate the marketing of agricultural produce, investment in training at all levels and in agricultural extension services and research, and the modernization of family farming and artisanal fishing by improving the knowledge and know-how of farmers and fishers, particularly women. Improved access to credit and markets was needed, and a programme of

- loans benefiting thousands of farmers and fishers had therefore been created, with the participation of public institutions, the banking sector, businesses and civil society organizations, together with a programme for the purchase of farmers' produce as a means of bringing rural producers closer to markets.
184. The Angolan Government was making every effort to mitigate the effects of climate change on agriculture and fishing, with the sometimes catastrophic impact of droughts and flooding on the means of subsistence of smallholder farmers and fishers. It was necessary to reinforce regional and international cooperation to address climate change issues, and he therefore encouraged Members to be generous in contributing to the Tenth Replenishment.
 185. **Mr MANNAN** (Bangladesh) said that IFAD had always been at the forefront of efforts to combat hunger and poverty in poor developing countries. In view of the dominant role of family farms in rural economies and their catalytic effect on rural farm and non-farm activities, the theme chosen for the Governing Council was particularly timely.
 186. Bangladesh had made significant progress in developing agricultural production since its independence in 1971, based on sustained support through appropriate policies, extension services and research and development. Nearly 48 per cent of the national labour force was engaged in agriculture and, despite the vulnerability of the country to climate change, steady annual GDP growth of nearly 6 per cent had been achieved over the past decade. The complete eradication of poverty was envisaged by 2021. The long-term plan for the eradication of poverty and inequality included investment in smallholder family farms. Experience showed that such investment contributed to achieving food security, increasing literacy, strengthening gender empowerment and reinforcing the resilience to cope with economic and climate-induced calamities. The "One House One Farm" project to promote family farming through e-financial inclusion and empowerment had been launched in 2010, and included initiatives to assist smallholder and marginal farmers with capital formation, skills development and income generation.
 187. He welcomed the long-standing contribution made by IFAD to poverty alleviation, rural infrastructure development and agricultural development in Bangladesh. He therefore reaffirmed his country's full support to the Fund and his confidence that it would continue to play a significant role in supporting rural development programmes in developing countries.
 188. **Mr HUMADO** (Ghana) said that the theme of the session captured the essence of the current development focus of the food and agriculture sector in many developing and emerging economies. There had been a renewed effort in many countries over the past decade to transform agriculture, especially in those nations implementing the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme. It was now time to transform the situation of smallholder family farmers by investing in agricultural technology to improve productivity; infrastructure to provide better access to markets and enhance small-scale industry; strengthened institutions to improve support services for smallholder farmers; and an improved policy and legislative environment to ensure sustained income and environmentally friendly production.
 189. As the post-2015 global development agenda took centre stage, it was important to call for development models that were sustainable, inclusive and equitable, in which IFAD should be fully engaged. Inclusive development models needed to be evolved to ensure that the process of the modernization and transformation of agriculture in developing countries did not bypass smallholder farmers. Ghana, working closely with IFAD and other partners, had already seen successful mutually beneficial partnerships between private sector actors and smallholder farmers, resulting in increased productivity, access to markets and improved family incomes. The future that was desired was one of competitive agricultural

incomes that were attractive to the young, of well-nourished children attending school and reaching their full potential, and of secure food and nutrition. That future was attainable if resources were focused on making smallholder family farmers more productive and competitive. It was now time to capitalize on the prevailing international goodwill towards agriculture to turn around the fortunes of smallholder family farmers.

190. **Mr LACHAAL** (Tunisia) expressed satisfaction with IFAD's progress in striving for greater efficiency in its work in order to keep pace with rapid global socio-economic and climate changes and address the resulting challenges to the farming sector, particularly in developing countries, which looked to the Fund as a key partner in assisting their achievement of the MDGs. Indeed, the Fund had contributed to Tunisia's agricultural development efforts, which, using a participatory approach in the interest of sustainability, were targeted at improving the incomes and livelihoods of the most marginalized and disadvantaged groups.
191. Tunisia's agriculture was essentially based on smallholder family farming, the role of which was crucial, notably in the areas of food security; conservation of biodiversity and plant and animal species, which facilitated maintenance of the traditional dietary pattern; and income generation and value addition to agricultural production, which helped to create rural economic dynamism. Given the importance of that role, smallholder family farming must assume its rightful place as part of a comprehensive and integrated methodology in support of agricultural development objectives. To that end, emphasis should be focused on access to appropriate finance for farmers on flexible terms; training, guidance and collective action aimed at enhancing the efficiency of smallholder farmers; implementation of programmes taking into account all production stages, such as land preparation, marketing and processing; and value addition to fresh or processed produce through quality branding. He looked forward to IFAD's support for such programmes with a view to reaping the benefits during the present International Year of Family Farming in the context of a comprehensive and ambitious mid- and long-term development plan for family farming.
192. **Mr IBRAHIMA** (Niger) said that the 3N Initiative, "*les Nigériens nourrissent les Nigériens*" (the people of Niger feeding their own), had restored the primary function of agriculture in Niger. The country's family farms, of which there were more than a million, played a key role in the provision of food and in rural employment; three out of four people in Niger made their living off the land. Nonetheless, Niger had a substantial food-trade deficit. The 3N Initiative was expected to put an end to chronic food insecurity through the modernization of production systems, preservation of the environment and protection of consumer health. All links in the value chain would be optimized, from the provision of high-quality seeds to increased yields, the construction of storage infrastructure and the development of processing and packaging. Family farmers and agricultural workers would earn enough to ensure a decent standard of living and feel valued in society. Such conditions were essential in order to ensure that individuals and economic operators continued to pursue or fund farming activities.
193. The State would make the best use of investment, taking steps to improve farm productivity and competitiveness and to enable farms to modernize so that they could meet demand while maintaining quality and respecting the environment, thus helping to ensure food security both in the country and in the region. The farmers of Niger would be supported as part of a new vision known as "*Mon champ, mon entreprise*" (My field, my business). He hoped that the Fund and the country's other partners would continue to provide much-valued support to Niger. The sum of US\$200 million provided for a five-year programme was particularly welcome.

194. **Ms BÖLLHOFF** (Germany) said that IFAD's core mandate coincided with the top priorities of German development cooperation. She commended the Fund's work in supporting smallholder agriculture and fighting rural poverty and expressed appreciation of Management's efforts to ensure that the expanding programme of work was of high quality. IFAD must maintain and focus further on the comparative advantage of its specialized knowledge in order to ensure development effectiveness and cost efficiency and to develop its business profile. At the same time, as a specialized financial institution, IFAD needed to be much better prepared than more diversified financial institutions to respond to challenges in rural development.
195. With regard to the upcoming Replenishment, IFAD should continue to concentrate on its core mandate and should focus on the poorest countries and the most vulnerable people. Her Government was particularly keen to see IFAD concern itself with fragile and conflict-affected States; it also attached importance to the empowerment of women and girls. Climate matters and biodiversity should also be tackled. She welcomed IFAD's ongoing innovation efforts and encouraged further cooperation with the private sector. The successful implementation of the strategic partnership between Germany and IFAD was another welcome development. Lastly, she commended IFAD's efforts to improve effectiveness, cost efficiency and transparency.
196. **The meeting rose at 7.35 p.m.**

- (iii) Summary record of the third meeting of the thirty-seventh session held on Thursday, 20 February 2014 at 9.30 a.m.

**Chairperson: Afonso Pedro Canga (Angola)
(Vice-Chairperson)**

**Later: Luc Oyoubi (Gabon)
(Chairperson)**

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197. **The meeting was called to order at 9.35 a.m.**

ONE-ON-ONE SESSION: A CONVERSATION WITH MR PAUL POLMAN,
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER, UNILEVER

198. **A video documenting the experience of a family farmer from Guatemala was screened.**
199. **Ms PILLAI** (Moderator), introducing the one-on-one session, welcomed Mr Paul Polman, Chief Executive Officer of Unilever, who was a thought leader in the area of sustainable leadership and sustainable business, a member of the International Business Council of the World Economic Forum and Chairman of the World Business Council for Sustainable Development. In 2013, he had also been invited by the United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon to participate in the High-level Panel of Eminent Persons on the Post-2015 Millennium Development Goals. During the five years in which he had been Chief Executive Officer of Unilever, he had incorporated sustainability into the core of the company, changing its modus operandi and focusing employees' attention on the delivery of Unilever's Sustainable Living Plan. Centred on that approach and its relationship to smallholder farms, the one-on-one conversation with Mr Polman would also inform the ensuing private sector panel discussion on the theme "Small farmers = Big business". She invited Mr Polman to begin by describing the essence of Unilever's Sustainable Living Plan.
200. **Mr POLMAN** (Chief Executive Officer, Unilever), noting that the International Year of Family Farming was an opportune occasion for an exchange of thoughts on sustainability issues, said that the Unilever Sustainable Living Plan was premised on the fact that it was clearly possible to lift millions out of poverty, as had been demonstrated over the past 30 years, including through attainment of the Millennium Development Goal (MDG) target of halving the proportion of people living under the poverty line. That had, however, come at an enormous cost. A billion people still went to bed hungry in a situation exacerbated by the global crisis of 2008 and 2009. If countries did not function, business would not function either. If a system was not in equilibrium and too many people were not reaping the benefits, it would ultimately be rejected. The aim of the Unilever Sustainable Living Plan was therefore to create a business model for improving that situation, with climate change, food security and poverty alleviation playing an integral part.
201. Large businesses such as Unilever had a vital role to play in meeting social goals, bearing in mind that the poor were the group most affected by the impact on food supply and price volatility caused by such factors in today's rapidly evolving world as the inadequacy of natural resources to meet demand and the effects of climate change. Unless they were part of the solution, those businesses would be unable to resolve related problems of their own, such as costs incurred by climate change and opportunities missed owing to the inability of so many to purchase food. As a seller of soap, for example, it was in Unilever's interest to make a positive contribution by ensuring that everyone washed their hands, thereby preventing millions of children dying from lack of sanitation while at the same time creating sustainable livelihoods.
202. **Ms PILLAI** (Moderator) asked whether that social conscience and positive contribution combined to enhance the resilience and attractiveness of a soap brand such as *Lifebuoy*.
203. **Mr POLMAN** stated that the original *raison d'être* of businesses was to serve society and resolve its problems, rather than to satisfy shareholders. That particular soap, for instance, had initially been called *Liveboy* because it gave life. In the same vein, food businesses, including Unilever, had a responsibility to confront a wide range of food-related issues, from sustainable agriculture and land rights to stunting, food wastage and obesity.

204. **Ms PILLAI** (Moderator) wondered whether all businesses needed to be part of the solution insofar as Unilever's position and language appeared to differ from the norm.
205. **Mr POLMAN** expressed the view that businesses increasingly understood the need to join in resolving the multitude of burning issues now in the public eye on account of the growing interconnection of citizens and the digitization of societies seeking change. Unless they took on board that primary shared responsibility, businesses would be unable to buy or sell products or bring nutritional values to countries, creating not only pressure on themselves but also an unhappy world for future generations.
206. As in the case of the sense of purpose of IFAD staff and indeed of his own parents as they had striven to create better lives for their children in post-war Europe, he worked for the purpose of resolving issues that were too big for individuals to settle, on the understanding that to do so would promote the common interest. By that token, the imbalance in a system now unjustly characterized by a heavy concentration of wealth and consumption in the hands of a tiny minority must be redressed in order to avert the danger it posed to human existence.
207. In short, Unilever's main targets included fully sustainable sourcing of materials by 2020, with the rate now standing at some 50 per cent, up from 10 per cent in 2010. It was now playing a leading part in actively working to address one of the major remaining challenges on that score, namely deforestation, which could not be tackled by businesses or government alone and would take a minimum of 10 years of partnership action to end.
208. Turning to IFAD's role in finding sustainable solutions to such issues, he said that IFAD's knowledge and capabilities on the ground for training vast numbers of smallholder farmers could be coordinated with Unilever's capacity, as a sustainable non-governmental organization (NGO), for dealing with such aspects as markets, supply, quality standards and soil management techniques.
209. **Ms PILLAI** (Moderator), referring to a memorandum of understanding due to be signed between Unilever and IFAD, asked for a concrete example of work that the two organizations might jointly perform with smallholder farmers.
210. **Mr POLMAN** replied that Unilever would require help on the ground from different partners in order to increase significantly the number of smallholder farmers involved in its supply chain, which now amounted to almost two million. Tea, for example, was an ideal crop for smallholder farming but government and IFAD assistance were needed, respectively, to build factories and to train smallholder tea farmers in soil and water management techniques, inter alia.
211. **Ms PILLAI** (Moderator) relayed a question tweeted from India: how much did Unilever plan to source from small farmers in that country?
212. **Mr POLMAN**, while noting the existence of an IFAD country office in India and a Unilever rural employment programme for Shakti women, said that he was unable to provide a direct reply to that very specific question. He nonetheless saw no reason why a million or more Indian smallholder farmers could not be connected to the Unilever supply team, although that exercise could not be performed single-handed.
213. **Ms PILLAI** (Moderator) asked Mr Polman whether some might be justified in feeling uncomfortable at the new prospect of a memorandum of understanding between IFAD and Unilever.
214. **Mr POLMAN** said that it was a matter of building the right level of trust and mutual understanding, with the smallholder farmer in the middle, and that joint action by governments, businesses and NGOs spoke louder than words.

215. **Mr ASEFFA** (Ethiopia) asked how a global corporation like Unilever reconciled its main profit-making objective and work with smallholder farmers. Exactly what role would it play in the process described?
216. **Mr POLMAN** reiterated that the most important role of business was not profit-making but to serve society in a sustainable manner. A recent study showed that businesses that focused on optimizing profit had an average life span of 18 years, whereas a company such as Unilever had been in existence for over a hundred years. Shareholders and citizens alike had demands and Unilever was an ecosystem that could not function if consumers did not buy its products. It therefore had a responsibility to cater to multiple stakeholders, namely consumers, employees and communities.
217. Unilever could help smallholder farmers, as in its projects in Ethiopia, by creating a market for a longer-term guarantee of a livelihood worth investing in through training and improved production techniques. It could also add value to IFAD's work by introducing social compliance standards and providing other opportunities, such as health and energy facilities, to avoid overburdening national systems that were already under stress. Once lifted out of poverty, the 2.5 billion at the bottom of the pyramid would have a greater purchasing power beneficial to businesses and economies in general.
218. **Mr SALHA** (New Partnership for Africa's Development) highlighted some of the problems facing Africa: high proportions of small farmers, amounting to 75 per cent of those involved in agriculture; rife unemployment among an enormous pool of unskilled youth; poor infrastructure; the impact of recurrent natural disasters on smallholder activities; and the increasing number of hungry poor in urban areas. In those circumstances, what were the preconditions for Unilever's establishment of a win-win business partnership in Africa?
219. **Mr POLMAN** said that, bearing in mind the high percentages of rural poor and smallholder farmers, it made sense for businesses and governments to invest in those farmers and, more specifically, in providing livelihoods for women. Indeed, such investments would yield a fourfold return and quickly lift people out of poverty. In order to create the necessary ecosystem, however, stakeholders must together engage in vital discussions on such issues as land rights, infrastructure, port clearance, social compliance, acceptable living standards, hygiene and sanitation, training on the ground and guaranteed markets. In Unilever's case, its employment of two million smallholder farmers would be impossible without its continuing implementation of up to 40 projects at any one time.
220. **Mr DAY** (Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture), stressing the importance of work between international organizations and the private sector, wished to know how Unilever defined sustainability and whether modern technology was one of its components.
221. **Mr POLMAN** responded that sustainability produced longevity and also had social, economic and environmental aspects, which formed a "triple bottom line" associated with such factors as the proper treatment of workers and care of resources. Sustainability also aimed to create economic viability in order to avoid total aid dependency in the case of fragile countries and groups at the bottom of the pyramid.
222. **Mr COMOE KINI** (Côte d'Ivoire) asked why Unilever's involvement in his country related to such cash crops as palm oil and cocoa, given that the majority of the rural population farmed staple crops. Secondly, with particular reference to technical and vocational training, were Unilever and IFAD compatible?
223. **Mr POLMAN**, indicating that Unilever was currently working with the Ivorian Government to set up several new projects in the country, underlined the importance of establishing sustainable value chains for palm oil and cocoa in

- order to avoid difficulties experienced with those crops in other producer countries. Unilever was also working to foster the economy in Côte d'Ivoire and elsewhere, including through education and other actions to resolve youth employment problems in particular. Such activities were a shared responsibility.
224. **Mr SICHINGA** (Zambia), citing the example of a cotton production crisis sparked in Zambia by the failure of a multinational to honour its price promise to producers, asked how Unilever proposed to address price volatility issues without putting pressure on very poor small-scale farmers.
225. **Mr BERHE** (Eritrea), noting the wide discrepancy between prices paid for raw and processed materials, wondered what role Unilever would play in terms of value addition.
226. **Mr POLMAN** said that the two questions were related and that climate change was among the many causes of increasing price volatility and must be fought. Another cause was lack of clarity concerning supply and demand, which called for the creation of a more transparent market in order to forestall price volatility. Unilever attempted to soften market fluctuations through the added value of longer-term contracts and in-country production facilities.
227. While agreeing that price volatility should be addressed from the outset, the multitude of elements involved meant that there was no simple answer. The key lay in limiting price volatility through the techniques already mentioned and in improving the quality of products with a view to obtaining better prices, which in turn justified the additional investments in smallholder farmers. In short, the only way to lift people out of poverty was to undertake that responsibility as a joint exercise.

PRIVATE SECTOR PANEL: "SMALL FARMERS = BIG BUSINESS"

228. **Ms PILLAI** (Moderator) said that the floor would now be open for the wider panel discussion on the connection between small farmers and big business. She introduced the members of the panel: Mr Andrew Rugasira, Chief Executive Officer of Good African Coffee, which had close ties with many smallholder farms in its supply chain, from Uganda; Ms Merling Preza Ramos, Director of the PRODECOOP Fair Trade Cooperative, representing 2,300 small farmers, also in the coffee sector, from Nicaragua; Mr Bill Vorley, Principal Researcher in the Sustainable Markets Group of the International Institute for Environment and Development, who had worked on a number of research studies on private-public partnerships and smallholder farms; and Ms Laksmi Prasvita, Executive Director of PISAgr (Partnership for Indonesia's Sustainable Agriculture), which aimed to bring together government, smallholder farms and big business, from Indonesia.
229. **Mr RUGASIRA**, in response to a question about how smallholder farms and coffee growers benefited from being part of his company's supply chain, said that smallholder farmers should be seen as business people who wanted to increase the return on their investment. His company had been working with farmers to help them organize themselves into groups and to give them the knowledge and capacity to grow better coffee, which the company then bought at a good price for processing into a finished product that could be sold to consumers. Farmers had transformed their communities themselves through increased household incomes, and their aspirations were higher: they wanted better education for their children and better health care, and were increasingly able to organize transport for themselves and their products instead of walking to market.
230. The key change that had benefited smallholder farmers was the provision of opportunities. Such farmers were poor not because they lacked material resources but because they lacked the opportunity to make money. His company had entered into a partnership with farmers that enabled them to produce a product in a sustainable way that they could sell at a profit; that was not charity

- or philanthropy but a business transaction that enabled farmers to lift themselves out of poverty and build sustainable opportunities for their families.
231. **Ms PILLAI** (Moderator), noting that PISAgro had run a number of pilot projects involving different crops, asked Ms Prasvita in which areas the farmers had benefited most.
 232. **Ms PRASVITA** said that PISAgro brought smallholder farmers into the modern value chain of big industry. It had 10 commodity-based working groups, each with a private sector leader that had responsibility for developing the complete supply chain, including the end supply chain, and for providing farmers with on-farm training. Banks provided microcredit and, in some cases, NGOs and government were also involved. The objective for each working group was to increase both productivity and income by 20 per cent, in a sustainable way that did not jeopardize the environment, with a specific target of reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 20 per cent. One particularly successful example was the rice working group, where a pilot project covering 5,000 hectares of land had improved the quality of the rice produced and led to a 26 per cent increase in smallholder farmers' productivity and a 48 per cent increase in their income. Private sector partners had been instrumental in that success by providing training and by guaranteeing the purchase of the end product.
 233. **Ms PILLAI** (Moderator) noted that the model used by PISAgro had been launched at the World Economic Forum and that the goal was to replicate that model in other countries.
 234. **Ms PREZA RAMOS** said that PRODECOOP used a different model: it was a cooperative of smallholders that worked in different areas, namely production, processing and marketing. The main issue was sustainability, both economic and environmental: it was necessary to have enough income to sustain family farms and to enable them to look after their ecosystems. At a different level, PRODECOOP was also part of the private sector. It was important to integrate people and empower them in order to encourage development. If people were not masters of their own activities, they could not progress.
 235. **Mr VORLEY** said that he welcomed private sector involvement with smallholder farmers and commended the activities of Unilever, which were being conducted in a transparent way. However, while many smallholder farmers were connected to the private sector it was largely through the informal trade in staples or bulk commodities. Perhaps 10 per cent of smallholders were commercially connected to the modern value chain and a further 20 per cent to more informal markets; however, the majority were not generating a surplus for the market and might even be net food consumers. It was necessary to take account of those distinctions and to understand not only how success was achieved but also why there were so many failures.
 236. For example, for Unilever to be inclusive and promote development for the poorest smallholders – women and young people – it might be more important for it to provide jobs rather than products and markets. In modern value chains there were major dilemmas in terms of risk management, cost management and opening up markets for development to secure supply. Smaller and poorer suppliers tended to be weeded out, or indeed weeded themselves out because they saw more benefit and less risk in informal markets. It was necessary to understand farmers' choices so as to be more realistic about how to include small farmers in modern markets.
 237. **Mr RUGASIRA** said that he did not make such a distinction. In 2013, some 25 million smallholder farmers had produced 80 per cent of the 8 million tons of coffee grown; they were integrated into the global commodity supply chain. The challenge for producer countries was to add value to commodities that were

- currently exported raw, so as to limit the impact of price volatility: the price of finished coffee was less volatile than that of the raw commodity.
238. Many African countries were producers of commodities that they did not consume; indeed, owing to a widespread belief that it was not possible to create local brands, his company had initially faced huge difficulties in securing bank financing to set up coffee roasting facilities. Most farmers had never drunk the coffee produced from their crop; at an event organized by the company for 2,000 farmers' leaders, many had tasted it for the first time. For them, understanding that coffee was not just a commodity but a product that was actually consumed had brought about a change of mindset and a greater understanding of the need for quality. Such insights helped farmers to feel more connected to the global marketplace and boosted their dignity and self-esteem.
 239. **Ms PILLAI** (Moderator) pointed out that money was required in order for smallholder farmers to work towards certification and improve quality and yields. She wondered whether such farmers had sufficient access to credit.
 240. **Ms PRASVITA** said that she agreed with Mr Rugasira that smallholder farmers should be more integrated into the supply chain and should be given the opportunity to add value rather than just producing raw material. Training and capital were needed for that purpose. Naturally, corporations had limited budgets for training; therefore it was necessary to involve other stakeholders – governments and institutions such as IFAD – in that endeavour. The experience of PISAgro showed that partnership with the private sector worked well when it was on a small scale; however at the scaling-up stage, when there was a need to train greater numbers of farmers, more investment was required.
 241. **Ms PILLAI** (Moderator) asked who would fund such activities, bearing in mind the risk factor.
 242. **Mr POLMAN** said that more than sufficient funding was available and that the challenge was bringing the right people together, a goal to be pursued in order to speed up the process. Smallholder farmers needed access to credit, and development banks had therefore been set up as companies to fulfil that function in place of ordinary banks, which were occupied in other ventures. Creating ecosystems that paid off in the long term was the right thing to do. Ultimately, the focus must remain centred on smallholder farmers – and women in particular – and the key fact that such issues as price volatility, land rights and labour standards could be resolved only through collaborative efforts and pooled knowledge. Indeed, it made good business sense to learn from a range of actors with different interests and thus create more robust models and a superior and more sustainable product.
 243. **Ms RAMOS** wondered how sustainability could be achieved and what action smallholders could take, bearing in mind that they could not be expected to approach a multinational company of their own accord and would simply continue to be poor and hungry unless they were integrated into the system.
 244. **Mr POLMAN**, citing food sources as an example, said that transparency and traceability were essential to building public trust. Sustainability was also vital to ensuring that opportunities remained for future generations in that everyone had the right to a decent life, food and employment. Palm oil, for instance, was in extraordinary demand and must therefore be sustainably produced if yields were not to go down and prices up, taking into account in addition such factors as climate change.
 245. **Ms PILLAI** (Moderator) asked whether Unilever, in pursuing its laudable goals of decreasing deforestation and achieving full traceability of palm oil products, had not perhaps reduced its engagement with smallholder farmers by working instead with bigger entities.

246. **Mr POLMAN** replied that job creation was the social part of the sustainability equation and was integrally linked to its economic, social and environmental aspects. Unilever had therefore, on the contrary, increased its engagement with smallholder farmers of palm oil. In Indonesia, it worked with various government bodies and agencies to create the necessary ecosystems, which no party could do unaided. In short, it was time to work differently together in order to help the world's hungry, which was a shared moral responsibility of much higher significance than any government or business interests.
247. **Mr RUGASIRA**, speaking from the perspective of a small NGO coalition, agreed that all stakeholders shared that responsibility. Governments also had a particular responsibility to address market failures and bottlenecks in rural economies by creating incentives for channelling resources into strategic sectors such as agriculture, which in Africa had least access to credit and loans. Without that access, small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs) were unable to buy smallholder produce in order to add value before it was marketed. Knowledge and infrastructure gaps must likewise be addressed. IFAD was a good example of an organization with the capacity to enhance, leverage and support partnerships with smallholder farmers.
248. **Ms PILLAI** (Moderator) asked what IFAD might do in addition to what it was already doing.
249. **Mr RUGASIRA** replied that IFAD could expand the framework of engagement with SMEs in addition to smallholder farmers and leverage the relationship with those two players in the ecosystem, as well as with players like Unilever, in order to improve economies as a whole. To enhance that linkage would be to take advantage of the business opportunity that presented itself in the light of the failure of banks to lend to agriculture-related SMEs.
250. **Ms PILLAI** (Moderator) asked Mr Vorley how public policy could do more to support smallholder farming and ensure a fair relationship with big business.
251. **Mr VORLEY**, noting the connection between public policy, credit and finance, said that an unstable market offered no guarantee of a decent income and was therefore one of the biggest disincentives to small farmer investment in production. Market stabilization depended on the reliability of buyers and on market structures and governance, with the State playing an important role in terms of recognizing producer organizations and federations through its tax policy and experimenting with structures designed to enhance horizontal market performance instead of relying on vertical value chain interventions. Such structures would enable producers to receive three times as much for their yields than would otherwise be the case, Kenyan tea being one example.
252. In a nutshell, a good balance of progressive policy and producer recognition was essential to enabling an impoverished sector to retain enough wealth for investment in quality, extension and capacity-building rather than being obliged to rescue itself by reinvesting downstream profits with big businesses.
253. **Ms PILLAI** asked Ms Prasvita, in the light of her experience in running pilot projects, whether the attitude of local governments was a critical factor in a project's success.
254. **Ms PRASVITA**, reacting first to an earlier comment, said that 90 per cent of smallholder farmers had no access to the private sector because the latter operated on the basis of whether its investment would generate a return. Growth was maintained when the benefit outweighed the cost and the 10 per cent of smallholders working with the private sector did so because they posed a minimum risk on account of such factors as access to irrigation and membership of a cooperative. Governments and institutions such as IFAD could play a part in promoting access to the private sector by the other 90 per cent of smallholders by

- stepping in to bridge infrastructural gaps in order to minimize risks and costs to that sector.
255. Concerning Ms Pillai's question, she said that governments must focus on rural investment and infrastructure improvements if agriculture was to fulfil its role as an important poverty alleviation tool.
 256. **Ms PILLAI** asked whether ministries of agriculture, finance and public works worked together in the interest of farmers as a matter of high priority.
 257. **Ms RAMOS** responded that state entities other than agriculture ministries were also implicated in those production-related matters. Sustainability was crucial; however, even with the right infrastructure, training and technical assistance, producers would suffer if the market response did not match the input of governments and IFAD, as would the environment from lack of aggregated value. As to IFAD's exact role, it revolved around training for smallholder producers, especially those organized into cooperatives, and the sustainability of resources insofar as smallholder farms were seen as high risk. Access to cheaper resources was therefore key to bridging gaps along the value chain, one example being the inability to export coffee as a finished product owing to the size of the investments needed to do so. Labour capital and added value were therefore required at every single level.
 258. **Ms PILLAI** (Moderator) asked in what way IFAD could help to ease the bottlenecks just described.
 259. **Mr BRIZZI** (Director, Policy and Technical Advisory Division of IFAD) said that the private sector – not only large companies like Unilever but also small domestic private companies – often engaged with farmers' organizations, and in some cases common interests were found or a business plan was produced. However, the difficulty for the private sector was that the more it approached the bottom of the pyramid, the higher the transaction costs became. At that point, it might be necessary for the public sector to finance the public and semi-public goods needed to make the business plan viable.
 260. **Ms PILLAI** (Moderator) asked whether it might therefore be appropriate for IFAD to extend its remit beyond lending to governments.
 261. **Mr BRIZZI** (Director, Policy and Technical Advisory Division of IFAD) said that IFAD could provide support in that area, but governments needed to be involved in financing business plans to some extent; they might make the selection process competitive or require the private sector entity or farmers' organization concerned to specify how much of its own money it was investing and how it planned to address other issues, such as ensuring access to credit.
 262. **Ms PILLAI** (Moderator) noted that previous speakers had mentioned the need to increase the amount of processing that took place close to the location of production and asked whether that was an area in which IFAD could start supplying credit.
 263. **Mr BRIZZI** (Director, Policy and Technical Advisory Division of IFAD) said that this was a vast area involving, in particular, public goods such as infrastructure that might require more money than IFAD could provide. Governments and other donors might need to step in. To go down the pyramid, the private sector needed scale, organization and institutions of the poor; IFAD could help with the last of those by investing in rural people. With regard to access to credit, the private sector should see itself not only as a buyer but also as an investor. Some of the credit required for input supply, for instance, could certainly be provided by the private sector.
 264. With regard to transformation plans, equipment and semi-public goods, the involvement of the banking sector was needed. IFAD might have a role to play in

- helping governments develop financial intermediation systems or in providing guarantees to leverage investment by commercial banks in agriculture. It could help governments to make business plans work.
265. **Mr POLMAN**, referring to the issues of public policy and the MDGs, said that investment in agriculture and smallholder farming was one of the best ways of tackling the interconnected issues of food insecurity, unemployment and climate change. However, governments needed to be convinced of that fact: currently, less than 7 per cent of public spending was allocated to agriculture, a proportion that had, if anything, declined in the past 10 years. Since the crisis of 2008, more people were suffering from hunger than before.
266. It was crucial to bring governments together in order to give the issue the priority it deserved, including on the agendas of G20 meetings. IFAD had a key role to play in that regard. The prime MDG of food security must include nutrition, sustainability and the role played by smallholder farmers. A solution must be found within the next 15 years; otherwise the problems would become irreversible and future generations would ask why nothing had been done to resolve them.
267. Public policy was also important in other respects. Investment in a given country must be in the long-term interests of its citizens. In most places, governments were elected in order to ensure that those interests were protected, to ensure the rule of law and good governance, and to provide the necessary infrastructure. Otherwise, businesses could not function and would not invest. There were many examples of people suffering because of public policy shortcomings and, in an ever more globalized world, those people were increasingly able to connect with each other through social media.
268. **Mr RUGASIRA** said that Viet Nam provided a good example of smallholder possibilities. From being a net importer of food in 1979, it was now the second largest exporter of rice. Since 1979 its coffee production had increased exponentially. The country's poverty rate had been reduced from 58 per cent to 18 per cent. Some 75 per cent of producers were in the rural economy and had shown how governments could build infrastructure, transfer knowledge and bridge the gaps in the rural economy in order to make rural smallholder farmers not only productive but also efficient and competitive globally.
269. Looking at the lessons to be learned from that experience, the gaps were known, but sometimes a greater political will was necessary to marshal the resources needed to plug those gaps. Among them were credit market failure, knowledge gaps among smallholder farmers in some areas, such as how to combat plant diseases, lack of irrigation of arable land and inadequate fertilizer use. Agriculture had the potential to transform African economies more than any other sector, and yet more people were going hungry year on year. IFAD had a role to play, but there was only so much it could do. The public sector bore a greater share of the responsibility in that regard.
270. As an example, companies such as Samsung, LG, Daewoo and Hyundai had become big, well-known brands because they had received government funding in their early days when banks had declined to lend to them. However, few governments in Africa were investing serious resources in branding and the creation of added value. If Africa wanted to be competitive globally and bring quality products to global markets, the private sector and the public sector must enter into a serious business partnership.
271. **Ms PILLAI** (Moderator) asked a question received via Twitter: given that most smallholder farmers operated in the informal economy, were informal solutions being sufficiently leveraged?

272. **Mr VORLEY** responded that formality and vertical coordination were not the only way forward; traders in some rural areas, for example, were undermining well-established contract farming schemes. Given the current increase in competition and the dynamism of informal and semi-formal markets, big businesses should perhaps go back to their core competency: ensuring that they were reliable buyers for their existing smallholder suppliers and supporting public policy of tipping markets and investment in favour of, or otherwise removing biases against, small-scale producers and the poorest of the poor, including women, in line with IFAD's agenda. In brief, the difference between inclusive business and inclusive markets entailed a policy objective that dealt with the poorer rural world and not simply a world that was commercially ready.
273. **Ms PILLAI** (Moderator) asked Ms Prasvita whether enough was being done to leverage informal solutions to help the substantial number of smallholder farms excluded from the value chains of big businesses.
274. **Ms PRASVITA** replied that training and empowerment were means of bringing informal farmers into the formal system and represented an investment for turning farmers into an organized and formal institution. It was a very costly exercise, however, to scale up pilots into bigger projects and formalize farmers into the value chain.
275. **Ms PILLAI** (Moderator) asked Ms Ramos for her views on the need for cooperatives of smallholder farmers.
276. **Ms RAMOS** stated that smallholder farmers joined cooperatives if they believed that to do so would bring added value and promote their access to markets, credit services and training. Their organization into groups should in fact be facilitated by the State. Such cooperatives merited support from NGOs and organizations such as IFAD with a view to further strengthening their already increasing efficiency and providing sustainable models for smallholder farmers, who would then be encouraged to join.
277. **Ms PILLAI** (Moderator), relaying a tweeted question, asked how big businesses succeeded in building the trust of small farmers and whether trust was indeed a major issue.
278. **Mr RUSAGIRA**, recounting his efforts to convince smallholder coffee farmers in Uganda to work with his organization, said that the lesson he had learned from the experience was of the crucial need to work in partnership with local figures who had social capital and credibility within their communities. It was vital to identify and work with those persons in order to obtain feedback and responses to proposed initiatives and ultimately encourage farmers to participate. His efforts had essentially succeeded only as a result of such a partnership built on trust.
279. **Mr POLMAN** said that credibility was precisely the reason why IFAD was important, since that had helped accelerate the sense of trust in its action. In today's world mistrust prevailed, from governments to business and not excluding smallholders, whose current situation justified their misgivings. He quoted the example of Unilever's tea plantations in Kenya, which had attracted several hundred smallholder farmers through better prices, access to technology and training and the long-term guarantees available. Trust was built up and earned by working together. The world was sorely in need of people who were fortunate enough to be in a position to do something about introducing more mature behaviour and hence gaining trust.
280. **Ms VERBURG** (Netherlands) asked Mr Polman to elaborate on the possibility of IFAD and Unilever connecting not only with more smallholders but also with small and medium-sized private sector companies along the value chain.

281. **Mr POLMAN** said that a company such as Unilever, with around 200,000 direct suppliers, who were in turn linked to their own suppliers, had an enormous impact on driving sustainable standards and social compliance, and on working indirectly with smallholder farmers. Many of the coalitions that had been created, such as Grow Africa and the New Vision for Agriculture, were much more local and worked with small and medium-sized enterprises. A global company such as Unilever produced in Africa for Africa, as there was no sense in shipping the products elsewhere. All of those businesses were run by Africans and worked with African people, including smallholder farmers. In that type of business model there was very little transport between continents. As that type of business grew, it lifted small and medium-sized enterprises at a much faster rate than its own growth. Unilever had a payroll of 175, 000 people, but the numbers who were employed less directly amounted to somewhere between 15 and 20 million, including smallholder farmers. It was therefore extremely important to look at the whole of the value chain.
282. **Mr VORLEY** added that the question pointed to a dilemma in the development of the modern agrifood business. To deal with the major goals of sustainable procurement, it was necessary to narrow down the supply base in the middle of the chain to a smaller number of preferred suppliers with whom it was possible to engage collaboratively for the achievement of those types of targets. The irony lay in working with a smaller number of suppliers in the middle of the chain in order to bring more smallholders into supply networks. There was also a dilemma in achieving a 100 per cent sustainable supply chain, which involved certification and standards and opening up the supply base to smallholders, who generally did not have the capacity to comply with those standards. While applauding Unilever for taking up the challenge, it was necessary to recognize the dilemmas and trade-offs.
283. **Mr CHIZA** (United Republic of Tanzania) said that there was a myth that the equation linking smallholder farmers with big businesses and achieving good results amounted to the big businesses grabbing resources, particularly land, from the small-scale farmers. Although that was certainly not happening in his country, he asked Mr Polman what message he had for the IFAD family, as that type of rumour would certainly have a negative impact on the type of partnership that was desired.
284. **Mr MABOUNDOU** (Congo) observed that a company with multinational status would not initially inspire trust among farmers. He therefore asked Mr Polman what lessons could be passed on to other multinationals from successful experiences of working with and gaining the trust of farmers.
285. **Mr POLMAN** said in response to Mr Chiza that, while he believed it was indeed a myth, it was also a question of perception that warranted scrutiny. Evidently, there had been examples of land grabbing and of actions that benefited the few, rather than the many, as indicated in a recent Oxfam report. That was why it was necessary to set standards in such a way as to ensure that they were conducive to success and respected all the parties involved, which, as recommended by the High-level Panel of Eminent Persons on the Post-2015 Development Agenda, required clear accountability, responsibility and transparency. To that end, Unilever supported the involvement of NGOs and agencies such as IFAD to ensure that all the parties involved benefited and that the right equilibrium was found. With regard to the misconception that business just worked for itself, he once again emphasized that businesses could only exist if citizens bought their products. And the citizens of the world were increasingly asking whether businesses were treating people fairly, complying with social standards, engaging or not in corruption and manufacturing products in a sustainable manner. Many agencies were calling for transparency and citizens had access to reports on those matters.

286. With regard to the question raised by Mr Maboundou, he pointed to the work currently being done on scaling up food security and nutrition initiatives, examples being the Grow Africa initiative, the New Vision for Agriculture and the international community's food security and nutrition agenda. There had been some very tangible results in some countries, where governments had placed those issues high on their own agenda, and such examples and initiatives should be used, with IFAD acting as a catalyst, to build up trust.
287. **Mr RUGASIRA** said that African governments needed to make trade rules and to create an investment environment so that there could be good business. It was a fallacy to think that all the problems could be resolved by foreign donors, large multinational companies or small and medium-sized businesses. Business had a responsibility, but so did the public sector. Those responsibilities needed to be recognized and potential partnerships used as a means of developing communities and societies.
288. **Mr VORLEY** agreed that the perception, possibly exaggerated in many cases, of alliances between big businesses and smallholders as a sort of land grab and new colonialism, was rife. However, there were many things that governments could do to ensure that business and investment, which tended to be attracted by the large scale, did not give rise to that kind of problem, for instance ensuring that the appropriate infrastructure was in place for business to be able to procure products easily from small-scale farmers rather than taking the easy option of turning to large plantations; that the voice of the people, women in particular, was heard and heeded in the political system; and that local control was exercised over natural resources. Once those prerequisites were in place, it was much easier for investment to be pro-smallholders and pro-poor.
289. **Mr VILAKATI** (Swaziland) asked Mr Polman whether multinational enterprises such as Unilever would be willing to sell shares to farmers who were producers, so that they could produce in the knowledge that the returns would be more favourable to them as part of the value chain.
290. **Ms PILLAI** (Moderator) noting that a similar question had been raised in a tweet, invited a final comment before concluding the discussion.
291. **Mr LEJAHA** (Lesotho) pointed to two problems in his country. First, although Lesotho had land and people in plenty, those who worked the land were small children, as all the able-bodied adults went to work in the mines. Secondly, although Lesotho had once been known as the granary of southern Africa, it now needed to purchase food from South Africa, partly because the smallholder farmers had left the land and partly because of the effects of the economic crisis. It was necessary, for example, to establish more cooperatives for women and youth, but the Government did not supply credit for smallholders.
292. **Ms PILLAI** (Moderator), summarizing the discussion, said that it had been about passion and problems. The lack of credit had been identified as a major problem, as had infrastructure and the need to give smallholders a voice. On a more hopeful note, references to partnership had been abundant, which was where IFAD could play an invigorating and new role to move things forward. In conclusion, she thanked the panellists.
293. **A video documenting the experience of a family farmer from Egypt was screened.**

REPORT ON THE SPECIAL EXPENDITURE FOR REFORM ACTUALIZATION (agenda item 11) (GC 37/L.8)

294. **The CHAIRPERSON** said that the final report on the special expenditure for reform actualization contained in document GC 37/L.8 had been examined by the

Executive Board at its 110th session in December 2013 and was now submitted to the Governing Council.

295. **The Governing Council took note of the final report on the special expenditure for reform actualization.**

OTHER BUSINESS (agenda item 13)

296. No additional matters were raised under this agenda item.

STORIES FROM THE FIELD: INVESTMENT IN THE TRANSFORMATION OF RURAL PEOPLE'S LIVES

297. **The CHAIRPERSON** said that before proceeding with the event, a video would be screened showing how an IFAD-supported project had transformed lives by generating employment opportunities, ensuring nutrition and food security, facilitating access to markets and ultimately raising the quality of life of its beneficiaries. For over ten years, IFAD had been working with Bioversity International to promote species of crops that had been neglected or under-utilized. In India, Nepal and the Plurinational State of Bolivia, the project encompassed all stakeholders, ranging from scientists and businesses to chefs and farmers, bringing together and combining their traditional and scientific knowledge to ensure the conservation and cultivation of crops such as millet and quinoa, with the result that they were now a regular part of people's diets and, with rapid marketing, farmers' incomes had improved. The video showed farmers who had decided to abandon the cultivation of those hardy and nutritious crops, but who had been persuaded to return to them, which had changed their lives.
298. **The video documentary "India: Millet Madness" was screened.**
299. **Mr CLEAVER** (Associate Vice-President, Programme Management Department of IFAD) observed that IFAD projects and staff at the country and field levels were confronted by a huge number of issues and opportunities. It was now proposed to provide a snapshot of four projects in four different countries seen through the eyes of IFAD country programme managers, who were the leaders of IFAD staff at the country level. The projects had been selected not because they were the best, but because they illustrated a range of problems and issues that should be understood. He recalled that IFAD projects operated in nearly 100 developing countries, where some 250 investment projects were currently being financed, with a total investment of nearly US\$5.5 billion, as well as over US\$12 billion in cofinancing. In contrast with other United Nations agencies, the projects were not managed by IFAD, but by local institutions, mostly governments, sometimes the private sector and frequently farmers' organizations. The role of IFAD staff was to help prepare the projects, supervise and evaluate them, and provide advice to the project managers and to government, together with technical support and, of course, finance. Project content often emphasized community development. The projects were increasingly successful. According to independent evaluation, about 80 per cent of the projects successfully met their objectives. A similar percentage of projects, upon completion, had a marginally satisfactory or better impact on reducing poverty, on women, on the environment and on sustainability.
300. However, it was important to emphasize the challenges, rather than the successes. One such challenge concerned projects that failed, which were often located in fragile states where weak institutions and capacity did not allow good local management or sustainability. Another difficult challenge was scaling up successful projects so that they could have a significant and broader impact. Another was the lack of equal access to resources of women farmers and women generally in many societies, which prevented them from participating fully in economic development and meant that half of human resources were underutilized. In general terms, the weakest project results lay in their economic

- impact, even if they scored high in terms of poverty alleviation and gender. Moreover, although many of the projects addressed environmental issues, those problems themselves were growing worse with climate change. Finally, it was very difficult to mobilize partners. Although IFAD had obtained US\$12 billion in cofinancing, that involved working with hundreds of agencies and NGOs operating in agriculture and rural development.
301. The projects presented did not claim to be exhaustive. For example, the first case focused on how severe environmental constraints exacerbated by climate change were being addressed.
 302. **Ms Cristiana SPARACINO** (Country Programme Manager, West and Central Africa) described the experience of farmers in Burkina Faso in managing the country's natural resources. Burkina Faso, located in the Sahel region in West Africa, was highly exposed to climate change impacts on account of the dependence of its population on rainfed agriculture and livestock in a context of variable rainfall, land degradation and desertification. Since the droughts of the early 1970s, farmers in Burkina Faso had begun to modify and enhance their traditional land management and climate adaptation practices. In rainfed agriculture, crops were cultivated during the short rainy season, and the harvest obtained had to be sufficient to carry farmers through the very long dry season. The practices introduced by farmers were intended to retain water moisture in the soil so as to prolong the cultivation period and, optimally, to combine those practices with the planting of trees, a practice known as agroforestry, as trees fixed nitrogen in the soil, which improved soil fertility.
 303. IFAD's role in Burkina Faso over the past 30 years had been to work alongside farmers to improve their local technologies and promote innovations. IFAD had provided strong support for the scaling up of the innovations adopted through the design and financing of four major projects. Soil and water conservation, coupled with agroforestry, had resulted in a significant improvement in livelihoods and a spectacular increase in the number of trees, in a phenomenon known as the re-greening of the Sahel. Re-greening helped farmers to adapt to climate change and led to a stronger integration of agriculture, livestock-rearing and forestry by farmers. In Burkina Faso, in the central plateau region alone, 300,000 hectares of land had been rehabilitated and an additional 80,000 tonnes of food produced, which had improved food security and nutrition. The final evaluation of a recently closed project indicated that productivity increases for cowpeas, millet, rice and sorghum had ranged between 100 and 400 per cent, with 85 per cent of the target group succeeding in increasing production by 25 per cent, and acute malnutrition among children being reduced by 50 per cent. It was estimated that the project had helped lift some 50,000 people out of poverty. In 2012, when rainfall had been particularly good, Burkina Faso had been able to achieve a surplus in agricultural production, to which the techniques introduced by farmers had undoubtedly contributed.
 304. With the climate becoming increasingly unpredictable, simple techniques such as those described could offer long-term solutions. What was happening in Burkina Faso was now spreading to neighbouring countries, and projects in Mauritania and Senegal would soon follow. The main factor behind that success story was support for farmers' knowledge from the Government, which for many years had fulfilled its commitment to invest over 10 per cent of the national budget in the agricultural sector; another factor was basing project design on lessons learned from the field.
 305. **Mr CLEAVER** (Associate Vice-President, Programme Management Department of IFAD) emphasized that, in a very challenging physical environment, it had been possible not only to scale up a successful approach within the country, but also to scale it out to other countries.

306. The next project to be presented had achieved some success in overcoming serious problems of execution largely related to the fragility of institutions in Haiti.
307. **Ms Esther KASALU-COFFIN** (Country Programme Manager, Latin America and the Caribbean) explained that over the past 35 years IFAD had invested over US\$100 million in Haiti and had mobilized an equivalent amount from cofinancing partners, benefiting some half a million people living in rural areas. IFAD-financed programmes in Haiti adopted a participatory community-based approach to building the capacity of grass-roots organizations to participate in development activities at the community and national levels. So far, the programmes had achieved and sometimes exceeded their targets, including the construction and rehabilitation of small-scale irrigation schemes, and had even raised production by as much as 30 per cent, which in turn had contributed to household food security, nutrition and household incomes.
308. However, many challenges remained. A succession of extreme natural disasters, including the 2010 earthquake, combined with periods of political uncertainty, had resulted in the erosion of the institutional capacity required to manage development programmes. Interim non-conventional approaches had been adopted to address those challenges, including the development of a strategic partnership at the central level in the Ministry of Agriculture with the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) to support the process of project management. At the local level, in addition to the provision of skills training for staff in regional offices, the Government was developing strategic partnerships with NGOs that were already well established in the country, such as Welthungerhilfe, which were implementing development activities with minimal supervision. Those partnerships had helped to attain project targets and had even generated innovative development approaches that had benefited local communities. More recently, IFAD had entered into a partnership with the Inter-American Bank, the World Bank and the European Union for comprehensive capacity-building of agricultural institutions throughout the country. She added that IFAD had also strengthened the country office in Haiti by appointing her as an outposted country programme manager.
309. Although Haiti was clearly a fragile state, it was also a country in transition, with ambitions for rural and national development. It would like to see the successes achieved by projects at the local level scaled up. But the question arose of whether significant wealth could be created in the country by focusing solely or predominantly on the poor segments of the population, as had been achieved in other parts of the world. It would perhaps be appropriate for IFAD and the country office to engage in a candid dialogue with the Government on the strategic approach to be adopted in countries such as Haiti to continue to lift rural populations out of poverty, but also to contribute significantly and rapidly to national wealth creation.
310. **Mr CLEAVER** (Associate Vice-President, Programme Management Department of IFAD) asked Ms Sparacino to explain how the success obtained in Burkina Faso was being spread to other countries.
311. **Ms SPARACINO** (Country Programme Manager, West and Central Africa) said that she had previously been the country programme manager in Mauritania, from where she had undertaken a mission to Burkina Faso and had been very impressed by the approach adopted there. Before leaving her post in Mauritania, she had designed a project on soil and water conservation based on what she had learned from the Burkina Faso projects.
312. **Mr CLEAVER** (Associate Vice-President, Programme Management Department of IFAD) observed that Ms Sparacino's answer illustrated the challenges of exporting successful approaches through knowledge-sharing and knowledge management.

313. He asked Ms Kasulu-Coffin to outline some of the new issues in Haiti that would have to be resolved over the next few years.
314. **Ms KASALU-COFFIN** (Country Programme Manager, Latin America and the Caribbean) referred to the recurrent problem of marketing local produce. IFAD had been supporting increased production in a country that imported 60 per cent of its food. However, small-scale farmers were not able to access that market. The challenge was now to improve their access to markets as groups, which would be the focus of the next project in Haiti.
315. **Mr CLEAVER** (Associate Vice-President, Programme Management Department of IFAD) drew attention to the third project, in Bangladesh, which suffered severe environmental issues, compounded by issues of women's participation.
316. **Mr Nigel BRETT** (Country Programme Manager, Asia and the Pacific Region) described a project in Bangladesh which developed the themes of natural resource management, gender and scaling up, while highlighting the central role of producer organizations and the impact of supportive local policies. Bangladesh's extensive water bodies were of great value as the habitat for the world's second largest inland freshwater fishery, a vital source of food, particularly for the poor. However, as with all valuable natural resources, the water bodies had attracted the attention of local elites, and over time, resources which had provided livelihoods for the poor over the ages had been expropriated or, even worse, leased on a tri-annual basis. Such short-term leasing arrangements offered absolutely no incentive for long-term resource management, resulting in resource degradation, reduced production and biodiversity, and increased poverty and malnutrition.
317. In 2003, the Government had launched a pilot project with support from IFAD in the district of Sunamganj in the north-east of the country. The key had been to secure agreement on changing the leasing system from three-year to ten-year renewable leases and to attempt to allocate the leases to groups of poor fishers. For each water body, democratic fishing user groups had been set up which elected their own leader by secret ballot, thereby ensuring that they were immune from local pressure groups. So far, around 250 user groups with 9,000 members were managing some 2,500 hectares of water. For the first time in the country, the project included women in water body management. Around 25 per cent of user group members were women, who were on the executive committees of all groups. The results had been excellent. The fish production habitat had been completely transformed through the introduction of fish refuges and closed fishing seasons, the restoration of the habitat through the planting of swamp trees and the dredging of canals. An impact assessment had shown that the improved management of the lakes had resulted in a significant increase in fish biodiversity and fish production, with the resulting income being divided between user group members, rather than going to the local elites, as in the past. Most importantly, there had also been an improvement in the nutritional status of children and a very significant reduction in child stunting from 57 to 48 per cent. In recognition of its success, the project had been awarded the 2013 IFAD Gender Award. The Government had decided to scale up the project to cover five priority districts in the north-east of the country, with additional water bodies being covered with financing from Japan and Spain.
318. The project demonstrated that, with catalytic enabling policies combined with capacity-building, local producer groups could play a transformational role in reducing rural poverty, while at the same time improving the environment.
319. **Mr CLEAVER** (Associate Vice-President, Programme Management Department of IFAD), noting that the project addressed a broad range of issues, asked Mr Brett to indicate the economic rate of return of the project.

320. **Mr BRETT** (Country Programme Manager, Asia and the Pacific Region) observed that, although flooding was often perceived as being harmful, in the case of Bangladesh, and with the exclusion of catastrophic flooding, it was in practice highly beneficial, as it replenished ground water, maintained fisheries and fertilized the soil through the deposit of silt. The project showed the benefits of taking a long-term approach to natural resource management in terms of increased production and the equitable distribution of benefits. He estimated that the financial rate of return on the project would be in the region of 25 per cent, with a net profit per person of around US\$400 a year, which was very significant for a seasonal activity.
321. **Mr CLEAVER** (Associate Vice-President, Programme Management Department of IFAD) concluded that, despite the challenges, the project was achieving a high level of economic success. He said that the final snapshot was of a project that had successfully confronted problems relating to the coordination of donors and partners in Kenya to address the problem of food security.
322. **Ms Nadine GBOSSA** (Country Programme Manager, East and Southern Africa) said that, although Kenya had a positive economic outlook and hoped to become a middle-income country by 2020, food security remained an issue and nearly half of the population still experienced problems in satisfying their nutritional requirements. For that reason, a key element in the national strategy for food security was the production and marketing of cereals – maize, millet and sorghum – which were consumed by all Kenyans and offered high potential for income generation for smallholder farmers. The Government, in partnership with the European Union, had set up an agricultural input subsidy scheme. The inputs provided to farmers included improved seeds, agricultural techniques and fertilizer, with the result that their productivity had risen by around 150 per cent within a year. However, following a year of support, the Government had wished to withdraw, assuming that the farmers were in a position to sell their surplus and make money. But the farmers had not been able to gain access to the improved inputs the next year without government support, which had created an element of dependency. IFAD had been approached to make the intervention more sustainable. Its proposals had covered three issues: first, it had suggested maintaining the subsidies, as they were effective; secondly, it had proposed a value chain approach, including the storage and marketing of produce; and thirdly it had proposed financial services so that the farmers could sustain their investment without the need for the subsidies to be maintained.
323. The financial element of the system had consisted of IFAD brokering an innovative partnership with Equity Bank, one of the largest banks in Africa focusing on lending to smallholders. The system introduced with Equity Bank was based on the registration of farmers on an electronic database. Farmers were then issued with a credit card which they could use to purchase inputs from agro-dealers. The agro-dealers benefited from immediate payment, which had not been the case in the past, and the farmers could use their profits to pay for inputs and as a basis for requesting loans from Equity Bank. Equity Bank had been interested in setting up the system because it offered a risk management scheme. The provision of improved inputs and agricultural techniques, as well as certain guarantees, made agriculture a less risky business for the bank and offered a more sustainable client base.
324. **Mr CLEAVER** (Associate Vice-President, Programme Management Department of IFAD) observed that IFAD had pursued the same type of partnership intensively in other countries with some success. He asked Ms Gbossa whether there were other private enterprises or commercial banks in addition to Equity Bank that were interested in that model.

325. **Ms GBOSSA** (Country Programme Manager, East and Southern Africa) indicated that the normal model was for IFAD to provide banks with credit lines so that they could offer loans and provide credit to farmers. However, in the present case it was the bank that was providing the resources. The Minister of Agriculture had indicated that he was now being approached by other banks that wanted to be part of the system, which was now becoming competitive, as the other banks were interested in offering better conditions to smallholders.
326. **Mr CLEAVER** (Associate Vice-President, Programme Management Department of IFAD) said he hoped that the examples described had shown that IFAD was not afraid to confront problems. The biggest challenge was currently the one outlined in relation to Burkina Faso of scaling up successful approaches to the country level and beyond national borders. For that reason, IFAD was pushing hard to develop a knowledge-sharing and knowledge management system that captured, demonstrated and published successful interventions. IFAD was showing that issues such as institutional fragility, difficult economic situations, the disempowerment of women and the involvement of the private sector in public programmes could be resolved. The solution often consisted in providing assets to small-scale farmers, particularly in terms of land, water, education, finance, organization and physical assets. The basis of the solution was often found in addressing vulnerability, including environmental and climatic vulnerability, financial risk and social vulnerability. In conclusion, he said that, although it had been seen that it was possible to scale up success, that was still the critical mission for IFAD.
327. **A video documenting the experience of a family farmer from Ethiopia was screened.**

REPORT ON THE HIGH-LEVEL GOVERNERS' ROUND TABLE

328. **The CHAIRPERSON** recalled that the "High-level Governors' Round Table: Investing in smallholder family farmers for the future we want" had been held the previous day. He requested Mr Wennubst, who had chaired the Round Table, to present the statement of the Round Table.
329. **Mr WENNUBST** (Chairperson of the High-level Governors' Round Table) made a statement, the full text of which is reproduced in chapter 4.

GENERAL STATEMENTS (agenda item 6) (continued)

330. **The CHAIRPERSON** invited the Council to return to item 6, General Statements.
331. **Mr MITASH** (India) welcomed the Russian Federation as a new Member of IFAD. He said that the theme of the current session was important because smallholder farmers constituted the majority of the world's farming families and made massive contributions to household, national and global food security, but were also among the world's poorest people. With its pivotal role in the international aid architecture, IFAD had a formidable reputation for delivering in remote and marginal areas, particularly in enhancing productivity among small family farmers and providing them with backwards and forwards linkages. IFAD should build on this foundation to make the growth of smallholder farmers a vehicle for addressing rural poverty.
332. The development of small, marginal farmers was of particular interest to India, where such farmers constituted nearly 83 per cent of total farmers, operated 41 per cent of agricultural landholdings and supplied 51 per cent of agricultural output – a major contribution to food security. India valued its long collaboration with IFAD on more than 25 projects with a total cost of nearly US\$2 billion. The country was a major contributor to IFAD and also one of the largest beneficiaries of its programmes and projects.

333. His country saw three issues of importance to be focused on in the Tenth Replenishment discussions: the role of IFAD in middle-income countries, where most of the world's poor lived; the mainstreaming of South-South collaboration into IFAD's activities, with adequate human and financial resources committed to these efforts; and the development and piloting of low-cost, high-impact, replicable and scalable solutions for increasing agricultural production and productivity across the world. This would have costs, but the growth prospects in List A and List B countries made a robust Tenth Replenishment possible. India stood ready to partner IFAD in its work for a more inclusive and equitable world free of hunger, poverty and malnutrition.
334. **Mr GLANOIS** (France) said that in 2014 – the International Year of Family Farming – it was important that Members did their utmost to give IFAD the means to continue its work. Family farming generated wealth and employment while respecting the environment, and France supported initiatives that facilitated the role of family farming in global food security, through agricultural policies, regional integration, agricultural markets, value chains, farmers' organizations, and equitable access to water. With more than 35 years' experience working with vulnerable populations in difficult areas, IFAD was a mainstay of international efforts to address food challenges. Recent reforms enabled IFAD to draw on these comparative advantages, which were a catalyst for innovation in facilitating risk sharing by working through other donors to scale up successful interventions. He hoped that IFAD's experience and unique role in integrating smallholders into local markets and global value chains and in strengthening farmers' organizations would be appreciated in G20 discussions of food security and job creation.
335. France appreciated IFAD's work in Africa and, despite the difficult context, was reaffirming its support in the Tenth Replenishment, calling on Members of all lists to do the same and emphasizing the importance of working together. Within the post-2015 discussions, IFAD must reaffirm its commitment to those who need it most, including by limiting the growth of its administrative budget to leave more resources for financing programmes.
336. Climate change was the main challenge to agricultural development and small producers. IFAD and its partners must continue to assess climate change risks and develop responses. Smallholders in developing countries were the most vulnerable to climate change affects such as water stress, soil deterioration and biodiversity loss. Their voice must be heard in the discussions leading to an ambitious agreement at the Paris Conference in 2015.
337. **Mr VAHAMWITI** (Democratic Republic of the Congo) said that more than 70 per cent of his country's 70 million people were involved in the agriculture sector. The National Agricultural Investment Plan (PNIA – Plan National d'Investissement Agricole) focused on smallholder farmers in agricultural value chains and the agro-industrial sector, including by developing agro-industrial parks based on the private sector and farmers' organizations. As previous efforts to integrate farmers' organizations into the agricultural framework were not always successful in Africa, this more holistic approach sought to convert subsistence agriculture into a driver of the national economy while benefiting smallholders. During the International Year of Family Farming – 50 years after the country's independence – farmers' organizations in the Democratic Republic of the Congo were being restructured within a New Programme for Africa's Development (NEPAD) initiative.
338. Agricultural production came from family farms and a few private enterprises, but private and public investments in agriculture were limited. The Maputo Agreement committing African states to earmarking 10 per cent of national resources to agriculture had had mixed results so far. He urged IFAD and development partners to support his country's agricultural investment plan. Following the peace

- process, the Democratic Republic of the Congo hoped to receive greater international support. It had the lowest inflation rate in Africa and an economic growth rate of 8.5 per cent. Peace in the north had enabled millions of previously displaced people to start earning an income, with major financial and technical support from IFAD, WFP and FAO.
339. **Mr TY** (Cambodia) commended IFAD's assistance to governments in lifting farmers out of poverty and hunger. With this support, Cambodia had reduced overall poverty in line with the Millennium Development Goal. Strong economic growth benefited both urban and rural areas, but new challenges included the rapid transformation of rural areas and agriculture, and the growing impact of climate change.
340. Through the results-based country strategy opportunities programme (COSOP) the Government was moving beyond the project approach. It valued IFAD's contribution to increasing the productivity of smallholder farmers and considered IFAD's collaborative approach and the resulting government ownership a model for development cooperation. It had approved the new Agriculture Services Programme for Innovations, Resilience and Extension, geared to the context of climate change, which was under internal review at IFAD. Through this and other projects, IFAD demonstrated its expertise in rural productivity, and he encouraged the Fund to take a leading role among agriculture and rural development partners. Expressing his country's thanks to IFAD, he called for the establishment of a representative office in Cambodia and joined other countries in hoping that IFAD would continue to support government efforts to help smallholders overcome the many challenges they faced.
341. **Ms KOYARA** (Central African Republic) extended her country's thanks for IFAD's support through the programme for relaunching staple crops and small livestock in the savannah, with financing of up to US\$13.17 million over five years. The project's support to smallholder family farms was particularly important as the country was undergoing one of the most serious crises of its history. The project, whose development goal was that of improving food security and the incomes of the rural poor, had become a point of reference in a time of crisis in the country. The project zone had been less affected by the crisis and would not be at risk of famine. Project inputs had also helped to increase net agricultural production and improve food and nutrition security in the area, while conditions in other regions were worsening.
342. Noting that prevention was better than cure, the Central African Republic was committed to fighting poverty through job creation and the development of agricultural value chains. Animal traction, tractors, quality seeds and fertilizer could replace the arms and weapons used by young people to cause thousands of lost lives. Of a national population of 4.5 million people, 2 million were very vulnerable and 600,000 were displaced. The country had once led sub-Saharan Africa in agricultural research, producing coffee, cocoa, rubber, pepper and other staple crops, but now exploited only 0.9 million hectares of the available 15 million.
343. She hoped that donors would honour the commitments made at the Bangui round table on 20 December 2013, particularly by focusing on the national programme for food and nutrition security under the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP), which would also help re-establish peace and social cohesion. She called for support in developing strategies for encouraging young people to abandon their weapons and return to the agriculture sector, improving livelihoods, bringing peace and rehabilitating the Central African Republic.
344. **Ms LEE** (Republic of Korea) welcomed the Russian Federation as a new Member of IFAD. She said that hunger, poverty and global food insecurity were among the

- world's most difficult challenges. Since its establishment, IFAD had promoted agricultural productivity for the world's poorest, thereby improving food security.
345. In addition to financial and technical support, knowledge sharing was emerging as a new paradigm of development cooperation. The Republic of Korea had transformed itself from an aid recipient to an OECD member and emerging donor country in two generations. Starting with more than 80 per cent of its population engaged in agriculture, the country had achieved equitable and inclusive economic and social growth through land reform, the development of agricultural cooperatives and the implementation of sustainable agricultural technology. It was sharing its experiences through the Korean Agricultural Policy Experiences for Food Security pilot programme, which had made progress in several countries around the world.
346. Initiatives and partnership with IFAD enabled the Republic of Korea to reach more rural poor people. With IFAD, it was exploring innovative ways of expanding development financing and knowledge-sharing and reinforcing its partnership, to eliminate poverty and improve food security around the world.
347. **Mr KÁLMÁN** (Hungary) welcomed the Russian Federation as a new Member of IFAD. He congratulated IFAD for its growing reputation in agricultural development and food security matters. A broader field presence had brought IFAD closer to recipient countries, enabling it to supervise its programmes and projects better and intensify its dialogue with stakeholders. However, rural poverty remained a serious problem, and IFAD should enhance its important role in assisting rural farming families through technical and financial support.
348. Hungary welcomed the timely declaration of 2014 as the International Year of Family Farming. In cooperation with FAO, the Government of Hungary was organizing the Global Forum and Expo on Family Farming in Budapest from 4 to 6 March. Representatives of about 100 countries were expected, including 20 ministers from all continents, as well as the Director-General of FAO, the Executive Director of WFP and the Chair of the Committee on World Food Security. He commended cooperation among the Rome-based agencies at the headquarters level, and suggested that extending this cooperation to the decentralized level was indispensable for improving efficiency.
349. **Mr KWONG** (Kiribati) commended IFAD's strategic approach in reaching out to smallholder farming communities, which were usually disadvantaged but played a major role in the global food supply chain. The theme of the session emphasized the value of investing in smallholder family farms to ensure a better future for rural farmers. As a small, vulnerable country facing many challenges in its efforts to boost agricultural productivity, Kiribati welcomed such investments and appreciated IFAD's project development mission to the country in 2013. The Government had recently made poverty alleviation a development priority and was ready to collaborate with IFAD on implementation of this project.
350. The impact of climate change and the global economic recession, compounded by isolation, had negative social, economic and environmental effects on Kiribati. However, appropriate agricultural projects that took into consideration the important roles that women and youth could play in development would have positive impacts on the lives of Kiribati's population. IFAD should continue to assist smallholder families transparently and efficiently, listening to their often unheard voices. The Government of Kiribati would work with IFAD to catalyse development processes.
351. **Mr MOHAMED** (Somalia) said that after years of conflict, Somalia was determined to realize its vision for becoming a stable and peaceful country by 2016, with no more conflict, famine, population displacement and deaths of fleeing refugees. It aimed to end violence and terrorism and realize its people's

aspirations for a democratic society in which to enjoy the fruits of development. In post-conflict processes, economic recovery should receive as much attention as state-building and peace-building. Agricultural recovery plans could do much to resolve the intertwined problems of youth unemployment and conflict, and the development of sustainable livelihoods through investments in rural communities and smallholder farmers was a key component of the Government's recovery plan.

352. Somalia had lost everything except for its people and its highly productive natural resources, including fertile agricultural land, livestock and marine resources. The foundations for its return to the community of nations were the resilience of its rural population, the entrepreneurship of its business community and the dedication of its diaspora community. The national plan for the agriculture sector would prioritize institutional development and effective leadership to revive and enhance the productive capacity of smallholder farmers and commercial farming, including export crops. Somalia appealed to donors and international partners for financial technical support to help it achieve economic recovery.
353. The CHAIRPERSON closed the speakers' list. Statements that had not been presented at the meeting would be included in full in the final report of the session.

CLOSURE OF THE SESSION

354. **Mr OYUBI (Gabon) took the Chair.**
355. **Mr NWANZE** (President of IFAD) made a closing statement, the full text of which is reproduced in chapter 4.
356. **The CHAIRPERSON** made a closing statement, the full text of which is reproduced in chapter 4.
357. He declared the thirty-seventh session of the Governing Council closed.
358. **The meeting rose at 1.45 p.m.**

Chapter 3

B. High-level Governors' round table: Investing in smallholder family farmers for the future we want

STATEMENT OF THE GOVERNORS' ROUND TABLE

Smallholder agriculture is on the global agenda to stay, and should be placed at the centre of development. Investing in smallholder family farming is essential not only to achieving food and nutrition security and poverty reduction, but also to revitalizing rural societies and connecting them to a rapidly changing world.

The thirty-seventh session of the IFAD Governing Council takes place during the International Year of Family Farming. The 2.5 billion people who depend on smallholder family farms for their livelihoods are an enormous untapped resource. They are part of the solution for reaching global development goals. Agriculture is now recognized as a profitable area for investment, which creates enormous potential to transform rural society and rural lives. Success will depend on a recognition that farming is a business, so that farmers can see their activity as a path to growth and prosperity and not just as a mode of subsistence.

This transformation has to begin with young people, upon whom the future depends. They must be encouraged, from a young age, to see farming as a viable and dignified profession, and to connect with their land and rural communities. This can be done through school programmes, extension and information technology. But it will also require investment in the rural space to create a range of jobs and employment opportunities so that young people choose to stay in rural areas and their communities thrive.

None of this will happen without leadership and an enabling environment. Governments need to "walk the talk" by increasing the share of national budgets devoted to agriculture, investing in public sector areas such as infrastructure and education, and by putting in place policies and legislation that are smallholder-friendly. This means policies that support secure land tenure for smallholder family farmers, facilitate access to financial services and help them connect to markets.

Harmonization of development efforts is critically important, with all activities coordinated and aligned with national priorities and strategies. As well as government, development institutions and the private sector, producers and their organizations need to be involved. Efforts should focus on promoting market-oriented production and a value-chain approach to build rural economies and help smallholders reach local, national and international markets.

Information technology is essential for smallholder family farmers to access knowledge, financial and extension services, and market information. In the context of climate change, IT connectivity can provide early warning to reduce risks and vulnerability.

All of this support aims at strengthening and transforming rural society itself, and therefore the vision must be holistic and inclusive. It is also essential to empower women, who make up a large part of the agricultural workforce. Rural and urban development go hand in hand, with rural areas providing food, natural resource management and environmental services to urban areas, while urban areas provide markets and finance, for example in the form of remittances.

IFAD is well-positioned to play an important role in all these areas, with a clear advantage due to its engagement at the country level, focus on innovation and knowledge-sharing, and pragmatic and results-oriented approach. It has already proved itself to be a valuable partner and should expand its role as an honest broker and use its convening power as the only institution of its kind that is exclusively focused on smallholder agriculture and rural development. It should continue to foster South-South cooperation, explore innovative modes of financing and new approaches such as its Adaptation for Smallholder Agriculture Programme (ASAP), and expand its own programme of work with support from its Members.

The evolution of a new post-2015 development agenda gives Member States a special opportunity to advocate for rural investment and transformation at the global level. Through their participation they can take the next step toward ensuring that smallholder family farmers are at the centre of the development agenda.

Chapter 3

C. Other general statements

Statement of the representative for Burkina Faso

Introduction

The economy of Burkina Faso is highly dependent upon global prices as a net importer of goods. Moreover, the structure of the economy makes the country a price taker with respect to exports. Accordingly, changes in world prices for strategic high-consumption products such as oil, cotton and staple foods have a significant impact on the economic situation overall, and food security in particular.

The rural sector is the cornerstone of socio-economic development in Burkina Faso. As such, it has always been one of the sectors assigned priority in national development plans. However, agriculture is dominated by family farming undertaken mainly for self-consumption.

The number of people engaged in agriculture in Burkina Faso rose from 8,301,669 in 1993 to 13,098,679 in 2008. Given the average annual rate of growth of 3.09 per cent, the sector is expected to employ 15 million people in 2014. Distribution by gender remained unchanged over the period 1993 to 2014, at 48 per cent men and 52 per cent women. However, educational levels have improved among the farming population. The literacy rate rose from 15.7 per cent to 21.4 per cent between 1993 and 2008, an increase of 5.7 per cent.

The role of family farming in agricultural development in Burkina Faso

The total number of plots under cultivation in 2008 is an estimated 11,446,524 for a farming population of 13,098,679 people, or less than one plot per person. The average number of plots per household stood at 9, compared to 10 under the national agricultural survey of 1993, and currently remains at 9.

The proportion of bushland under cultivation rose from 40 per cent to nearly 50 per cent. This is an indication that farmed plots are located further and further away from where farmers live, as a result of heavy demographic pressures.

In terms of the type of operation, over 52 per cent of plots are collectively farmed. Clearly, farms in Burkina Faso continue to be split more or less equally between collective and individual operations. Thus, there were 4.6 collective plots per household as compared to 5.2 in 1993.

In 76.9 per cent of cases, the farmer is the self-reported owner of the plot, either by inheritance or by award. This represents a slight decline from 80.9 per cent in 1993, in tandem with the increase in loans to 21.5 per cent from 18.4 per cent in 1993, and explains the growing difficulties experienced by land owners to keep their land.

Farming systems are as follows: 72.2 per cent of plots are farmed, 17.5 per cent of them manually, 54.5 per cent using animal traction and 0.2 per cent motorized. The use of animal and motorized traction has risen in the past decade with government initiatives subsidizing farm equipment purchases. Animal traction increased from 23.3 per cent to 54.5 per cent and motorized traction doubled between the two censuses, from 0.1 per cent to 0.2 per cent. This is still very low and reflects the limited use of heavy equipment owing to onerous cost constraints.

Only 10 per cent of plots were equipped with protection against erosion from runoff in 1993. The ratio has now increased somewhat to 17.5 per cent of plots benefiting from soil and water conservation and restoration techniques nationwide. This is an indication that desertification has progressed markedly in Burkina Faso, particularly in the north, with the Centre, Plateau-Central, Centre-Nord and Sahel respectively posting 26.6 per cent, 32.6 per cent, 26.5 per cent and 15.6 per cent of plots with anti-erosion measures.

Nationwide, 87,660 tonnes of NPK fertilizers are used annually, comprising nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium. Consumption per hectare under cultivation is 72.9 kg for all farms, including those with and without the use of such fertilizers.

The amount per hectare rises to 16.3 kg if we consider all cultivated area nationwide, compared to 7.5 kg in 1993. The increase is attributable to an increase in the use of NPK fertilizers.

Cash crops – and cotton in particular – account for 54 per cent of the total quantity of NPK fertilizers used. They are by far the major fertilizer consumers in Burkina Faso, with gross consumption per hectare of 87 kg compared to 70.5 kg in 1993 for areas planted to cash crops. This would support the assumption that NPK fertilizers are used mainly for cash crops, and particularly for cotton at 163.7 kg per hectare.

The challenges facing agriculture in Burkina Faso have limited performance despite the efforts undertaken by the Government and its technical and financial partners.

Cereal production increased from 3,119,050 tonnes in 2002 to 5,125,769 tonnes in 2013. Sorghum is the largest cereal crop, followed by millet, maize, rice and finally fonio, which accounts for a very small part of production. The increase in cereals production is attributable to an average annual increase of 4.62 per cent over the period 2002-2013, ranging from -0.16 per cent between 2002 and 2007 to 8.8 per cent between 2007 and 2013.

Statistics show that maize and rice yields rose sharply over the period 2007-2013. For instance, maize production increased from 533,874 tonnes in 2007 to 1,709,392 tonnes in 2013, and rice from 68,916 tonnes to 457,550 tonnes, for an annual rate of increase respectively of 21.4 per cent and 37.1 per cent over the period. Between 2002 and 2007, the annual rates of increase were -3.95 per cent and -5.01 per cent for maize and rice.

The proclamation of 2014 as the International Year of Family Farming by the General Assembly of the United Nations on 22 November 2013 in New York is a sign of the international community's unanimous recognition that smallholder farmers play a major role in generating gross national product.

The role of smallholder farmers in Burkina Faso's vision for the future

Sector stakeholders call for a modern, competitive, sustainable agriculture sector by 2025 that is an engine of growth driven by family farms and high-performing farm enterprises, to guarantee access to people nationwide to the food they need for a healthy and active life.

Family farming is therefore a very important lever of economic and social development in Burkina Faso.

As part of achieving the first Millennium Development Goal – to eliminate extreme poverty and hunger by 2015 – and the seventh MDG – to halve the population without sustainable access to safe water – we need to take action to build resilience to climate change among smallholder farmers, in order to maximize their potential and make use of their traditional knowledge.

Greater organizational activity will promote people's participation, consultation and partnership among the various rural stakeholders, who will become the protagonists of development in their communities.

The approach adopted assigns a key role to full participation by women farmers, which will enable human resources to be maximized while preserving the social fabric of rural communities and revitalizing local economies. Equal opportunity must systematically be built into the design and implementation of rural development programmes and projects so that women and men may both participate and share in benefits on a level playing field.

Alternatives for mobilizing funds for smallholders

Burkina Faso is faced with a lack of financial resources that limits the scope of investments in the agriculture sector as compared to its development plans and

commitments – both subregional as in the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) and international as in the Millennium Development Goals.

Accordingly, Burkina Faso has undertaken a wide-ranging set of structural reforms, which have led to:

- Adoption of an open-door policy on foreign direct investment (FDI);
- Liberalization of the labour market, with a labour code that promotes improved human resources management by employers;
- Price deregulation with the lifting of price controls, except for those on hydrocarbons;
- Review of the overall legislative and regulatory framework for investments, including the investment code and the mining code;
- Strengthening of rights and assurances provided to investors;
- Improvements in land tenure security with a revision of the agrarian and land tenure restructuring law and adoption of the rural land tenure law;
- Accession to the Organization for the Harmonization of Business Law in Africa (OHADA) in 1998, to address the lack of legal and judiciary assurances;
- Implementation of the Doing Business Better in Burkina Faso Programme – ranked among the 10 best reforms in the world in the Doing Business 2009 report, a global champion in labour market deregulation, with uncontested leadership among West African Economic and Monetary Union (WAEMU) and OHADA countries; and
- Creation and strengthening of organizations to support the private sector: the Business Registration Centre (CEFORE), the Single Land Tenure Window (GUF), the Building Permits Facilitation Centre (CEFAC) and the Restructuring and Modernization Office (BRMN).

In order to mobilize more financial resources to underwrite the national economy, the country has adopted a policy to:

(a) develop, around urban centres or localities with significant potential, hubs of growth and competitiveness, e.g.:

- Agropastoral hubs;
- Industry and technology hubs;
- Services hubs; and
- Mining hubs.

(b) strengthen logistical support for growth and competitiveness hubs;

(c) set up special economic zones.

In addition, Burkina Faso is making the most of its assets, with:

- Political and institutional stability built around seeking social dialogue and political consensus in all matters;
- A stable and sustainably structured macroeconomic context;
- The determined choice of a liberal economy that is open to the outside;
- A young, dynamic, entrepreneurial population together with abundant manpower recognized for being hardworking; and
- A central geographical location at the heart of West Africa, the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and WAEMU. A shared border with six ECOWAS States and five WAEMU States, giving access to a potential market of 73 million people within WAEMU and over 280 million within ECOWAS.

IFAD support needed for smallholders in Burkina Faso

As is generally the case in the least developed countries, the flow of FDI is negligible in Burkina Faso, at 1 per cent of GDP in 2008, despite legislation to create an enabling environment for investment to improve productivity and facilitate needed structural change. The country is ill equipped to attract FDI in view of the high transaction costs and risks that characterize underdeveloped financial markets, limited human capital, insufficient information available for potential investors and limited infrastructure and services.

IFAD is a development bank – a bank for smallholder farmers – with a mandate to finance agricultural and rural development, as a donor and organizer, in developing and transitional countries.

Since Burkina Faso began to work with IFAD in 1981, 13 projects and programmes have been funded.

IFAD is a partner of choice for our country, to mobilize funds and provide ongoing support for the implementation of projects and programmes aligned with the Strategy for Accelerated Growth and Sustainable Development (SCADD) and the National Rural Development Programme (PNSR). IFAD has extensive experience in mobilizing funds and assembling viable rural development projects and programmes that could be of benefit to Burkina Faso.

In a changing global context, IFAD will make use of its comparative advantage to play a leading role as an effective partner in new initiatives to build resilience among rural poor people in the face of climate change, rural poverty reduction and improved food security.

Statement of the representative for Chad

I would first like to congratulate the Chairperson and two Vice-Chairpersons on their election and pay a warm tribute to His Excellency the President of IFAD for the outstanding work being carried out in the field by IFAD throughout the world, and in particular in my country Chad.

The central theme *Investing in smallholder family farmers for the future we want* and the declaration of the year 2014 as the International Year of Family Farming reflects the vision of IFAD, whose operations in developing countries are based on supporting the poor through investments in family farming.

In Chad, IFAD has made a visible impact on food security and on the fight against poverty. This impact is reflected in the significant reduction in the number of people who are hungry and living in poverty.

This impact is not only a source of satisfaction – it should also provide the basis on which to consolidate the country programme implemented by IFAD to pursue the fight against hunger through the development of family farming.

Major joint investments are being made by the Government of Chad and IFAD in the areas where hunger is most widespread under the auspices of our President of the Republic, who has placed agriculture at the top of his list of priorities.

Therefore, with IFAD's support, we firmly believe that Chad's smallholder farmers will succeed in improving the resilience of their production system and adapt it effectively to climate change, which will ultimately eradicate hunger.

IFAD strongly supports our Government in meeting the challenge of food security, just as Chad supports IFAD in discharging its noble mission. Chad intends to contribute to the Tenth Replenishment of IFAD's Resources, as it did at the time of the last replenishment.

Long live international cooperation, long live IFAD!

Statement of the representative for Gabon

Allow me, on behalf of the Government of Gabon and in my own name, to extend heartfelt congratulations to the Chairman of the Governing Council on his election and to the President of IFAD for the arrangements put in place to facilitate our work.

Family farming – being celebrated in 2014 as the International Year of Family Farming by the United Nations – is at the heart of strategies for increasing agricultural production and combating poverty in Gabon. Indeed, President Ali Bongo Ondimba has entered into a social pact with the Gabonese people for the coming years in this regard.

This pact provides the underpinnings for the poverty reduction strategy outlined in the Gabon Emergent strategic plan. Thus far it has led, inter alia, to the building of infrastructure, schools and health centres and the expansion of village water systems, improving the flow of goods and people and enhancing wellbeing.

Priority in these initiatives is assigned to rural areas in order to raise incomes and living standards for smallholder farmers.

Given the many challenges faced by Gabon in seeking to achieve the objective of an emerging country by 2025, however, these efforts are often limited by budget constraints that necessitate calling upon international donors for support.

In this regard, Gabon is gratified by the revitalization of its relations with the International Fund for Agricultural Development and looks forward to receiving its support in implementing its agricultural policy. By way of illustration, I would mention financing for the Agricultural and Rural Development Project (PDAR) in northern Gabon, to develop food value chains and infrastructure. Experiences such as this contribute to raising living standards for beneficiaries and warrant being replicated elsewhere.

We would like to take the opportunity offered by this meeting once again to commend IFAD for the decision to allocate 50 per cent of its loans to the African continent.

This initiative is undoubtedly linked to the renewed interest in the agricultural sector seen in recent times at international financial institutions such as the World Bank, and we have reason to believe that a concerted effort by all will soon take our continent across the threshold of food security, a key measure of development.

In our globalized world, poverty reduction is the business of all. Progress can only be made with the participation of the rural people who give us our daily bread and provide us with the energy we need to perform our work.

It is important, then, to provide support in the form of projects and programmes adapted to their needs. Rural producers must be positioned as change leaders and not only as beneficiaries. To this end, it is crucial to ensure that they have effective tools to give them access to production resources.

Let us work together, therefore, on securing better living conditions for our rural people so that they may rise out of poverty.

Statement of the representative for Guinea

It is truly a pleasure for me to address this session of IFAD's Governing Council on behalf of my delegation and the Government of Guinea, which I have the honour of representing here.

The overarching theme of this session is particularly noteworthy and fully aligned with the organization's strategic vision for the future of smallholders and vulnerable social groups who depend on family farming for their livelihoods.

Let me recall that the statement made at the launch of 2014 as the International Year of Family Farming called for by the General Assembly appealed to national and international decision-makers to promote proactive policies in favour of sustainable development of family farming, within the framework of the fight against poverty and hunger.

As we know, most of the world's food supply is produced by family farmers. However, with rural exodus acting as a brake on agriculture, we need to enhance its appeal in providing a decent living for rural people. To this end, it is critical to encourage rural women and men, particularly the young, by guaranteeing responsible governance of land tenure regimes and facilitating their access to essential production factors – agricultural inputs and equipment, credit and training.

Therefore, Guinea's national food security programme has, under the leadership of the President of the Republic, focused on direct support for family farms since 2011. The key element of the programme is an annual budget allocation equivalent to US\$36 million.

In addition to this priority programme, implementing the more than US\$1 billion National Agricultural Investment Plan for the period 2013-2017 – including the food security component – is a major concern of the Government in the agriculture sector.

The plan calls for modern, sustainable agriculture built upon efficient development of family farming, as well as for promoting private investment in agriculture, to effect major changes in the rural environment.

In order to achieve sustainable development, the national strategy aims to reconcile the management of agricultural and mining resources – both of which are important to Guinea – with agro-silvo-pastoral activities within an integrated programme for developing mining areas. The support provided by mining revenues will lead to higher productivity in value chains for food and market gardening, and poultry and small ruminants. In addition, it will stimulate smallholder production with marketing initiatives undertaken with mining companies to benefit workers.

Further steps will be taken to ensure that small-scale gold prospecting and other mining activities do not interfere with the crop year and the process of sustainable transformation of family farming.

Statistics show that in the future, for a global population in excess of nine billion people by 2050, this trend will allow for a doubling of current food production in developing countries.

However, in order to meet this major challenge, despite the notable progress made on increasing public finances, much remains to be done in terms of investing in agriculture. Moreover, the fact that developed countries and international financial institutions have not fully made good on their pledges means that an appropriate level of investment has yet to be reached for the agriculture sector.

As to the new economic and climate challenges faced by family farming, we need innovative technologies in framework programmes based on producer support, while encouraging participation by a competitive agricultural private sector that is responsive to market signals.

To this end, priority assistance for family farms should support competitiveness by improving infrastructure for access to markets and business capacity, as well as value chain development.

Against this backdrop, the Government of Guinea wishes to strengthen its partnership with IFAD in order to meet the expectations of rural people for sustainable development of family farming. We would like to do so around priority actions for food security, income generation and job creation to promote rural development.

In view of the new exigencies of sustainable agricultural development, we, as Member States, are called upon to honour and even increase our contributions to IFAD's replenishment – further enhancing the support granted by our governments to smallholders in our countries.

In conclusion, I would like to thank IFAD on behalf of the Government of Guinea for its unceasing support for our efforts to combat rural poverty and food insecurity.

Statement of the representative for Iran

At the very outset please allow me to congratulate you, Mr Chairperson, for your well-deserved election. I am confident that under your strong leadership and tireless commitment to rural development, IFAD will fulfil its mandate in responding to some of the most critical challenges of the 21st century: rural poverty and food insecurity.

Concerning the discourse on development, we see that after decades of experiencing difficult times the fact emerged that focusing only on one dimension of development, such as economic development or social development, leads to underdevelopment combined with inefficiency, which makes the poor poorer and the rich richer. Finally, it was discovered that sustainable development encompasses three economic, social and environmental pillars. Hence, there is now common agreement that an inclusive, sustainable and equitable developmental approach to poverty eradication is a prerequisite to addressing the challenges posed by rural poverty and food insecurity. Such a shift in approach will pave the way for policymakers within the framework of enabling states to put the issue of poverty at the top of the agenda and mobilize the human and financial resources and administrative means to address the structural causes of poverty.

It is evident that the agricultural sector plays a crucial role in the economy of developing countries and provides the main source of food, income and employment to their rural populations. Improvements in agriculture in all aspects are fundamental to achieving food security, poverty alleviation and overall sustainable development. Family farming, among other agricultural activities, is a relatively new global phenomenon. In fact, the family farming model offers specific comparative advantages in the economic sector. Smallholder family farmers, among others, play a key role in development as they produce four fifths of the developing world's food. Moreover, the members of these families are key contributors to global food security, custodians of vital natural resources and biodiversity, and central to climate change mitigation and adaptation.

The majority of the world's poor people still live in rural areas and encounter different challenges in their farming activities. As it has been stressed, family farming is one of the ways to tackle poverty and assist in the improvement of the livelihoods in both rural and urban areas. Moreover, it is a fact that the potential economic and social returns on investing in them are enormous. Bearing in mind that investments help family and smallholder farmers improve their livelihoods, it is essential to invest in key areas such as rural infrastructure, education, research and extension systems, and risk mitigation mechanisms. Small farmers also need favourable policies, supportive institutions, social services, and access to resources, inputs, credit and markets.

But as we know, global challenges need global solutions so the role of the eighth Millennium Development Goal is of high importance, namely partnership for development, meaning that challenges can be addressed with the cooperation and help of all stakeholders. Among the most important of such partnerships is cooperation with IFAD, as the only United Nations specialized agency and international financial institution focusing exclusively on agricultural and rural development since 1977 with developing countries. Family farming plays pivotal role for these countries and investment in family farming is key to sustainable development.

IFAD's activities have always been welcomed and appreciated by developing countries as it works with poor rural populations; in particular smallholder family farmers, to eliminate poverty, hunger and malnutrition, raise productivity and income, and improve the quality of rural women's and men's lives.

In the past three decades, the Islamic Republic of Iran has taken great strides to reform the structure of its agriculture and rural sectors, and promote sustainable food production. The results of these efforts are reflected in different indicators of economic growth, including food security and self-sufficiency.

We believe that IFAD can play a crucial role in the development of appropriate projects within its mandate through technical cooperation and assistance, holding workshops and

seminars, as well as exchanging good practices among the Member States.

I would like to suggest the following to further cooperation with IFAD in the areas of infrastructure development, technology transfer and mechanized agriculture:

- Promoting public-private partnership for infrastructure development in agricultural areas;
- Encouraging triangular cooperation among developed and developing countries;
- Scaling up South-South cooperation as complementary to North-South cooperation.

Concluding my words, on behalf of the Islamic Republic of Iran, I would like to express appreciation to IFAD for its commitment in investing in agricultural development, especially in smallholder family farmers, which has multiple development benefits particularly for poverty reduction and the improvement of food security and nutrition. We consider the IFAD mission to Iran in December 2013 for the rural financial support project and for devising the road map for future cooperation a good beginning and we express our readiness to cooperate and collaborate with IFAD. We are also pleased to share with all the Member States of IFAD our successful experiences in the agriculture and rural development sector.

Statement of the representative for Japan

It is an honour to participate in the thirty-seventh session of the Governing Council of IFAD.

As the level of population suffering from hunger and poverty is still high, agricultural development and food security are urgent global issues. Japan will utilize its experience and knowledge and will actively promote international cooperation in the field of agriculture for developing countries through collaboration with the countries concerned and international organizations, including IFAD.

Japan attaches importance to human security which pays attention to individual persons. It should be recalled that a resolution on the common understanding on the notion of human security was adopted by consensus at the United Nations General Assembly in September 2012. Japan appreciates IFAD's efforts in focusing on small-scale farmers from the perspective of human security.

At the general debate of the General Assembly last year, the Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe stated that Japan would strengthen its support for capacity-building and empowerment of women. The promotion of gender equality and empowerment of women is highly important from the perspective of realizing human security. The role of women in agriculture is significant, and Japan expects that IFAD will continue and strengthen its support for women.

The importance of private-sector investment is stressed in the recent international debates in the field of agricultural development, and we recognize that IFAD has been strengthening cooperation with the private sector. Private-sector investment should be carried out in a way that harmonizes and maximizes the benefits to all stakeholders, including smallholders and local communities. In this regard, it is important to promote the principles of responsible agricultural investment (RAI) which is being discussed at the Committee on World Food Security (CFS). Japan has contributed to the research project to evaluate the effectiveness of RAI and we hope that the results will be reflected in the consultation on the CFS in the near future. Japan appreciates IFAD's cooperation and participation in the consultation process and we would like to request IFAD to continue its contribution.

We will meet at the Consultation on the Tenth Replenishment of IFAD's Resources this year. Japan expects that the discussion will focus not only on the direction of IFAD's activities but also on the comparative advantages of IFAD in the global community. We also expect the presence of IFAD to be promoted at the international level through the Consultation.

Statement of the representative for Kenya

On behalf of the Kenya delegation, I am delighted to join you during this thirty-seventh session of the Governing Council of IFAD which has assembled to deliberate not only on the governance of this very important organization but also to re-examine the role of smallholder family farmers in agricultural development. I wish to recognize the contribution of IFAD in supporting development of the agricultural sector in the Member States.

The theme of this Governing Council *Investing in smallholder family farmers for the future we want* is very relevant, especially for developing countries whose agriculture is dependent on small-scale farmers. Most of the rural poor to a large extent depend on agriculture for their livelihood. These smallholder farmers are also custodians of vital natural resources and biodiversity and are central to climate change mitigation and adaptation. Kenya's agriculture is dominated by smallholder farmers who account for 75 per cent of total agricultural output and 70 per cent of marketed agricultural produce. These farmers manage land sizes ranging from 0.2 to 3 hectares per family. Despite their importance in food and nutrition security, smallholder farmers are faced with various challenges like poor infrastructure and inadequate access to inputs, finance and markets that must be addressed through an enabling policy environment. There is therefore greater need for all partners supporting agricultural development to create synergy so as to stimulate agriculture and accelerate agriculture-led growth and poverty reduction under the established country, regional and global frameworks for agricultural development.

The challenge of poverty facing the rural poor makes development of smallholder agriculture in many developing countries a key means to reducing poverty and improving the welfare of the population. The majority of rural people are engaged in small-scale agriculture and are among the people living below the poverty line. The rising global food prices, over-reliance on rainfed agriculture, high costs of inputs, global warming and climate change, coupled with the global economic and financial downturn further complicates the issue of food security and national welfare.

This session comes at a time of increasing demand to modernize and commercialize agriculture. The session will therefore provide Governors with an opportunity to engage in dynamic and focused discussions with a view to gaining fresh insights into how to achieve the future by putting smallholder families at the centre stage of agricultural support in order to attain sustainable and inclusive agricultural development.

The aspiration of Kenya's people to have better livelihoods and welfare is guided by Vision 2030 which aims to transform Kenya into a "newly industrializing, middle-income country". The Vision envisages a 10 per cent agricultural growth rate per annum. The Government is committed to increasing funding to the agricultural sector to 10 per cent in line with the Maputo declaration.

The Government has embarked on expansion of irrigation by opening new schemes and expanding existing ones. This is in line with the Government's manifesto which is aimed at developing 1 million acres of land through irrigation in the next five years. Towards this end, we have started the Galana Kulalu Project which will contribute to Kenya's food security and provide for exports of various commodities. Mechanization is another area of emphasis for the Government. Provision of appropriate machinery will improve efficiency of production. This is coupled with provision of subsidized inputs especially fertilizers, seeds and basic agrochemicals.

Post-harvest losses in many developing countries lead to food insecurity. To address this problem, the Government has embarked on a programme to construct community stores and provide grain dryers so that farmers can store their produce under the right conditions and avoid contamination. The warehousing receipt concept that Kenya is in the process of legislating will not only cut post-harvest losses but will also be a vehicle to better market access and incomes for farmers.

Kenya is the fourth largest recipient of IFAD support in the sub-Saharan region and the Government appreciates this support. With continued good partnership between IFAD, the Government and other stakeholders, it is expected that Kenya's loan portfolio will increase to actualize the desired growth of the agricultural sector.

We particularly thank IFAD for establishing both a country and a regional office in Kenya. This has improved efficiency in project implementation and loan administration.

In conclusion, Mr Chairperson, I urge the distinguished delegates to contribute to this important theme in the light of the changing agricultural environment and dynamics at national, regional, continental and global level. As Member States, we must design and purpose to carry out programmes that will put smallholder farmers at the centre, for they are key players in food and nutrition security in many developing nations. Agriculture must transform from being a subsistence activity to a business that not only provides food for the family but also incomes that will contribute to national economic growth for our countries.

Statement of the representative for the Lao People's Democratic Republic

It is once again a pleasure for our delegation to be here at the thirty-seventh session of the Governing Council of IFAD.

As we have already stated in previous IFAD Governing Council sessions, the Government of the Lao People's Democratic Republic remains committed to continue to develop strongly our country's agricultural economy and empower our farming communities to take a leading role in the advancement of inclusive, productive, stable, safe and sustainable agriculture systems and value chains. Achieving food security and a balanced nutritional diet for our people remains the priority goal of our long-term National Socio-Economic Development Plan that has already been set until the year 2030. To date we have been able to maintain a GDP growth of around 8 per cent since the last decade, and the agriculture sector contributed more than a third to GDP growth, and in terms of generating income for the rural poor and smallholder farmers, it contributed over 80 per cent. The Lao People's Democratic Republic is a small country but endowed with relatively rich and unspoiled natural resources, including good soil, water and forest resources. This is the reason for which our agricultural development strategy has long focused on harnessing our rich agrobiodiversity to realize our food security targets. It is also a major source of export to the region and the world. For example, our farming communities have developed about 15,000 varieties of local rice and also rich varieties of large animals and aquatic resources. This has allowed the country to develop high-quality food products for local use and export to our neighbours. The agricultural sector in the Lao People's Democratic Republic is largely smallholder-based. About 77 per cent of the population still relies on agriculture for their livelihood. However in the last 10 years, the country has seen a remarkable shift from subsistence to market-oriented agriculture. In 2000, only 6 per cent of farm households produced mainly for sale and now this figure has risen to over 30 per cent. The market pull from emerging economies that surround the country, particularly China, Viet Nam and Thailand, offer new opportunities to farmers. Yet, particularly the asset-poor farmer households face challenges in benefiting from emerging market opportunities. Poor, remote rural communities are also geographically and institutionally isolated.

This is the reason why the Lao Government continues to invest in farmers, even in this harsh era of economic recession and financial instability. Investing in farmers means more than connecting them to markets, it means also making sure that they have secure land tenure; fair contracts with private businesses; access to needed infrastructure; information and credit; secure financial services and improving the outreach of basic health, education and extension. In the past few years the Lao Government has developed a programme, which is still ongoing, to establish focal areas for food production for food security, which spans an area of 2 million hectares. This allows the strengthening of family farming and of farmers' organizations and rural institutions and has helped to attract also significant private investments which allow the establishment of more viable public-private and community partnership programmes. Moreover, as a developing country, the Lao People's Democratic Republic is fortunate to continue to receive support from our development partners. This has been instrumental in improving our agricultural productivity, diversity and resilience. It also helped the Lao People's Democratic Republic to take full advantage of the ongoing regional economic integration. We call on our development partners and private businesses to continue investing in farmers. This is not about providing cash liquidity but more to help establish different public-private and community partnerships that bring about more complementarity in the provision of support to farmers. We believe this is the more sustainable form of investment in farmers.

The Lao People's Democratic Republic is a member country of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and this allows us to increase and scale up our agricultural production and market base thanks to the increased connectivity within the region that promotes different forms of cross-border exchange and trade, and which provides increased benefits for our rural farmers. The regional economic integration has helped to increase contacts and strengthen South-South cooperation, which in turn

brings about an increased flow of capital and investments, technology, information and services within the region. This has helped the Lao People's Democratic Republic and especially rural areas to achieve increased production, productivity and outputs and brought about the reduction of poverty from 30 per cent over a decade ago to almost 10 per cent at present. We remain confident that the present development dynamics in the region will contribute to helping the Lao People's Democratic Republic to graduate from least developed country status in 2020. However, the challenge is to ensure that increased income goes hand-in-hand with achieving sustainable use of our natural resources, which is becoming an issue of concern in a number of production areas in the country

Last but not least, as stated earlier, the continued and strong support of our development partners has enabled us to improve our agriculture output and its resilience to the vagaries of nature and climate change. We ask our development partners, and especially IFAD, to continue to help us address the remaining and new challenges ahead of us. We would also like to take this opportunity to commend the IFAD Lao country office for its active role in taking the lead to harmonize aid coordination within the agriculture and rural development sector. This has allowed for better complementarity and more synergy in the provision of the multi-sourced support to further strengthen our farming communities, increase productivity and income, and contribute to more sustainable agricultural development.

Finally we congratulate IFAD for the excellent arrangements for this meeting; we express our thanks for the hospitality provided to our delegation and wish for even more productive achievements in the years to come. The Lao People's Democratic Republic stands ready to strengthen our good cooperation with IFAD and our development partners.

Statement of the representative for Maldives

It is an honour and a privilege for me to address this distinguished gathering of Governors and ministers. At the outset, I thank the President and the Secretariat for the continuous effort in stimulating and creating a platform for discussions on important and relevant issues in agriculture. As such, the current effort to bring smallholder family farmers to the centre stage is very important.

Maldives is a small island developing state totally dependent on marine resources for the economic well-being of the nation. Surrounded by the vast Indian Ocean, we have harvested the bounties of the ocean for many hundreds of years. We have beaten our smallness to become one of the largest tuna fishing nations in the Indian Ocean. We now boast a mature, responsible fishery sector and are actively involved in regional fisheries management through FAO and other international organizations.

We lay great emphasis on sustainable fisheries management and environmentally friendly means of fishing. We continue to be one of the few nations of the region where pole and line method of fishing is the predominant and preferred method of fishing. This method of fishing enhances direct employment for fishers and ensures sustainability. We are now seeking added benefits from this fishing method by its certification by the Marine Stewardship Council – the only such certified fishery body in the region.

We have benefited from IFAD funds to enhance and strengthen fisheries management in Maldives. IFAD grant and loan assistance to Maldives has been instrumental in strengthening the capacity of the fisheries sector, introduction of new technologies, and overall increase in incomes of fishers in selected islands in Maldives.

In order to further diversify the fisheries sector and improve the livelihoods of fishers, we have embarked on an ambitious mariculture programme with IFAD's assistance. Conventional aquaculture practices are not applicable for Maldives. The coral-fringed coasts and lagoons require knowledge and know-how of technologies for the culture and rearing of high-value coral reef fish and invertebrates. The mariculture programme is designed to introduce culturing technologies of high-value coral reef fish into a multi-species hatchery, which will reach out to smallholder farmers with the exchange of knowledge, farming technologies and fries. The project will enhance employment opportunities for marginalized farmers and fishers, fish processors and women's groups on the islands.

With funds from IFAD, we continue to work towards introducing a cooperative model of farmer and fisher organization in Maldives, with limited success. Despite initial challenges, we strongly believe that smallholder farmers and fishers will benefit from cooperatives, partnerships and higher levels of organization. We acknowledge that we need value addition to our raw materials rather than increasing production to unsustainable levels. We recognize that value addition is critical for creating rural employment and maximizing returns at the current production levels. We will continue to work with IFAD to realize these goals.

Maldives has limited land for agricultural development but has enormous potential to expand and diversify its fisheries and marine resources. Our recent graduation from least developed country status has left us with a lot of uncertainty, but we are gradually becoming accustomed to the change. We have lost many concessions relating to trade in European Union (EU) markets, while we have also found ourselves ineligible for many forms of donor assistance. At this critical time, we are grateful for the continued assistance from IFAD to diversify the fisheries and agriculture sectors; the mainstay of our economy.

I call upon the EU and other international donor agencies, to recognize that each country is different and that imposing general rules and conditions, politically or otherwise, on small economies such as Maldives, might lead to unsustainable practices. In the real world, the right to survive and the right to food take priority. While Maldives has set a prime example of sustainable methods of harvesting, Maldives also has limited resources and is extremely sensitive to external shocks. I assure you that our efforts with IFAD and other international partners are focused on enhancing sustainable livelihoods for both fishers and farmers.

Statement of the representative for Mauritius

Thank you Mr Chairperson for giving me this opportunity to share my views with you here today about *Investing in smallholder family farmers for the future we want*.

It is widely recognized that one of the great global achievements of the past generation has been the world's increasing ability to feed itself; an achievement in which family farms have played a critical role.

At this time, as we discuss the post-2015 development agenda, this international year will give an opportunity to explore the potential benefits of family farming in our collective and sustainable future. It is recognized that families can make an enormous contribution to increasing our food production and enhancing our food security.

The theme chosen for this session is indeed very relevant. Actions that will be identified during this session will no doubt help towards poverty eradication, reduction of hunger, and greater access to food, education, health and water. And we should not forget oceans, because the International Year of Family Farming also relates to fishers who earn their living from marine resources.

Family farmers must be part of the solution to growing more food – enough to feed 9 billion people by 2050 – without growing carbon emissions. It is estimated that, globally, there are 2.5 billion family farmers; and through this international year we can focus on their challenges and opportunities, and on the major contribution they will make to the post-2015 development agenda.

The Mauritian Government has strongly advocated the concept of family farming as one of the guiding principles of governance and in accelerating rural development. Family farming is a major operational farming model in Mauritius and thus of great importance to us.

The majority of the farms in Mauritius are family farms, passed down from one generation to another, and contribute to the socio-economic and environmental sustainability of the rural areas. There is a high diversity of family farms in Mauritius, in terms of their size, activities they engage in, availability of resources, degree of market integration and competitiveness, etc. They operate in different economic, agroecological and social contexts, ensuring food security while meeting rising societal expectations for food safety, quality, value, origin and diversity of food, and thus contribute to smart, sustainable and inclusive growth.

Mauritius appreciates the pro-poor dimension of all IFAD initiatives and bears witness to IFAD's contribution in allocating significant resources in empowering the smallholder farmers, indigenous peoples and rural women, under President Nwanze's leadership. In the last few years, IFAD has been highly supportive of the smallholder family farmers in Mauritius.

The Mauritian Government is trying to empower family farmers, especially women and youth, by creating policies conducive to equitable and sustainable rural development. Agricultural research and extension have been intensified to disseminate appropriate technologies for family farmers, and family farmers' organizations and cooperatives.

For instance, under the IFAD-funded Marine and Agricultural Resources Support Programme, we have been able to assist our planters/farmers through:

- Strengthening research and extension support capabilities (mechanization equipment, irrigated system, etc.)
- Food security fund schemes
- Setting up of model dairy farms
- Promoting the quality declared seed scheme, procurement of a seed processing unit and other equipment
- Construction of a model cow byre

- Support to the Agricultural and Market Information System project

Mauritius looks forward to working with IFAD to take initiatives and adopt innovative measures to address the new challenges facing family farming and, in particular, the challenges posed by climate change.

Statement of the Representative for Mozambique

First of all I would like to convey gratitude, on behalf of the Government of Mozambique and in my own name, for the honour of taking part in this thirty-seventh session of the Governing Council of IFAD.

This session is particularly important as it is taking place at a time when the world is celebrating 2014 as the International Year of Family Farming. This is the first major meeting of the year in which a United Nations agency has the opportunity to focus specifically on family farming.

Support for investments in the agriculture sector under the Government's Strategic Plan for Agricultural Development includes an invaluable contribution from IFAD that prioritizes the development of programmes in the areas of: (i) agricultural production and extension; (ii) artisanal fishing; (iii) market linkages; (iv) value chain development; and (v) credit and financial services for smallholders.

There is a need for robust investment; promotion of organization of smallholders into cooperatives; investment in production infrastructure such as roads, energy, irrigation systems, storage facilities and rural commercial networks; and access to more user-friendly information technologies.

I would like to take this opportunity to express, on behalf of the Government of Mozambique, our satisfaction with the fruitful relationship of cooperation we enjoy with IFAD in project implementation and management.

We commend IFAD for its contribution to realizing the Government of Mozambique's programmes in response to needs, priorities and challenges identified by rural communities. We reiterate our commitment to continuing to strengthen our partnership to accelerate growth in our rural economies and improve living conditions for smallholders and their families, particularly women and young people.

Statement of the representative for Nepal

At the outset, I congratulate you, Mr Chairperson, on your election. My delegation welcomes the Russian Federation to the IFAD family.

The agriculture sector in Nepal contributes to about one-third of gross domestic product. It is characterized by a large number of smallholder family farms. More than 50 per cent of our farming families own less than half a hectare of land. In Nepal's over three-decade-long partnership with IFAD, these smallholder farmers have remained the strategic targets of IFAD funded projects.

IFAD's engagement with poor smallholder farmers has been instrumental to agriculture development in our country. For example, the Leasehold Forestry and Livestock Programme implemented with IFAD's support has been a successful model. Current IFAD's projects in Nepal are related to (a) linking smallholder farmers with consumers, taking a value chain development approach and (b) providing adequate amounts of improved seeds and breeds to farmers. These projects address core Nepalese agricultural priorities – agribusiness development and food and nutrition security. These efforts underscore the shared commitment of the Government of Nepal and IFAD for the uplifting of smallholder farming families.

The choice of the theme of this session "Investing in smallholder family farmers for the future we want" is both appropriate and timely vis-à-vis the United Nation's declaration of 2014 as the International Year of Family Farming. It is also a recognition of smallholder farmers' contribution to global food and nutrition security and agribusiness development. We need to acknowledge the roles of farmers' institutions, including smallholder farmers' cooperatives, in making these themes materialize.

In view of the emerging challenges of greater vulnerability to climate change, inadequate investment in agriculture, low level of infrastructure development and limited access to resources that Nepalese farmers have been facing, the Government of Nepal is committed to forging effective strategic alliances among actors from government, development partners and private sectors. At present, enhancing investment in agriculture, engaging young people and modernizing agrifood value chains are our focus areas. We believe these issues will be priorities of the post-2015 development agenda as well.

Finally, I take this opportunity to extend my delegation's sincere thanks to IFAD for its continued support to agriculture development of Nepal.

Statement of the representative of Papua New Guinea

It is an honour and a great privilege for me to represent the Government of Papua New Guinea, of course on behalf of my Treasurer and your colleague and fellow Governor, Honourable Don Pomb Polye, Member of Parliament, who unfortunately had to cancel his trip at the very last minute to attend to some pressing issues back home.

Before I proceed, let me join fellow Governors in thanking the Management and staff of IFAD, and of course the Government of Italy, for successfully hosting the thirty-seventh session of the Governing Council of IFAD.

I am honoured to come to the beautiful city of Rome to attend this very special conference which focuses on "smallholder family farmers", a theme which is very important and relevant to my country, Papua New Guinea.

For Papua New Guinea, family farming or cultivation is very much part of our lives as it originated from our ancestors. It was recently established and confirmed through research work and studies that our ancestors cultivated the land to grow crops about 10,000 years ago. This practice has been passed on from generation to generation and is still being widely practiced by the 85 per cent of our population that depend entirely on agriculture for their daily survival. But, much of this remains simply subsistence farming. Indeed, there is greater need and scope to expand and enhance subsistence agriculture if the Government is serious in attaining its desired policy outcomes around provision of market access, and access to microfinance and credit facilities as per the Vision 2050, the Papua New Guinea Strategic Development Plan (2010-2030), the Medium-Term Development Plan (2011-2015) and of course the National Agriculture Development Plan.

As a developing nation, the Government recognizes that there are many challenges that the country faces as a young nation for which we need the support of partners such as IFAD to help us move forward. Therefore, assistance through formal partnership agreements with key international institutions like IFAD is an important step in the right direction to move the country forward. Mr President, may I make special mention of the fact that the Government of Papua New Guinea is serious about re-engaging with IFAD and therefore seeks the Board's approval and decision to reactivate the country programme with a country scoping mission fielded soon - in March/April 2014.

Mr President, while Papua New Guinea has not had a proper country programme over the last 15 years, we have managed to receive support from IFAD from time to time through cofinancing arrangements with the World Bank through the Productive Partnerships in Agriculture Project (PPAP). In fact, as someone whose background is deeply rooted in agriculture, I am proud to announce and at the same time confirm that the PPAP has touched the lives of many farmers in rural areas whose livelihoods depend entirely on commodities like coffee, cocoa, copra, vanilla and palm oil.

Mr President, let me once again take this opportunity to congratulate you on your appointment last year as head of IFAD for the second consecutive term of four years. Again, let me very sincerely convey my Government's highest gratitude to you especially for providing excellent leadership during your last tenure and we look forward to continued leadership during your current tenure. As a Government, we have noticed that during your tenure, IFAD has increased the number of outposts through funding regional and country offices. This heightened field presence not only enhances IFAD's direct supervision of its projects, but directly benefits Member States by building strong and resilient institutions, and of course systems and processes. Through this proactive approach and highest level of commitment, IFAD has become a valued and results-focused development partner in delivering its programme of loans and grants and extending its reach to more people.

Against this backdrop, Mr President, I would like to touch on a number of reform initiatives undertaken by my Government back home in Papua New Guinea. These are as follows:

Financial inclusion and financial literacy

There is a lack of financial knowledge in our country and a lack of financial sources and options in rural areas. To address this, we are driving a strong financial inclusion and literacy programme for our people. The Government has announced a review of the financial services sector that will identify areas for improving access to financial services and improve efficiency of the sector. The Government continues to partner with the Bank of Papua New Guinea, commercial banks, the Asian Development Bank, the World Bank, the International Finance Corporation and other development partners to attain our policy outcomes.

We have, therefore, taken strategic steps in establishing microfinance institutions and banks to provide financial services to our farmers. The ongoing financial inclusion agenda, along with innovative banking solutions for rural communities, remains a priority in which we think IFAD, given its comparative advantage and global best practice experiences in the sector, can help us to move forward as a country.

Improving research capability

Papua New Guinea enjoys 640,000 km² of land mass and many small islands spread across the seas. But as such, we are an island nation that also suffers our share of the impacts of global warming. Mr President, some of our islands are already under water as I speak, while floods and droughts are creating havoc for other parts; frost and hail storms, landslides and droughts are occurring in places never previously affected in our history.

Our agriculture crops are being destroyed time and time again because of the changes in climatic conditions. As an island nation with many unprotected "borders" we are also susceptible to the introduction of destructive pests and diseases such as the cocoa pod borer, potato blight, etc. Our Government needs to develop resilient crops to survive changed climatic conditions and to withstand pest infestation. We need to biologically engineer and design crops that are resistant/resilient to adverse weather and pests for our own food security as well as for commercialization. We therefore need IFAD to support us in terms of capacity-building, training and institutional reform initiatives. As part of this work, our Government has changed the focus of the national agriculture research institute (NARI) to take on the challenge and so far NARI has done an excellent job. However, much more work is still needed in this area. For instance, with training and extension services in the districts, our farmers will be trained to apply quality control in order to maintain productivity and consistency in supplying produce that meets market demand.

In fact, our farmers need to cultivate resilient crops that can give quick and high yields. The farmers therefore need the necessary skills and knowledge to be adaptive and flexible in mitigating and overcoming the threats and challenges posed by climate change. However, the farmer cannot do this alone and Papua New Guinea does not always have the best international practice models and expertise to help. Thus IFAD's support and intervention through a country-based support programme is considered critical and timely.

Moreover, what we do need is a sustainable country programme to be established immediately upon reactivation of the Papua New Guinea-IFAD relationship. The Government is committed to supporting IFAD to maintain its presence in the country through annual budgetary allocations as part of IFAD core resource replenishments. Thus, we want IFAD to immediately open its country office in Papua New Guinea since we are not getting much support through the regional office in Indonesia, for the obvious reasons that the Indonesian office could have other diverse requirements elsewhere.

During the normal course of programming, we intend to bring together other partners to leverage financing options that are available locally, especially with the use of grant

funding to blend and increase financing options in order to expand the scope of major interventions – not only in the agriculture sector but elsewhere – in order to address rural development through an integrated approach with the application of international best practice models and techniques.

The domestic environment

Small-scale agriculture farming and other economic programmes in Papua New Guinea experience challenges in sustainability due to impediments in the country, owing to factors such as land ownership, land and order problems; lack of skilled personnel, etc. As a result, we, as a Government, are now rebuilding our police capacity. We are implementing land reform initiatives, promoting public-sector housing in the districts, reforming our public service, reviewing agriculture policy and reviewing our taxation and financial service regimes. We have redirected our attention to building infrastructure in traditional sectors like health and education in order to increase economic growth, while at the same time increasing our attention to building transport infrastructure with a new focus on developing the private sector and small and medium-sized enterprises.

We have recently also experienced an improvement in our telecommunications industry and we are embarking on modernizing our electricity services to benefit all potential investors. We therefore ask investors in agriculture and the private sector to come forward and partner with us. We are particularly keen on partnering with big investors from the private sector in mining, liquefied natural gas and fisheries who are already based in Papua New Guinea, while seeking to forge new partnerships with other international companies.

Furthermore, we are keen to establish a partnership with industry players, donors and other stakeholders to give us prompt consideration to support not only small-scale farmers but also to invest, where appropriate, in larger agribusinesses, especially in downstream processing. On that note I would like to acknowledge the assistance IFAD is providing to Papua New Guinea through the Productive Partnership in Agriculture Project in institution-building, encouraging productive industry partnerships, and improving market access infrastructure. These remain critical areas and the assistance from IFAD has been extremely well received in the rural agriculture sector. We look forward to continuing our productive relationship and we look forward to a scoping mission in March/April 2014 to further confirm areas where IFAD assistance is urgently needed.

This year the Government of Papua New Guinea allocated 10 million kina (US\$3.25 million) to fund the Kerowagi District Integrated Rural Development Support Programme, based on a submission I initiated as the national member representing the district in parliament. As you will also recall, the Chimbu Province has been one of the primary beneficiaries of the successful North and South Chimbu Rural Development Programmes funded by IFAD between 1982 and 1996. Based on these successes and institutional knowledge, we would like to pilot IFAD's country programme in my district in Kerowagi.

Therefore, in order to facilitate this, I will be basically cofunding IFAD's operations on the ground in my district and, of course, replication elsewhere throughout the Chimbu province before being further replicated to very disadvantaged districts like Laiagam (Siruki, Lagaip Headwater, Yapai, Kindarep and Yangiyangi) and Kandep, where there is potential for sustained development outcomes if the intervention programmes are packaged and delivered through strong political leadership and commitment in terms of local ownership.

In conclusion I wish to assure you of my Government's highest consideration and the commitment both financially and logistically to re-establishing an effective and fully functional country office in Port Moresby, of course with the same level of commitment extending to the districts where such support is highly needed. Therefore, Mr President, as challenges in promoting sustainable livelihoods and rural development initiatives remain diverse, we stand firm and committed to reactivating immediately the relationship between the Government of Papua New Guinea and IFAD.

Mr President, this will result in the Government supporting IFAD in establishing its presence in the country locally through a fully funded and operational country office,

which will in turn support the Government to move forward in this era in which the threats of climate change warrant joint and proactive actions from all relevant stakeholders in society for a better and meaningful future.

Mr President, I have outlined reform initiatives undertaken thus far in Papua New Guinea, of course with the support of some of our development partners; we look forward to continued support from IFAD, which we already expect will positively benefit smallholder family farmers. This, in turn, will ultimately benefit Papua New Guinea as a country to move forward in its endeavours to alleviate poverty and at the same time increase its economic base. For Papua New Guinea, this year's theme of promoting family farmers means a lot given that 80-85 per cent of our population still live in rural areas.

Statement of the representative for Peru

I would like to thank the International Fund for Agricultural Development for providing us with this valuable forum to discuss the critical issue of family farming. In looking at the overarching theme of this thirty-seventh session of the Governing Council – *Investing in smallholder family farmers for the future we want* – we are reminded of my own country's efforts to help rural farmers improve their quality of life and achieve a higher level of development. These efforts by the Government of Peru have in many cases received support from IFAD.

Peru has a highly diverse population of farmers across the country, with different realities, needs and levels of performance shaped by their context and available opportunities. Four kinds of farming have been identified based on access to production factors and markets: modern, medium-scale entrepreneurial, smallholder and subsistence.

In Peru, the family farming sector is made up of mainly smallholder and subsistence farmers. Although it is difficult to calculate a precise number of family farmers, it is clear that this is the predominant production system in our country. According to official statistics, small farms under 5 hectares in size account for 82 per cent of the total and 43 per cent of farmers produce for self-consumption.

Access to production factors such as irrigation infrastructure, financing, technical assistance and best farming practices is limited for Peruvian farmers. This is a problem that must be addressed if we are to improve productivity and quality of life for those living in rural areas.

According to the fourth national agricultural census conducted in 2012, just 36 per cent of farmland is irrigated and the remaining 64 per cent is rainfed. Access to some kind of irrigation is greater in the coastal region, at 87 per cent, than in the mountainous region where it is 30 per cent, or the rainforest region where it is 6 per cent. Just one in every 10 producers applied for credit, and 10 per cent of applicants were turned down. Among those who did apply, 72 per cent were unsuccessful because they lacked collateral. Certified seed is in use on just 12 per cent of farms, and is not used by 94.3 per cent of farmers in the mountainous region and 89.3 per cent in the rainforest region. Only 10 per cent of farmers received technical assistance, business advice or training.

To address these problems, Peru is currently implementing a new policy approach that places the person – specifically the farmer – first and foremost, and seeks above all to improve quality of life.

Accordingly, the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation of Peru is carrying out initiatives to improve the lives of smallholder and subsistence farmers, inter alia, by improving access to production factors and technology, incentivizing research, promoting associations of family farmers and other economic agents, and stabilizing production levels to provide households and communities with food security.

Our country has 11 ongoing family farming projects totalling US\$82 million. One of these is being financed by the Government of Peru, three by IFAD and seven by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO).

In view of the occasion that brings us together today, I would like to underscore that IFAD is currently implementing three reimbursable financial cooperation projects for a total investment of US\$69.93 million. These projects are designed to contribute to rural development and address the needs of smallholder farmers in the mountainous and rainforest regions of Peru.

Clearly Peru and IFAD are working hand in hand. IFAD's fundamental task – investing in smallholder farmers to transform rural areas – is fully aligned with the Government of Peru's objective to improve the lives of smallholder and subsistence farmers.

In conclusion, allow me to convey, on behalf of Milton von Hesse, Agriculture Minister of Peru, best wishes for the success of this meeting and for the Tenth Replenishment, so

that IFAD may continue to work towards helping thousands of rural farmers worldwide to improve their lives and lift themselves out of poverty.

I would also like to express my country's gratitude for all these years of shared work, and reiterate our interest in continuing to work together with IFAD on new projects to promote the development of family farming.

Statement of the representative of the Philippines

The Philippines is immensely pleased with this year's Governing Council session theme, *Investing in smallholder family farmers for the future we want*. Our delegation remains a staunch advocate of the International Year of Family Farming and, as highlighted by the organizers, this Governing Council session is the first major meeting of a United Nations organization this year carrying the theme of smallholder family farming, an occasion which we do not wish to miss.

Family farming is considered a foundation of our country's agriculture, which is characterized by a predominance of small farms, largely the result of agrarian reform policies and programmes. In fact, the policy to establish family and smallholder farms in the countryside was done by design. As such, the Philippines shall deliberately and aggressively pursue the development of family farms as a vehicle to achieve broad-based poverty reduction and alleviating hunger across the country.

A recent thrust of the Philippine Government is to make development more inclusive to cover smallholder farmers and even landless farm workers. We maintain that with the appropriate support and investment from the Government and its partners, smallholder farmers and thus, family farming, will continue to provide the momentum towards agricultural and rural development. To achieve these outcomes, among the strategies adopted by the Government are the following:

- Strengthen the capacity of farmers and provide them with access to the necessary support services to make their lands more productive, enable them to venture into income-generating livelihood projects and actively participate in community governance;
- Provide common service facilities to farmers for production and processing, agriculture technology and agriculture extension services, business development services, credit facilitation, and land tenure improvement;
- Promote increased agricultural productivity in family farming as a business unit to achieve sustainable and profitable means of livelihood for rural families to ensure that they have adequate food on the table at all times and enough income to meet basic needs. Organizing small farmers into capable farmers' organizations is essential for their empowerment and advancement. The farmers' organization strengthens the political power of farmers by increasing the likelihood that their needs and opinions are heard by the policymakers and the public;
- Make economic growth more inclusive by organizing family farms into profitable business clusters operated by farmers' organizations composed of agrarian reform beneficiaries, other farmers and landless farm workers so that they can achieve economies of scale that would increase their bargaining power and enable them to derive more benefits from the agricultural value chains;
- Increase the resilience of agriculture communities, including family farms, through the development of climate-change-sensitive technologies, establishment of climate-resilient agricultural infrastructure and climate-responsive food production systems, and the provision of support services to the most vulnerable communities;
- Strengthen the agriculture and fisheries insurance system as an important risk-sharing mechanism; and
- Enactment of a national land use policy that will rationalize the optimal allocation of land among competing uses within the framework of sustainable development.

We warmly welcome the various activities in this Governing Council session to share best practices, experiences and lessons relative to the global role of smallholder family farmers and the role that IFAD can play through its investment in rural people, including the high-level Governors' round table, and the panel discussion on the opportunities and challenges facing family farming.

Likewise, we appreciate IFAD's continuous support in conducting the Farmers' Forum that put forward a number of concrete recommendations to promote the interests and situation of the billions of family farmers, smallholder farmers, pastoralists and fishers worldwide. We anticipate that more ideas will be raised during the side event on family farming to be held after the Governing Council session.

Our delegation will then follow with keen interest the deliberations and commencement of the Consultation on the Tenth Replenishment of IFAD's Resources, bearing in mind its importance in increasing the institution's capability to support smallholder family farmers.

Finally, we wish to take this opportunity to express our utmost appreciation for IFAD's unwavering assistance to the Philippines. More recently, we wish to thank IFAD and the international community for the outpouring of support and solidarity in the wake of Typhoon Haiyan that struck our country more than three months ago. In particular, we are grateful for the grant recently approved by the Board to assist in the country's post-disaster recovery and reconstruction efforts. We very much welcome the continuous support and contributions from IFAD, its partners and the donors, in the process of rebuilding the livelihoods of the typhoon-affected people, especially the small family farmers and the most vulnerable ones.

Statement of the representative for Seychelles

The agricultural sector in Seychelles is going through a crucial period. It faces multiple challenges linked to various factors including competition from cheaper imports, biosecurity risks caused by pests, extreme weather events such as unusually heavy rainfall as well as more severe droughts, soil salinity in coastal plateaux as a result of the rise in sea level, and engaging more young people in agricultural production.

The Government recognizes the importance of the agricultural sector and its crucial role in contributing to food security both in the short and the long term. The conservation of agricultural knowledge and practices and transferring them to younger generations are essential for the sustainable development of our small island developing society. The country has now embarked on a mission to revive the agriculture sector through the engagement of local, regional and international stakeholders and partners.

Under the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme, we have produced the Food and Nutrition Security Policy while work is ongoing on the National Agriculture Investment Plan.

The African Development Bank will be supporting a study of the sector in preparation for a longer-term approach.

At the same time, the sector needs some urgent inputs for its revival. In this context, FAO is providing valuable assistance. And we are very pleased that a few months ago Seychelles and IFAD signed the financial agreement for the Competitive Local Innovations for Small-scale Agriculture Project (CLISSA).

The Government is injecting new funds into the Agricultural Development Fund. The Agricultural Disaster and Fisheries Insurance Scheme was launched two weeks ago. Recently, a soil and plant laboratory was opened. This lab, as well as the planned veterinary laboratory, is receiving the support of the International Atomic Energy Agency.

The CLISSA project will provide assistance to small scale farmers, including home or backyard producers. Its implementation, starting this year, is a symbolic and meaningful celebration of the International Year of Family Farming, in the Seychelles context.

We thank President Kanayo Nwanze for his visit to Seychelles last year and the useful discussions held, and for appreciating the specificities of our country. We equally thank all the IFAD staff who have worked in finalizing the CLISSA project and all who will continue to work with us on this project and, we trust, other initiatives.

2014 is also the International Year of Small Island Developing States (SIDS). We appreciate IFAD's attention to climate change, gender and youth, all issues of great importance to SIDS and, indeed, to many other countries. We encourage IFAD to play a full and significant role in the Third International Conference on SIDS to be held later this year and in the implementation of its resolutions.

Seychelles congratulates the Russian Federation on joining IFAD.

Statement of the representative for South Sudan

Thank you for giving me this chance to present this brief statement on behalf my country South Sudan.

The Republic of South Sudan covers an area of 640,000 square kilometres; with an economy based on agriculture (subsistence farming), livestock rearing, fishing and wild food collection during the food deficit months. Although the agricultural activities are rainfed, the country is blessed with irrigation potential which has not been tapped into since the colonial era.

The theme of this thirty-seventh session of the Governing Council, *Investing in smallholder family farmers for the future we want*, is most suitable and desired in my young nation; South Sudan. This is owing to the fact that no tangible improved agricultural development by the large private or public sector has ever taken off due to over two decades of civil wars. For this reason this theme is timely for us as it addresses the basis of the country's livelihood for its future in eradicating hunger and poverty, and improving on social development.

For the above reasons, the agricultural production system is over 90 per cent based on smallholder family farming which depends mostly on the labour provided by the family members, in the absence of the ability to pay for hired labour and agricultural machinery, thus limiting the size of land under crop cultivation. There was also a lack of exposure to market-oriented farming and improved farming skills during the civil war, when most of the population in South Sudan lived in the jungle and practised rudimentary farming skills acquired from their grandparents.

Mr Chairperson, as a young nation and during the three years of IFAD's and the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands' first funded project in South Sudan, IFAD's initiative to form smallholder farming families into groups for easy acquisition of skills and delivery of inputs got under way barely two years ago. It is now showing some significant changes in smallholder farmers' attitudes and skills adoption. This is being demonstrated through group members' own contributions in monetary form and materials towards group work and the increase in land size under cropping.

In one district, an interest group of smallholder family farmers of 21 members started their group work with 10 feddans (70 by 60 metres); after a year's experience the members opted to use the group as forum for coming together to:

- Acquire improved skills through training,
- Acquire needed entrepreneurs' inputs,
- Knowledge and experience sharing,
- Participate in practising new practices at group demonstration plots or farmers' field schools

At present individual group members have managed to increase their family farm sizes. For example, one farmer, Mr Oryema, in 2013:

- Cultivated 4 feddans compared to half to one feddan before IFAD's intervention,
- Has brought a pair of oxen and ox plough for tilling his land and for hire to other smallholder farmers in his village,
- Has learned how to involve his family members in participating fully in the family farm work, and
- Is able to pay for some basic services like school fees and medical care through sales of surplus farm produce.

All these are through IFAD's initiative of investment in smallholder family farmers. With this, I appeal for further support to boost our Government's efforts and still weak capacity of human resources towards realizing this fundamental goal.

Statement of the representative for Spain

Spain would like, first of all, to express its gratitude to IFAD for selecting the compelling theme that informs this Governing Council session.

The Fourth Master Plan for Spanish Cooperation, outlining guidelines for the period 2013-2016, recognizes the primacy of rural development – and in particular of empowering the agricultural sector – in achieving our objective of generating opportunities to improve living conditions for the poorest. Spain assigns priority to promoting smallholder farms to make them sustainable, equitable and resilient, paying special attention to women.

At the present time women face inequality in access to agricultural resources. We are convinced that improving women's participation in decision-making and access to credit, land and technology will lead to higher yields in the agriculture sector.

We therefore commend IFAD for the strides made in implementing the gender equality policy and empowering women. Particularly welcome is the methodology now being applied to determine whether gender issues are being taken into account in decisions on the lending portfolio and the organization's budget as a whole. We encourage IFAD to continue to pursue efforts along these lines.

IFAD is a key partner for Spain in our commitment to promoting rural development. We are gratified that the last three projects approved by the Executive Board at its December session completed allocation of the entire amount of 300 million euros in the Spanish Food Security Cofinancing Facility Trust Fund created in 2010. We will continue to work closely with IFAD to ensure that the efforts made by Spanish taxpayers translate into substantial and lasting improvements in the living conditions of rural people living in our partner countries.

Statement of the representative for Swaziland

Firstly, I extend warm greetings to you all. I am honoured to join the august team of Governors as I am attending this meeting for the first time representing my country, the Kingdom of Swaziland. Let me at the onset assure you, Chairperson, IFAD President and staff that you can count on my support as you develop and work on programmes that will bring livelihood to the poor and hungry population of the world.

Swaziland expresses her sincere appreciation for the positive impact, through IFAD in its technical and financial support in our country, as we deal with our mandate, given by our people, of ensuring food security, poverty reduction and general economic growth of our country. The contribution this organization is making is very well recognized, especially by the poorest of the poor. In that spirit, I want to encourage the President and his team to work even harder as the results of their work are tangible.

The Swaziland agricultural sector, like in many other developing countries in the southern Africa region, is challenged by the ever intensifying scourge of climate change, resulting in severe droughts and/or devastating storms and floods. This has completely changed our cropping seasons which are becoming more unpredictable.

We are, however, as a country, working with our people in developing strategies and programmes that will help in coping with this serious challenge. Some of the programmes for mitigating the effect of climate change include, but are not limited to, water and irrigation development, conservation agriculture, adoption of drought-tolerant and short-season crop varieties.

The availability of arable land and water resources makes agriculture the key driver of Swaziland's economy. On this note, I request IFAD to strengthen its effort in mobilizing additional resources, both technical and financial, especially in the form of grants to assist us in the fight against hunger and in using agriculture as the vehicle for economic development, as a number of our countries are fully dependant on this sector.

Finally, Chairperson, be assured of Swaziland's delegation's full support towards achieving a successful thirty-seventh session of our Governing Council and we hope all that will be discussed will contribute positively towards bringing hope to the millions of hungry people of the world.

Statement of the representative for Switzerland

The year 2014 is marked by two global processes closely linked to IFAD's mission and identity: the International Year of Family Farming and the last leg of consultations before setting the goals of the post-2015 agenda.

For more than 35 years, IFAD has worked with the poorest, and often the most isolated rural people, and over time has developed its own unique expertise which has contributed to improving the lives of millions of men and women.

We believe that IFAD, with its particular experience and expertise, is uniquely positioned to influence the global political agenda and have a decisive impact on the livelihoods of 500 million family farms. Paradoxically, while these farmers feed more than two thirds of the global population, they are actually the group most severely affected by hunger and malnutrition.

IFAD has a key unique contribution to make in determining the goals of the post-2015 agenda. This institution has long placed the three pillars of sustainable development at the heart of its work, focusing on the:

- economic aspect, by considering smallholder farmers as entrepreneurs who provide the principal source of employment in rural areas;
- social aspect, by giving a voice to the poor and marginalized, and by involving them in decision-making processes and developing innovations to modernize family farming; and
- the environmental aspect, by building the capacity of smallholder farmers to manage natural resources sustainably, taking into account the challenges posed by climate change.

IFAD is also to be recognized for its remarkable work to strengthen the capacity of rural women, empower them financially and lessen inequality between men and women.

At a time when many countries are in search of models of inclusive development, we hope that IFAD's work will continue to be a source of inspiration. And most importantly, that IFAD will effectively influence policies and investments in favour of the viable and sustainable development of family farming, driving structural transformation in rural areas, while safeguarding national food security.

Statement of the representative for the United Republic of Tanzania

Let me on behalf of the Government of the United Republic of Tanzania and on my own behalf, thank you for inviting me to attend and address this Council.

Let me also join you in welcoming the Russian Federation to the IFAD family and the newly elected Bureau.

IFAD-supported programmes in the United Republic of Tanzania have evolved over the years in response to the changing policy environment and IFAD's accumulated experiences in the country. IFAD programmes have benefited approximately 3.4 million households from 1978 to date. Together with other development partners, IFAD has supported about 14 agricultural programmes and projects in the country. In 2007, a third country strategic opportunities programme was formulated with the Government and other development partners by the IFAD Executive Board. This programme was formulated in response to National Strategy for Growth and Reduction of Poverty goals and agricultural sector challenges.

IFAD has been our development partner for many years and has greatly contributed to our implementation of the Rural Development Strategy and Agricultural Sector Development Strategy through its diversified portfolio of agriculture and rural development programmes. It has been playing a critical role in assisting the Tanzanian Government to realize the objectives of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) in the context of the Agricultural Sector Development Programme (ASDP) and the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD), among others. All these efforts are sustaining food security and reducing poverty in the country. IFAD was one of the five development partners that contributed to the ASDP Basket Fund. However, during the business meeting, IFAD was willing to support implementation of Tanzania Agricultural and Food Security Investment Plan (TAFSIP) as it has been supporting farmers to overcome poverty.

Currently, IFAD is supporting the Marketing Infrastructure, Value Addition and Rural Finance Support Programme. This is a follow up to the World Bank- and IFAD-financed Agricultural Marketing Systems Development Programme which successfully achieved its development objectives. It is being implemented in 16 regions (14 in Mainland and two in Zanzibar). IFAD has now committed US\$5.8 million to the (ASDP) basket fund.

In conclusion let me highlight four areas in which the United Republic of Tanzania would like to have more support. These are as follows:

- Development of climate-resilient irrigation facilities including water storage dams to allow for double cropping/crop intensification;
- Support to the commodity exchange programme particularly in the construction of warehouses for warehouse receipt system and strengthening capacities;
- Support towards financial strengthening capacity of the Agriculture Input Trust Fund (AGITF); and
- Support to smallholder farmers, including youth and women, to participate in nucleus farm models designed to lift small farmers from subsistence to commercial farming through public-private partnership.

Thank you in anticipation for IFAD's continued cooperation and support in creating the future we want.

Statement of the representative for Timor-Leste

Before I begin my short statement, please allow me on behalf of the Government of Timor-Leste to extend my sincere thanks to the President of the International Fund for Agriculture Development (IFAD) for inviting Timor-Leste to attend this important event. Timor-Leste is proud to be a member of IFAD.

Timor-Leste is a country which is located between Australia and Indonesia and got its independence in 1999 after 24 years of occupation. The country has a population of approximately 1.2 million people in an area of 15,000 square kilometres.

Agriculture is the nation's most prolific economic sector with approximately 80 per cent of the population living in rural areas and deriving their livelihood from agricultural activities. The agriculture sector accounts for around 30 per cent of non-oil GDP with a high proportion of the population engaged in this sector; this means that agriculture is the major source of employment.

Development of the agriculture sector in rural areas is vital to the overall development of Timor-Leste. However, Timor-Leste needs your great support in order to ensure food security and income in rural areas, particularly in communities experiencing the greatest poverty.

Please allow me again to convey a special thanks from the farmers of Timor-Leste to the President of IFAD, after the approval of a three-year fund (2012–2015) of US\$5 million project to implement the Timor-Leste Maize Storage Project (TLMSP) with an objective of increasing food security by reducing post-harvest maize storage losses. This project provides farmers with appropriate support to reduce the post-harvest losses they experience of between 15 and 30 per cent every year.

Maize is one of our principal crops in Timor-Leste and every year farmers lose between 15 and 30 per cent of their maize production due to weevils, rats, chickens, etc. The traditional storage method for maize is above the house, in the trees, or above the fireplace, and these methods do not work very well. A simple solution is to use 200-litre metal airtight drums to prevent weevils, rats and other insects from getting into the maize. The drum we use is a standard drum, very cost-effective and well known by farmers. Many farmers have been aware of the use of drums to store maize since Portuguese colonial times.

TLMSP aims to distribute 42,000 drums in five districts of Timor-Leste, benefiting 23,000 households.

This project was designed by IFAD in close cooperation and participation with the Government of Timor-Leste and the lead agency (the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries). The Ministry of Agriculture is responsible for managing and ensuring the success of this project.

I am pleased to report that since the signing of the grant agreement in May 2012, TLMSP has distributed 7,850 drums to 6,465 households. We have also distributed with each drum, 1 bottle of high-yielding maize seeds (sele and noi mutin) which have a 30 per cent higher yield than the local variety. The combination of improved storage and higher-yielding seed varieties promoted under the IFAD project has the potential to dramatically improve the food security situation for our country's poor farmers.

The project is the first of its kind to request a US\$10 contribution from farmers for each drum. In Timor-Leste, farmers are accustomed to receiving free inputs but this is not sustainable. The Government of Timor-Leste cannot afford to keep providing free support to farmers, and this contribution by farmers implies ownership. TLMSP has managed to have 6,465 farmers contribute US\$10 per drum and this is an outstanding success.

This year we aim to distribute over 20,000 drums in two of our larger districts in Timor-Leste. We hope that at the end of the project, we will have managed to distribute 42,000 drums, preventing maize storage losses of approximately 45 kilograms per drum. This will mean that in a year, we can save 2,025 tonnes of maize per annum for the next 20 years. Each drum will last 20 years if looked after properly.

I look forward to continuing to work with IFAD for the continued success of this project and hope that its success will lead to a new second phase TLMSP project, which will cover the other eight districts of Timor-Leste.

Timor-Leste remains strong in its commitment to work closely with IFAD to empower poor people in rural areas, and to reduce poverty by investing in rural people.

Statement of the representative for Togo

It is a pleasure and a great honour for me to address this distinguished assembly on the occasion of the thirty-seventh session of IFAD's Governing Council. I would like to thank you for the warm welcome we have received since our arrival at the headquarters of this great United Nations agency that each day works to improve living conditions for the most vulnerable people in our countries.

Allow me to take this opportunity to convey appreciation to IFAD, on behalf of His Excellency Faure Essozimna Gnassingbé, President of the Republic, and in the name of the people of Togo, for the many initiatives implemented to develop agriculture in our country.

We would also like to thank the United Nations system, in particular the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the World Food Programme, and all our development partners for their support in implementing our National Agricultural Development and Food Security Programme, with the goal of reducing poverty through sustainable growth in agriculture.

We are all aware of the important role played by the agriculture sector in the economies of most of the countries taking part in this session. If we are to build strong economies, our countries must guarantee stability and sustainable growth in agriculture, where the great majority of our countries' assets are found.

The main feature of agriculture sectors in our countries is that they comprise predominantly smallholders organized around small-scale family farms. Therefore, any reflection on agricultural development and the related policies, strategies, programmes and projects, if they are to achieve tangible results, should be based on this segment of society.

In the case of my country, Togo, the notion of sustainable agriculture is specifically taken into account in the Support to Agricultural Development Project, targeting vulnerable smallholders.

Once again we would like to commend IFAD for its deep engagement, which has led not only to the design of this project but also and above all its financing and implementation over the past three years. Preparations for a midterm evaluation are now under way.

I would underscore the crucial role of smallholders in feeding our people, as well as their contribution to GDP, which stands at 30-40 per cent in most Third World countries. Let us focus our deliberations today on opportunities for support, specifically to the smallholder farmers who account for more than two thirds of the population in most of our countries.

As soaring demographic growth swells the food needs of our countries' people, it is vital that we support smallholders, as the main repositories of food security, by investing in their day-to-day production work. Hence the relevance of the theme *Investing in family farming for the future we want*, which has been chosen to frame this thirty-seventh session of the Governing Council.

Allow me also to convey best wishes to all staff for health, peace and happiness in the coming year, on behalf of His Excellency Faure Essozimna Gnassingbé, President of Togo.

In conclusion, I would like to thank all of IFAD's Member States for their unceasing efforts in funding a multitude of projects to promote vulnerable smallholders. Long live international cooperation!

Statement of the representative for Tuvalu

The agriculture sector in Tuvalu continues to be guided by the National Development Strategy *Te Kakeega II* that will expire in 2015. The roadmap intervention by the newly elected Government in the second half of 2013 has also played a more supporting role in planning in the sector, while the remaining priorities are incorporated into our National Agriculture Strategic Plan - 2014 to 2023.

The main challenges to agricultural production in Tuvalu are its poor atoll soils, scarcity of land, lack of water, the decline in its traditional farming systems, and urban drift where young people migrate to explore opportunities in the capital, Funafuti. The most serious challenge is climate change and its impacts on eroding island coastlines, the rising sea level causing inland floods during the spring, and king tides that inundate food crops from time to time.

Over 50 per cent of the population of Tuvalu live in the rural outer islands that continue to depend on subsistence farming for their sustainable livelihoods; therefore, there is still work to be done to ensure that the needs of this rural population in this regard are closely monitored and maintained. Food security and enhanced agricultural production for both rural areas and the congested capital island of Funafuti atoll, where much of the population of Tuvalu dwell, will continue to be a great challenge.

To highlight some of the major activities in the agriculture sector in 2013/2014, the following achievements are worth noting:

- With domestic resources and jointly with other development partners, agricultural food security programmes focused on urban and rural home-gardening with the rehabilitation of the cultivation of traditional root crops on dry land using concrete planting cisterns. This is a new farming technology under our national adaptation programme of action (NAPA) developed with the support of the Global Environment Fund. It involves the introduction of planting materials for climate-ready salt-tolerant root crops from the Centre for Pacific Crops and Trees (CePacT) of the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC) based in Fiji.

The focus of Tuvalu's agricultural development in 2015 on food security programmes will continue to expand the development of climate-ready root crop nurseries on the outer islands. One has already been established on Nukulaelae island, and on Vaitupu island another is currently under construction. The purpose of these specialized nurseries is to raise climate-ready root crops (resistant to salinity and drought) from CePacT to facilitate distribution of their planting materials to farmers. The plan is to equip all the outer islands with these specialized climate-ready nurseries when funding support is identified.

The strengthening of the Elisefou Agriculture Research Station on one of the outer islands, Vaitupu, is also a priority for 2015 in order to cope with envisaged climate change adaptation and mitigation measures, as climate change impacts on agriculture food production become more evident. Another area for development is the selection of active farmers' associations and farmers' cooperatives on the outer islands to foster partnership to support the increased marketing of local food production to the capital where around 50 per cent of the population resides. This will lead to an increase in food imports substitution as well as provide consumers with more fresh agricultural produce and processed food that would provide a steady alternative source of income for rural farmers. Funding support continues to be sought to implement this priority this year. This development will also contribute to a learning experience for potential commercial agricultural entities in the private sector that have great interest in venturing into external trade initiatives for exporting to niche markets overseas. Tuvalu is known to have and has great potential to further explore and develop these markets. Tuvalu is looking to SPC for technical assistance in this area and hopes to see funding support for this initiative from our development partners.

The European Union has recently funded Tuvalu's climate change resilience agroforestry development programme through its Global Climate Change Alliance – Pacific Small Island States programme. This will support an adaptation process of developing

underutilized land parcels by removing senile and unproductive coconut palms and other food trees and replacing them with new tree planting materials. These will be further integrated with climate-ready root crops and other lower food crops to provide a consistent supply of food for farmers and landowners. This project has both short- and long-term impacts on increasing food crop production to surplus levels that would be important to add value for income-generating opportunities.

We acknowledge the difficulty in administering programmes in the Pacific region due to its isolation (on the other side of the globe from Rome), coupled with the dispersive nature of these small island states in the vast Pacific ocean, so perhaps an option to consider is for IFAD to strengthen its regional presence in Fiji. At a time when IFAD is working on how best to intervene through its programme of assistance, I cannot overstate the immense value of country visits, especially in cases of new Members like Tuvalu. This provides an opportunity to assess the situation on the ground as a practical basis from which meaningful cooperation could be devised, which would not duplicate efforts, but would ensure an intervention that makes an impact on the livelihoods of the people.

Given IFAD's important roles, services and contribution to global food security and addressing world hunger and malnutrition; I wish to announce Tuvalu's small pledge of 2,000 Australian dollars to kindly support IFAD's 2015 development assistance programmes.

Statement of the representative for the United Kingdom

Investing in smallholder family farmers for the future we want provides us with the theme for this Governing Council. The future we want is a world where 842 million people do not go hungry every day and where everyone has a chance to reach their full potential. Tackling this sustainably in a world where crop yields decrease as a result of climate change, and a growing world population could need nearly 50 per cent more food in 15 years' time, is one of the greatest challenges we face today.

IFAD has an important contribution to make in supporting and investing in countries to achieve economic growth, aiming to lift 80 million people out of poverty by 2015. IFAD plays a crucial role in bringing together different stakeholders – smallholders themselves, local and national governments, the private sector (from local markets to national or global businesses), cooperatives, other United Nations agencies and international financial institutions, NGOs, and others – in delivering results that can create rural jobs and opportunities that transform lives and transform economies. We encourage IFAD in its continued focus on results, strengthening knowledge management and scaling up successes.

We are all aware of the disaster created by severe weather events for farming households. We are pleased to see the progress that IFAD's Adaptation for Smallholder Agriculture Programme – or ASAP – is making. We welcome the international recognition it is receiving, including the Momentum for Change award at the end of last year. This is the beginning of a journey to help smallholder farmers cope and build resilience to climate risks. With ASAP, IFAD is responding to needs and channelling climate finance to some of the most vulnerable people who need it most. We look forward to IFAD increasing its global leadership in this critical area.

Helping farmers increase the productivity of their land is a priority and they are better able to invest when they have secure tenure of the land they work. But in many countries land tenure is precarious. For example, in sub-Saharan Africa 90 per cent of rural land is not registered, putting rights holders at risk. IFAD can help lead the way with transformative programmes that make land tenure more secure in a way that supports smallholders and businesses to invest and contribute to food security, economic development and poverty reduction. IFAD is well-placed to help the world learn the lessons needed if we are to achieve zero poverty.

The United Kingdom remains a strong supporter of IFAD. Our Multilateral Aid Review Update found that IFAD has made progress in priority reform areas, with its commitment to introducing impact evaluation; enhanced focus on women and girls; and improvements in financial management. We welcome the development of IFAD's action plan to enhance efficiency – and the results that its implementation will deliver.

As the Consultation on the Tenth Replenishment of IFAD's Resources gets under way, we commit to working closely with all Members in supporting IFAD as it consolidates reforms and strengthens the quality and sustainability of results to lift people out of poverty – there is no better return on our investment.

Statement of the representative for the United States of America

The IFAD9 period is a dynamic and exciting time for IFAD. During the Ninth Replenishment, deputies and Management agreed to an ambitious reform agenda – one that included a commitment to lift 80 million people out of poverty and pave the way for sustainable improvements in their living standards. To do this, IFAD recognized that it must continue to focus on improving project design and supervision, and it is now turning its attention to strengthening project management as well. IFAD has also placed great emphasis on fully integrating gender into its programmes and introducing measures to help smallholder farmers manage the impact of climate change.

IFAD deserves recognition for its leadership in these vital areas. IFAD is creating new economic opportunities for women in rural areas across the world by mainstreaming gender in all aspects of its work and strengthening the gender metrics in its projects. On climate change, IFAD is incorporating cross-cutting climate adaptation solutions into projects in countries that are most at risk. For instance, by assisting governments in modelling climate change effects on agriculture value chains, IFAD is able to help countries better anticipate climate challenges to prevent production losses and damages.

IFAD is unique in that it is the only international financial institution whose explicit mandate is to work with the poorest of the poor in the most remote rural areas of the world. We applaud IFAD's decentralization efforts and the opening of country offices, resulting in IFAD staff being in closer proximity to the clients it seeks to serve. In IFAD10, we believe we should continue to advance this mandate in a number of ways:

Fragile states. Fragile states are some of the most difficult and challenging environments, where achieving lasting results often remains elusive. Most multilateral development banks find that their projects are more likely to underperform in fragile contexts than in non-fragile contexts. By virtue of its grass-roots approach, we believe that IFAD is well positioned to achieve results in fragile states. It is critical to account for the unique set of challenges projects face in fragile contexts and equip IFAD teams with the necessary tools and resources they need to succeed.

Sustainability. We appreciate IFAD's nascent progress on improving sustainability. Sustainability is a persistent challenge in development and IFAD is no exception. Though improving, over the 2010-2013 only 73 per cent of projects achieved sustainability of benefits. Decentralization and the scaling-up agenda are important elements of IFAD's strategy for improving programme sustainability. We think it is equally important for IFAD to do more to help equip host governments and communities to carry on the work initiated by IFAD well beyond the project life cycle.

Nutrition. We welcome IFAD's work to promote nutrition outcomes. Promoting nutrition security is a cornerstone of President Obama's Feed the Future Initiative and a key element of an effective national agriculture and food security strategy. IFAD is a natural partner in improving nutrition outcomes for smallholder farmers, and we are pleased to see that IFAD is already taking important steps to incorporate nutrition-sensitive actions into project design and country strategies.

We look forward to collaborating with IFAD in this important year and continuing to find new ways for IFAD to deliver results on the ground, including in the most challenging environments where the people are the poorest, the circumstances are the most difficult, and the needs are the greatest.

Statement of the representative for the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela

I would like first of all to congratulate Mr Luc Oyoubi, Minister for Agriculture, Livestock, Fisheries and Food Security of the Republic of Gabon, for his election as Chairman of the Governing Council representing the countries of List B, together with the Members accompanying him on the Governing Council Bureau for the period 2014-2015. We also welcome the Russian Federation as a new Member, and commend the panellists for their contributions to our discussions on the important issues comprising the work agenda of this organization.

This year, 2014, we look at the results of the policies and measures that various countries have adopted on social investment and financing for agricultural development to ensure food security and achieve the Millennium Development Goals, just one year away from the deadline set by the United Nations. The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela notes with concern that insufficient progress has been made on eradicating hunger worldwide, despite the major efforts deployed. The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations has indicated that there are still 900 million extremely poor people living in the world who continue to suffer from hunger and malnutrition although global food production has outstripped population growth.

There is no question that we are in the midst of a structural crisis that is largely attributable to the prevailing economic model. A new approach to production, distribution and consumption is needed, together with steps to overcome speculation around prices for staple foods. Therefore, as we prepare to undertake consultations on the Tenth Replenishment of IFAD's Resources, we would like to share our views on how to enable greater progress to be made on promoting agricultural development and combating rural poverty.

We recognize the important work being done by IFAD in financing rural development to enable poor people to overcome poverty and using resources more efficiently in order to allocate more funding to poor rural people.

However, IFAD needs to pursue its efforts to reach a larger number of rural people by funding projects for poor farmers living in the world's poorest and most vulnerable low-income countries. In addition, the Fund should continue to come up with innovative policies to help middle-income developing countries with structural poverty issues to boost production and productivity. This can be done by providing technical training and including a technology component in projects, employing participatory innovation and research that builds in the worldview of campesino and indigenous cultures through an exchange of popular and ancestral knowledge, in order to consolidate agricultural, family, indigenous and community-based systems.

To combat hunger during this International Year of Family Farming, we need to guarantee food and nutritional security by making fresh, healthy quality food available on local markets, thus increasing sector employment and farmer family incomes.

The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela is firmly committed to continue the fight against world poverty and hunger. We reaffirm our interest in cooperating with IFAD to continue to promote rural development and improved living conditions for campesinos and other rural people in our country.

Our Government has implemented a structured comprehensive agricultural development policy to combat land concentration, provide financing and investment in agricultural infrastructure and agro-industry, and facilitate access to science and technology for small and medium-scale producers. This led to a 10.6 per cent increase in agricultural production in 2013 and historic levels of production for most crop, livestock and fish products – although not enough to meet growth in demand as purchasing power has risen among our people.

It is hoped that implementing these measures will make 2014 the year of consolidation of the socialist agro-industrial apparatus and primary production for major products. Projections call for growth of between 6 and 8 per cent for livestock, 16 per cent for crops, and 8 and 9 per cent for fish and aquaculture, respectively, to meet growing

demand.

These actions focus on meeting the target of zero poverty in Venezuela by 2019, implementing the Hugo Chávez Missions and Great Missions System announced by President Nicolás Maduro Moros after being recognized by FAO last year for having achieved MDG1 and the objective set under the World Food Summit of 1996.

Finally, we support IFAD in its major reform initiatives so that it may continue to be an effective instrument for eradicating world hunger and rural poverty. This major scourge of humanity is caused in our view by the selfish and inhumane economic and financial model that year after year condemns millions of human beings to death.

Statement by the representative for Zambia

I would like to begin by congratulating you, Mr Chairperson, along with the newly elected members of the Governing Council Bureau. Zambia looks forward to working closely with all of you to strengthen the International Fund for Agricultural Development and collectively advance our efforts against hunger and poverty.

I bring you all greetings and good wishes from our President Mr Michael Chilufya Sata, the current President of the Republic of Zambia, the Government and the people of Zambia.

Allow me take this opportunity to thank IFAD for successfully organizing this session of this thirty-seventh session of the Governing Council whose focus is on *Investing in smallholder family farmers for the future we want*, which is our traditional way of life in most African countries and certainly the way Zambia's small-scale farming operates now and has operated for many years.

We in Zambia acknowledge with appreciation the efforts made by the African Heads of State in 2003 and re-stated in 2014 under the auspices of African Union, to spend a minimum of 10 per cent of their national budget on agricultural development.

Further, in July 2013 the African Heads of State made a pledge to end hunger by 2025, and recognized that investment in agricultural development, targeting smallholder farmers is key because of its immediate gains in rural development.

We strongly believe that strengthening and supporting small farms to become profitable by using a central and satellite farm concept could be considered as an option. Small farms have the potential to re-emerge profitably in community-wide, cooperative efforts. Small communities can become farming blocks which provide food that is locally and sustainably grown, creating a community-wide sense of pride and active self-supporting farms. We need to agree on how much of the value of the ultimate product(s), goes to the producers and the small-scale farmers themselves. IFAD has a major role to play in this assignment.

Given our vast resource endowment in terms of land, labour and water, the Zambian Government has designated agriculture as one of the four pillars of economic development targeting, to take advantage of these resources by doubling agricultural production and productivity through investment in infrastructure such as roads, ICT, post-harvest storage facilities, transport systems, cold chains, water-harvesting dams, irrigation schemes and developing no less than 11 public-private people-based partnership type farm blocks, in which private sector can make their investments by incorporating rather than displacing small-scale farmers.

The focus of the Government is to increase investment in agricultural development, particularly to the greater benefit of smallholder family farmers, through outgrower schemes with large corporate producers of sugar, wheat and cotton. To this effect, Zambia is currently reviewing its national agriculture policy in order to place at the centre of our agricultural policy framework the needs of the small-scale farmers, taking into account the emerging trends in the sector such as environmental and climate change, decentralization, globalization and changes in legislation.

Further, in May 2013, Zambia launched the National Agriculture Investment Plan (NAIP), which was developed within the context of the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme framework. The NAIP is supported by government and development partners, including IFAD, which is providing support to the agriculture sector through the:

- Smallholder Agribusiness Promotion Programme;
- Smallholder Livestock Investment Project;
- Smallholder Productivity Promotion Programme; and
- Rural Finance Expansion Programme.

Through initiatives such as these projects, IFAD is promoting improved agricultural productivity, agribusinesses and value chain development among smallholder farmers. These initiatives are in harmony with the Government's policy thrust of agricultural diversification and promoting private–public partnerships in agricultural development. Moreover, small-scale farmers seek multilateral companies as partners in the value chain as a way of attaining market and price stability.

Zambia, therefore, looks forward to continued cooperation with IFAD, and expects IFAD to continue aligning its support to the National Agriculture Policy and National Agriculture Investment Plan.

Chapter 4

Statements and special addresses



Mr Kanayo F. Nwanze
President of IFAD



His Excellency Fabrizio Saccomanni
Minister for Economy and Finance of
the Italian Republic



Mr Abdullah Jummah Alshibly
Assistant Secretary General for
Economic Affairs
Cooperation Council for the
Arab States of the Gulf

**Welcoming statement by the President of IFAD to
His Excellency Fabrizio Saccomanni, Minister for Economy and Finance of the
Italian Republic and
Mr Abdullah Jummah Alshibly, Assistant Secretary-General for Economic
Affairs, Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf**

Thank you, Mr Chairperson,
Delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is my honour to welcome two special guests to the thirty-seventh session of the Governing Council of IFAD.

First, I would like to extend a warm welcome to His Excellency Fabrizio Saccomanni, Minister for Economy and Finance of the Italian Republic and Governor for Italy to address this Council.

Italy has always been a strong ally in the fight against poverty and hunger. Italy is to be applauded for its commitment to food security; in particular, the city of Rome has given IFAD a home for more than 35 years now. It is fair to say that Rome is the world's food security hub.

As a central banker, Mr Saccomanni has been at the forefront in identifying the core problems faced by the global financial system, and has been a strong advocate for increased domestic investment.

His advocacy for investment despite difficult circumstances is echoed by IFAD in communities around the world. Whether seeking to recover from crisis or to develop out of disparity, increased investment in agriculture and rural communities is essential to unlocking brighter futures.

It is an honour and a privilege to have the opportunity to welcome Minister Saccomanni.

It is also my pleasure to welcome Mr Abdullah Jummah Alshibly, Assistant Secretary-General for Economic Affairs, who will address the Governing Council on behalf of His Excellency Dr Abdul Latif bin Rashid Al Zayani, Secretary-General of the Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf.

The Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf is a longstanding partner of IFAD and has been a staunch supporter of this Fund and its mandate from the outset. It is heartening to welcome old friends into our midst and to strengthen cooperation for the benefit of rural people across the globe.

Once again, on behalf of the Fund, I welcome you and we look forward to your addresses to this Council.

Message of His Excellency, Dr Abdul Latif bin Rashid Al Zayani, Secretary-General of the Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf, delivered on his behalf by Mr Abdullah Jummah Alshibly, Assistant Secretary-General for Economic Affairs, Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf

Your Excellency, the President of the International Fund for Agricultural Development, Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Greetings,

I would first like to offer my utmost gratitude and appreciation for the generous invitation extended to me by His Excellency, Dr Kanayo F. Nwanze, President of IFAD, to address the thirty-seventh session of the Governing Council. During this session, we will discuss issues and matters of importance for all countries of the world, particularly the developing countries as they face global changes and changing political circumstances, particularly internal conflicts, which have noticeably increased the suffering of the poor, whereby thousands now find themselves in the open without shelter and food and without medicine and medical equipment to alleviate their pain.

The United Nations' designation of 2014 as the International Year of Family Farming calls for reflection on the importance of the global trend towards family farming. It also serves to acknowledge the efforts made by family farmers, who form a large segment of the societies of developing countries, where agriculture is a refuge and sanctuary for families, providing them with jobs, income and food.

The family is a productive workforce in the family farming community. It is a free school for family members, where they quickly learn basic skills that enable them to work on the family farm and become useful at a very young age. The farming community accords stature and respect to large, extended families. As a result, the developing world is experiencing demographic growth requiring economic policies and long-term strategies that create jobs that meet the needs of the growing population.

As governments seek to encourage corporations to invest in agriculture, it has become necessary to create symbiotic relationships between such corporations and smallholder family farmers, lest the corporations take control of and eliminate the smallholdings.

Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen,

We know that agriculture is important in all countries of the world, especially in the developing world, where slow industrial growth has made it essential to preserve agrarian economies. The workforce involved in family farming is the decisive production factor and the key to achieving economic development and inclusive progress in any country. The degree to which this workforce is employed or unemployed thus has economic, political, and social implications. This workforce's productivity – which is determined by its educational and skill level, the modernity of its production technology and equipment and by its management efficiency, infrastructure and auxiliary services – is the main determinant of its competitiveness and survival. Hence, it is an area where IFAD has a role in providing assistance.

Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen,

In discussing the rural workforce and ways of earning a livelihood, we must focus on women. Women are the primary actors in the rearing of new generations and creation of a healthy, sound environment for the family. Many international conferences have issued goals, policies and mechanisms for action at the national, regional and international levels to alleviate and eliminate the causes and effects of poverty among women, especially women heads of households, through inclusive development based on self-reliance. Such conferences include the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in 1992 in Rio de Janeiro, the International Conference on Population and Development in Cairo in 1994, the World Summit for Social Development in Copenhagen in 1995, the Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing in 1995 and the

World Conference on Human Rights. The International Conference on Population and Development (1994) emphasized the importance of empowering women in order to ensure the success of any development policy. The Millennium Development Goals clarified the importance of eliminating poverty and empowering women. We are spurred by hope and your sincere efforts to continue making the utmost efforts to achieve these goals based on available resources.

In addressing the rural workforce and ways of earning a livelihood, we must understand the importance of combating poverty. We must realize that poverty is a multidimensional phenomenon with local and international roots. Any analysis of poverty must therefore consider not only economic variables but also social variables.

Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen,

The number of poor in the world has reached 1.3 billion. The member states of the Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf (GCC) realize that poverty is a compound problem that is difficult to eliminate through economic growth alone. They also realize that truly substantive poverty reduction policies must focus increasingly on creating educated human capital by promoting training and education, especially primary education, as well as health care and social security as a means of stimulating the efficient, productive use of labour. The farming family is a refuge for its members; it provides them with shelter, food and stability. The savings and small loans obtained by these families make a big difference in their lives.

The GCC member states have provided development programmes and projects to fraternal and friendly countries directly or through international donor organizations and institutions, such as IFAD and others. In this way, they have promoted opportunities for developing countries by providing jobs, credit, roads, electricity and the market access needed to sell their products, thereby generating inclusive economic growth that benefits family farmers. The GCC member states have been asked to help implement many programmes, including social assistance programmes, the regional rural promotion programme and economic integration programmes for low-income groups. The statistics of the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development (AFESD) indicate that the GCC states provided assistance of US\$166,799 billion or 94.3 per cent of the total contributions to AFESD during 1970-2004. This is in addition to the other publicized and unpublicized contributions made by GCC states. We mention this not as a reminder of what the GCC states have provided but to clarify the importance of social solidarity among peoples, as urged by the true teachings of Islam.

Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen,

We urge developing countries to adopt transparency and to work tirelessly to improve their economic conditions and benefit from development programmes and projects by developing a range of short- and long-term plans for the future. It is also necessary to promote the quality of human capital by investing heavily in ongoing education and training and in health care. Special attention should be devoted to family farming and rural development to integrate members of farming families into the labour market. This is a crucial mission that can be performed only by the state, whose success therein will determine the extent to which it serves the goal of progress and development.

In conclusion, I reiterate my gratitude and appreciation to His Excellency, the President of IFAD for giving me the opportunity to speak before you on issues which we all agree are important and in need of effective solutions to achieve our noble goals.

Thank you all for listening. Please accept my best wishes for the success and relevance of this conference.

Statement by His Excellency Fabrizio Saccomanni, Minister for the Economy and Finance of the Italian Republic

Mr Chairperson,
Honourable Governors,
Mr President,
Distinguished delegates,

I am honoured to open the proceedings of the thirty-seventh session of the Governing Council of IFAD and welcome you on behalf of the Italian Government.

Ladies and gentlemen,

After a deep financial and economic crisis with severe repercussions worldwide, we have entered a more favourable juncture.

Today, the economic outlook is more optimistic, with global growth estimated at around 3.7 per cent for 2014, and projected to rise to 3.9 per cent in 2015.

However, global fragility and downside risks to financial stability persist.

The recent financial turbulence experienced in emerging markets as a consequence of global factors and local conditions shows that world economic recovery is still tenuous.

The G20 Ministers for Finance facing this new challenge are ready to take the necessary action to provide a strong foundation for world economic recovery and growth.

I raise these issues because experience and evidence have shown that in difficult times the number of people living below the poverty line increases and food insecurity acquires emergency status.

Food security is not only of importance in times of economic crisis; rather it should be seen as a long-term investment in human capital and a key development asset that must not be put at risk.

Ladies and gentlemen,

Much progress has been made towards reducing global poverty and hunger, but we have a long road ahead to complete our work.

This progress has been made predominantly in a few large countries, while in sub-Saharan Africa the number of poor and undernourished people has risen. In addition, demographic projections for the developing world show a dramatic increase in the population by 2050.

Suffering and dying from hunger in the twenty-first century is unacceptable. We need to take action.

Italy has supported the food security agenda since 2009 in every international forum and in informal groups, such as G8 and G20.

In the second half of this year, Italy will hold the Presidency of the European Union and, in that context, it will make every effort to raise awareness on the centrality of food security, agriculture and rural development to the post-2015 global development agenda.

With its unique mission devoted to agricultural and rural development, and its support to local smallholders, IFAD's position in the development arena is bound to become even more crucial and strategic in the future.

Since its establishment, IFAD has been investing in smallholder farmers through non-capital-intensive and environmentally sustainable projects, recognizing the high potential of an agricultural model based on family farming for improving food security, creating jobs and promoting development.

The challenges ahead call for a radical increase in agricultural productivity, which must be pursued in a sustainable way. Evidence and research show that supporting

smallholder agriculture can break the vicious cycle of poverty while preserving scarce natural resources.

Ensuring that smallholder family farms have adequate access to credit and investments is of paramount importance.

Celebrating the role of family farming this year is consistent with IFAD's vision, its mandate and its activities.

By drawing attention to family farming as a central tool for poverty reduction and food security, this celebration amplifies IFAD's role and leadership.

So, in short, we could say that 2014 is the year of IFAD!

Food security is a fundamental right. The whole international community has the duty to guarantee this right to everyone.

For this reason, the Italian Government has selected food security and nutrition as the central themes of EXPO 2015, which will take place in Milan, starting in May next year. As you may know, this EXPO is entitled "Feeding the Planet, Energy for Life".

We expect new inputs, ideas and proposals to be generated by this important event that will help the international community make decisive progress towards a world without hunger and poverty.

Science and technology will be at the forefront of this exercise, illustrating how to increase agricultural productivity while preserving biodiversity and protecting the environment.

In the preparatory work for the EXPO, the Italian Government relies on the collaboration and help of IFAD, FAO and WFP, as the three United Nations agencies specialized in food security and agriculture. These agencies have the intellectual leadership in this area and, by working in synergy, they will be able to contribute to the positive outcome of EXPO 2015.

We expect participation from all over the world, and I invite you all to attend the EXPO.

Ladies and gentlemen,

The Consultation on the Tenth Replenishment of IFAD's resources is starting tomorrow.

The Consultation process will provide the opportunity to design the Fund's strategic vision and priorities for the post-2015 period.

Consolidation of the important achievements made in the last few years in terms of efficiency and effectiveness should be a priority. At the same time, IFAD should be open to innovation without jeopardizing its identity and nature.

In this spirit we look forward to a major role being played by the private sector at large in the Fund's activities through the promotion of public-private partnerships that can help link small farmers to markets and increase their role in food value chains.

In a changing global context, IFAD has to be increasingly responsive to the evolving needs of its clients on the basis of its comparative advantages, while continuing to sharpen its focus on the least developed countries.

Italy and IFAD enjoy a long and mature partnership. Since IFAD's establishment, the Italian Government has consistently regarded the Fund as a priority, acknowledging the importance of its mission.

Looking ahead, we should all work together to ensure a successful Consultation process.

Mr Chairperson,
President Nwanze,
Distinguished delegates,

Let me conclude by wishing you all a very fruitful and positive meeting.

Statement of the President of IFAD, Mr Kanayo F. Nwanze

Welcome to this thirty-seventh session of our Governing Council. On behalf of everyone at IFAD – in the field and here at headquarters – I thank you for your support of our institution and of our work: investing in smallholders and transforming rural areas.

Today we are honoured to welcome our new member, Russia, which is to be congratulated for a winter Olympics that embodies what can be achieved when nations cooperate. We have high hopes for a long and fruitful partnership.

I would also like to extend a special welcome to the representatives of farmers' organizations who have travelled from around the world to attend this year's Farmers' Forum.

It is fitting that they are here in this, the International Year of Family Farming – and also the African Union's Year of Agriculture and Food Security. Of course, for IFAD, every year is a year of smallholder and family farming, of agriculture and food security, but we are very pleased to see these issues recognized by others in the international community.

Let me also take this opportunity to welcome and present to you our new Vice-President, Michel Mordasini. I am sure Michel is no stranger to many of you. He joined us as Vice-President from the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation, where he was Assistant Director-General. Michel's career in the sphere of international development spans several decades. Please welcome him with a round of applause.

Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen,

Great changes are taking place in the developing world. The middle class is expanding – across Africa, Asia and Latin America – driving demand for higher-end foods. The world population is growing at an astonishing rate. There is a huge and growing need for jobs, housing, and most importantly, food.

Never has the potential for agriculture to drive economic growth and inclusive development been greater. Never have the opportunities been greater for the 3 billion people who live in rural areas, particularly those who depend on the world's 500 million small family farms.

At IFAD, we are already starting to see signs of reverse migration from the cities back to rural areas. Last year in China I met a young man with an MBA who had returned to his village and started a poultry business. He said he had come back because an IFAD-supported programme had created better opportunities in his village than in the city. When I met him, the cooperative he runs with his wife already had 12,000 chickens. He expects to have 50,000 this year.

This is the changing story of development that we are seeing in a changing world. And IFAD has kept pace with the times. Today we are well-positioned to champion inclusive growth that will unleash the potential of smallholders, and all rural people.

As you know, IFAD is unique in the world of development for being both an international financial institution (IFI) and a United Nations specialized agency. In other words, we have a level head for business and a warm heart for people. As an IFI, we invest in solutions to poverty and hunger.

As a United Nations agency, we invest in human values such as resilience, equality, hope and dignity. These attributes account for IFAD's success on the ground, in remote regions and countries where few others work. They give us credibility with governments, businesses and poor rural people alike. And they define how we work – investing in rural people in a way that is both inclusive and results-driven.

Allow me to highlight some of what has changed at IFAD. In 2009, IFAD's new business model called for direct supervision of projects and a greater country presence. In 2007, IFAD had only 15 country offices. By the end of 2013, this had grown to 40 country offices, and we hope, with your support, to expand this number to 50 by 2015.

Six years ago, only 18 per cent of IFAD's programmes and projects were under direct supervision. Today, 94 per cent of projects are supervised directly by IFAD.

Evaluations have shown that country offices lead to better country performance in a range of areas including: policy dialogue, scaling up, and efficiency. Country offices also result in better supervision and implementation support. The flow of disbursements has increased, while the response time for meeting requests from Member States has shortened.

These changes have not only improved IFAD's work on the ground, they have also had an impact here in Rome, making us a truly global organization.

We are continuing with the comprehensive reform of our human resources, which has gained recognition from the United Nations Secretary-General and the International Civil Service Commission (ICSC). Our job audit and strategic workforce planning exercise of 2012 was the first of its kind by any comparable institution. It has led to better matching of jobs to skills, resources and operational objectives. The Rewards and Recognition Framework, that was launched last year, provides a way to motivate staff to always strive to do better.

Our Financial Operations Department, headed by a Chief Financial Officer, is strengthening IFAD's financial management and oversight. We have also reorganized the division of the Controller and Financial Services. And we have strengthened our Treasury Services Division, and introduced a mid-year budget review.

The changes in the field and here in Rome have made it possible for IFAD to deliver more than ever. At the end of 2013, IFAD had 241 ongoing programmes and projects worldwide, with IFAD investment of US\$5.4 billion, a 38 per cent increase over 2009.

But we are no longer satisfied with measuring ourselves by how much money we have disbursed; how many projects we have in our portfolio; or how many people we have reached. We want to know how many of these people were able to escape the poverty trap. We want to know what economic transformations have taken place. We want to know whether rates of chronic childhood malnutrition have improved, because these are indicators of food security and also evidence of whether we are being effective in our work to empower rural women. This is just some of the information we will discover through the 30 impact evaluations that we are undertaking for IFAD9.

We are also increasing collaboration with the other Rome-based agencies. We jointly support the work of the Committee on World Food Security. Through the World Food Programme's P4P initiative, smallholders are gaining access to additional market opportunities. We recently approved a grant to FAO to support work that improves the capacity of fragile states to plan, manage and implement IFAD-supported agricultural programmes. And at the field level, there are many other areas of joint activities, collaboration and coordination.

We promised that we would be a more transparent, accountable, results-driven institution, and our reforms have done just that. As a result of our Disclosure of Documents policy, we have so far disclosed more than 700 documents.

A survey by the Brookings Institution's Centre for Global Development last year ranked IFAD fourth out of 31 donors in maximizing efficiency.

Indeed, our efficiency ratio for 2012 was 11.4 per cent, significantly better than the target of 13.5 per cent in the Results Measurement Framework. In 2012 we carried out a corporate-level evaluation on efficiency which was the first of its kind for a multilateral or bilateral development organization. That evaluation helped us sharpen and revise the IFAD Action Plan for Enhancing Efficiency.

The introduction of an Ethics Office in 2011 has brought IFAD in line with the best practice of international financial institutions.

And our new office for Partnership and Resource Mobilization will help us realize the commitment we made in the IFAD9 consultation to explore additional ways of mobilizing resources by broadening partnerships and generating new funding opportunities for agricultural development.

Third-party assessments and reviews of IFAD in 2013 – by the Multilateral Organisation Performance Assessment Network (MOPAN), and the UK's Multilateral Aid Review among others – indicate steady improvement in our performance. Our results framework, better financial management and improvements in human resources have all been praised.

The IFAD of today is not the IFAD of yesterday. But let me assure you that our core values and our focus have not, and will not, change. IFAD remains dedicated to agriculture and rural development. IFAD continues to give special attention to young people, women and indigenous peoples. And IFAD remains committed to community-driven development that empowers rural women and men to lift themselves out of poverty.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Just a few weeks ago the World Economic Forum identified the growing gap in income between the world's richest and poorest citizens as the risk most likely to cause damage globally in the coming decade.

Nowhere is this gap more pronounced than in the rural areas of developing countries. It is too often forgotten that a full 76 per cent of the world's poorest people live in rural, not urban, areas. It is ironic that in many parts of the developing world, the people who feed their nations are the ones struggling most to survive.

At IFAD we believe – and have always believed – that the interlocking goals of poverty reduction and food and nutrition security will be won or lost in the rural areas of developing countries.

Urban populations need rural populations to grow their food. And more than that, they need rural areas to provide clean water and the healthy ecosystems that contribute to clean air. They need successful rural economies to ensure a dynamic flow of goods, money and services – and even people – between rural and urban areas.

Under-investment in rural areas and neglect of rural people are neither economically nor ethically sound.

If we are ever going to eliminate the scourge of poverty and hunger, we must make it possible for smallholders to invest in and grow their businesses and help transform rural areas so that they are places where women and men can earn dignified and decent livings.

This, then, is our challenge to ourselves and to you, our Member States – to reduce the gap between urban and rural, and in doing so also reduce the gap between the well-nourished and the hungry, between the rich and the poor.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Over the past seven years, three of the cornerstones for the modern IFAD have been laid. The first is the change in IFAD's business model from Rome-centric to decentralized. Today, IFAD is a country-focused development partner. The second is the reorganization of our internal processes, management and organizational structures. The third is the strengthening of IFAD's knowledge management, and its engagement in global policymaking and advocacy.

On the strength of your contributions and support, IFAD expects to have reached some 90 million women, children and men between this year and 2015. Thanks to you, our Member States, IFAD has grown steadily. In IFAD7 our programme of work was US\$4.1 billion; in IFAD8 it was US\$7 billion. The number of people we have reached has more than doubled, from 29.2 million in 2007 to 78.7 million in 2012.

But today demand for IFAD's services is far greater than we can currently supply. Indeed, there is a real concern that we may not meet our IFAD9 programme of work target of US\$7.8 billion because, in this prolonged period of financial contraction, the amount of cofinancing is falling off.

Unfortunately, the overall rates of rural poverty and hunger are not falling as rapidly. If we are to continue scaling-up so that we can expand our reach, we will have to be more resourceful and more creative in how we use our existing resources and how we mobilize the necessary additional financing. And we will also have to expand our partners in development. This is the fourth cornerstone of reform.

Of course, innovative financing is nothing new for IFAD. As far back as 1983, some IFAD-supported programmes received proceeds from a state-run National Lottery that was set up to fight hunger in Africa. This is how the resources were raised for the Belgian Survival Fund. We have experience with debt funding through the Spanish Food Security Cofinancing Facility Trust Fund of EUR 300 million, which provided an opportunity to scale up IFAD-funded projects.

IFAD's Adaptation for Smallholder Agriculture Programme, or ASAP, is an innovative financing mechanism that channels climate finance directly to smallholder farmers. It is the largest climate-related fund exclusively dedicated to smallholder farming in the world.

These are some of the creative approaches we have used to fund rural and agricultural development in the past.

In 2012, IFAD launched an initiative for Additional Resource Mobilization to expand existing innovative practices and develop new channels of financing.

Now, we must step it up a level. We not only need to use our financial products to foster investment and innovation by others, we need to explore new instruments, new partnerships and new sources of financing to be able to fully respond to the demand of beneficiary countries and to scale up investments for maximum impact on rural poverty. To this end, I am happy to announce that we will sign a partnership agreement with

Unilever during this Governing Council, and that other new partnership agreements are in the works.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

As you consider business items and take decisions on issues that are critical for IFAD, let us never lose sight of why we are here. We are here because what happens in rural areas matters. We should remember that when poverty and hunger begin to take their toll in rural communities, the young men are the first to migrate, too often to city slums, where they may fall prey to extremism and violence. Our world is global. What happens in Timbuktu or Agadez is felt in Paris, London and Rome.

And we are here because there are 1.2 billion extremely poor people in the world who must struggle to survive on just US\$1.25 a day. We are here because the lives of 842 million children, women and men are blighted by chronic hunger. And we are here because we know that if we invest intelligently in rural communities and smallholder family farmers, we can eliminate these appalling levels of poverty and hunger and avert the dangers of inaction.

I have seen it for myself, in my own country of Nigeria last fall, when I visited an IFAD-supported programme in the Niger Delta, an area better known for its violence than for its farming. There I met young people who had discovered that fish farming and vegetable growing could be lucrative businesses. These young farmers had become role models. They were contributing to the stability and wealth of their communities, and showing that economies can thrive in what was once a "no-go zone".

At last month's World Economic Forum in Davos, Pope Francis issued a statement calling for: "an inclusive approach which takes into consideration the dignity of every human person and the common good."

It is this inclusive approach and consideration for human dignity that I believe also characterizes IFAD's work. This, combined with a hard head for business, a solid grasp of finance and a commitment to delivering value for money, allows us to have a powerful impact on the ground.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is because of you, our Member States, your support and your belief in this institution, and our numerous partners across the spectrum of development, that we have the ability to create a better future for millions of people. With your unwavering support, we will continue to prove that we have the vision, the determination and the perseverance to make a difference in the lives of millions of rural people.

Thank you.

Statement of the 2014 global meeting of the Farmers' Forum Rome, 18 February 2014

We, delegates in the 5th Farmers' Forum, representatives of small-scale producer organizations, speak on behalf of millions of small-scale farmers, artisanal fishers, pastoralists, livestock breeders, and indigenous communities. Through this statement communicate our views and proposals to IFAD and its governing bodies.

IFAD was founded in 1977 to work for the rural poor. With the creation of the Farmers' Forum in 2005 it began to work with the rural poor. At that time it was way ahead of the rest of the United Nations system in opening up to systematic dialogue with organizations representing the intended beneficiaries of its action. Since then, the partnership between IFAD and small-scale producers' organizations (POs) has brought significant mutual benefits. IFAD's image, its working methods and the effectiveness of its programs have profited from its association with our organizations. On our side, we have had some opportunities to bring our concerns to the governing bodies and the staff of IFAD and to gain access to funding for our capacity building programmes.

But the world has not stood still over the past decade. Since the food crisis of 2007 agriculture has climbed to the top of the international agenda and small-scale producers are now the object of everyone's attention. Climate change, environmental degradation, conflicts, agrarian crisis and numerous suicides in many regions, desertification and water scarcity, food-related health issues, toxic chemicals, the scandal of land grabbing, food waste and commodity speculation have exposed the unsustainability of a food system based on industrial agricultural production and globalized value chains which reward all the actors except food producers and consumers. At the same time, we continue to strengthen our organizations' capacity to advance alternative proposals for sustainable agroecological production models and equitable local, national, and regional food systems. We have multiplied and capitalized the countless resilient practices that our members are conducting in all regions of the world. On the governance side, the reform of the Committee on World Food Security has set a new standard for participation in the process of decision-making by those most affected by food insecurity and malnutrition.

New challenges and new opportunities have opened up for the Farmers' Forum partnership that IFAD established with us almost a decade ago. If we do not seize them our collaboration risks stagnating. If we do, together we can make significant contributions to addressing some of the most serious issues that the world faces today. This year, the International Year for Family Farming, is the time to act. It is with this intention that we advance the following proposals.

Smallholder family farming should be recognized as a pillar of local, sustainable development and a substantial guarantee for food sovereignty and peace and stability in the world. This vision has to be conceived at every level and implemented in national actions with positive effects for each community. The International Year of Family Farming 2014 has to constitute a significant step forward in improving the quality of life of hundreds of millions of smallholder family farmers, fisherfolk, livestock breeders and indigenous communities. We expect concrete initiatives and policies among others to mobilize resources and to improve access to land, water, oceans and other inputs and natural resources. Agroecology and organic agriculture should be promoted, and farmers' control over their production, especially their seeds and indigenous species of livestock and fish, should be strengthened, avoiding the violation of their rights of use.

We call upon IFAD to work with us to:

- Improve the image of small-scale family farming, pastoralism and artisanal fisheries as the source of 90 per cent of the food consumed in the world; obtain formal recognition in each country of their status and profession; and engage, through specific proposals, technical assistance and exchanges between countries and continents, in the formulation of more effective policies and support for smallholder.

- Strengthen the involvement of smallholder POs at country level and in operational activities.
- Facilitating smallholder producer organization's policy dialogue with governments is the top priority at country level. IFAD should provide increased support for the implementation at national level of the Committee on World Food Security's recommendation calling on governments, small-scale producers and other actors to develop a national vision for the future of smallholder production. This would be a concrete occasion to establish national multi-actor dialogue platform in which all genuine small-scale producer organization are included.
- Although there has been progress in involving our organizations in the national programmes (COSOPs) and in providing grants for our own organizations, we are still excluded from the design, implementation and evaluation of too many of the projects/loans which constitute the bulk of IFAD operations. The precedents in which such projects are implemented in a tripartite arrangement involving IFAD, the government and the farmer organizations need to be multiplied.
- IFAD should more systematically inform and involve farmer organizations regarding all the initiatives it undertakes in a country. IFAD country offices and missions should systematically make contact with them. Farmers' organizations (FOs) should be endowed with more capacity for independent analysis, critical assessment and monitoring. Each project should earmark specific resources to allow FOs to provide inputs in the design and supervision process rather than calling on external consultants. We are willing in all countries to engage in IFAD Country Programme Management Teams.
- More attention should be given to issues of concern to FOs, such as risk management in agriculture, guarantee funds to facilitate access to credit, and resolution of conflicts over natural resources.
- IFAD should extend its fisheries programmes to other countries and ensure inclusive space for small scale fishers' organizations. IFAD should ensure the integration of small-scale fishery organizations in its on-going grants programmes. It should support the implementation of the International Guidelines on Securing Sustainable Small-scale Fisheries and facilitate small-scale fisher organizations' dialogue with national governments.
- More attention to livestock breeders and pastoralists is needed, and we recommend to have a special session on livestock issues and pastoralism at the next Farmers' Forum.
- Establish a global grant programme for direct support to organizations of farmers and fishers to increase their capacity in policy and economic areas and to strengthen their initiatives. It should include specific programmes for women and youth, including the establishment of women and youth wings and their leadership and capacity development, as well as farmer schools and training centers for smallholder sustainable agriculture, and the inclusion of training modules on agroecology in the agricultural school system.
- Strengthen the interaction between the Farmers' Forum and IFAD governance.
- A more continuous and autonomous functioning of the Farmers' Forum and its Steering Committee is necessary. It would allow a qualitative leap in the functioning of the Forum, improving its analysis and interactions with IFAD at different levels, and would lead to a more effective contribution of farmer organizations to IFAD programmes and initiatives. Taking into account evolutions since the founding of the Farmers' Forum, a reform of the Steering Committee is necessary to clarify its mandate, composition and working methods. We expect that IFAD will accompany this next step in our deepening collaboration.
- Allow the Steering Committee to provide the Board with information and views that can enrich its discussions, through such means as inviting a Steering Committee

representative to sit as observer in the IFAD Executive Board or establishing an advisory group to the Executive Board.

- Set up a dialogue with IFAD governing bodies on key issues related to IFAD's mission and concepts such as value chains, adequate technologies and investment, and market access.
- Strengthen collaboration in other global policy forums.
- IFAD and our organizations should strengthen our coordination in support of the interests of small-scale producers in international forums/institutions such as the Committee on World Food Security and in programmes such as the Global Agriculture and Food Security Programme.
- IFAD governing bodies should adopt CFS policy instruments such as the Guidelines on land tenure and the recommendations of the roundtable on investing in smallholders adopted at CFS40, apply them to IFAD projects and programs, and support their implementation at national level, promoting the participation of small-scale producers' organizations.
- IFAD should also align its goals to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety.

We call upon the governments to:

- Resolve the agrarian crisis in their countries, among others through an effective use of the resources made available by IFAD, by implementing the CFS guidelines on land tenure, the FAO guidelines on small scale fisheries, as well as by undertaking agrarian and aquatic reforms and by investing in smallholder production including appropriate infrastructure and credit facilities.
- keep supporting IFAD as a key institution that channels resources to the smallholder, food producing sector, making the necessary resources available in the coming years for an ambitious agenda to be launched in this International Year of Family farming,
- implement the decisions taken in the CFS and in the International Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development (ICARRD), as well as the findings of the International Assessment of Agriculture, Science, and Technology for Development (IAASTD), calling on IFAD support as appropriate, and use them as central guidance for IFAD programs and projects,
- Involve producers' organizations in the design and implementation of all IFAD programs and projects and in the IFAD Country Program Management Teams.
- Give special priority to women, youth as both are key for smallholder food production.

We call upon our organizations to:

- commit ourselves to work together in solidarity and mutual trust, and to promote our common agenda on smallholder food production,
- continue to build our organizations, enhance our capacity to participate effectively in dialogue and collaboration with national governments and regional and international institutions including IFAD, and strengthen our capacities to provide services to our members.
- create space for women and youth to ensure that they gain an effective space in our organizations and that their concerns are given a high priority in our work,
- strive to achieve a participation of 50 per cent women and 30 per cent youth in the next global meeting of the Farmers' Forum.

Closing statement of the President of IFAD

Mr Chairperson,
Excellencies,
Distinguished Governors,
Guests,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

In a few minutes our chairman, His Excellency Mr Luc Oyoubi, Minister of Agriculture, Livestock, Fisheries and Food Security of the Gabonese Republic, will officially close this thirty-seventh session of IFAD's Governing Council. I would like to thank him for taking on the responsibility of the chairmanship this year.

I would also like to thank you, our Member States, for your active participation over the past two days. You provide our direction. We need your engagement with us – not just at this annual Governing Council session but throughout the year.

You have overseen the transformation of IFAD so that we can deliver more, to more people, and deliver it better. But we know there is still more to do. We have learned through your statements here in Rome that you are proud of your institution and the progress made by IFAD Management and staff in the last few years, but you still see room for improvement. Let me assure you that we have listened to you and we will take action.

But we would also have a request – that you listen to our other partners in development – the farmers. They are our partners in the field. Their request to us was clear. They want more from IFAD because IFAD, unlike others in agricultural development, specifically targets funding to smallholders, working with them in a consultative process so that our interventions truly meet their needs. I trust that this evening – and during the rest of the year as we progress with the IFAD10 consultations – you will continue to keep the needs of those farmers in mind.

This year's high-level round table with Governors provided an opportunity for frank and open dialogue among representatives of our Member States. We heard from some 40 speakers about what is important for you, as our Governors. You wish to see a greater focus on issues such as climate change, financial inclusion and youth. You talked about the need for cooperation among all partners, including the producers themselves, and a genuine commitment on the part of government. And you stressed that making agriculture a respected and rewarding profession in the eyes of youth is critical to transforming rural society.

We also had a welcome opportunity to hear directly from women farmers from around the world at the women's leadership event on Monday night. As I have said before, if we truly want to achieve food and nutrition security – as well as economic growth in rural areas – we must ensure equal opportunities for women farmers.

Allow me to digress for a moment to pay special tribute to Kevin Cleaver, who will soon be retiring from IFAD. His boundless enthusiasm, professionalism and dogged determination have served IFAD well. It is Kevin who, in a very real sense, drove the start of the transformation of IFAD by pressing for what he knew was right – a greater country presence. When Kevin arrived here, country offices were still being piloted. Today, we have 40 offices and we hope that figure will soon grow to 50. These offices have improved IFAD's effectiveness, efficiency and reach and have made the institution more global and brought it closer to you, our members.

I thank you for your vision and dedication. Please join me in a round of applause.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Over the course of the last two days, I trust that we agreed on one message: that IFAD is your most direct conduit to channel investments to smallholder family farmers. IFAD belongs to you. When you fund IFAD, your money goes to smallholders and other poor rural people.

Investing in them – in their resilience, in their results, and in their future and their dreams – is our only business. And we are the only institution in existence that combines an IFI's head for business with a United Nations agency's concern for rights and human dignity.

I hope that you will take this message back to your capitals, along with the message that inclusive, sustainable rural development is central to almost every economic, environmental and social development goal.

Thank you for your confidence and for your support to IFAD.

**Statement by the Chairperson, His Excellency Luc Oyoubi
Minister of Agriculture, Livestock, Fisheries and Food Security of the Gabonese
Republic, closing the thirty-seventh session of the Governing Council**

Mr President,
Distinguished Governors and Delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

We now come to the end of this, the thirty-seventh session of the Governing Council of IFAD. I believe we can all look back on an extremely productive session.

This Council marks the beginning of the consultations on the Tenth Replenishment of IFAD's Resources. Against the backdrop of the ongoing Post-2015 Development Agenda discussions and the International Year of Family Farming, it is clear that IFAD's goal of empowering rural women and men in developing countries to achieve higher incomes and improved food security, has never been more timely, and never been more critical.

The remarks made by our distinguished guests reflect this fact. At the inaugural ceremony, we were privileged to listen to His Excellency Fabrizio Saccomanni, Minister for Economy and Finance of the Italian Republic. The Minister addressed to the effects of the global financial crisis and stressed the need to invest in human capital to enhance food security and improve climate resilience. Recognizing the relevance of IFAD's mandate, as underlined by this year's celebration of family farming, Minister Saccomanni noted that one could well see this International Year of Family Farming as the international year of IFAD.

The Council welcomed the message of the Secretary-General of the Cooperation Council of the Arab States of the Gulf, delivered on his behalf by Mr Abdullah Jummah Alshibly, Assistant Secretary-General for Economic Affairs, which highlighted the key importance of family farming and investment in agriculture as a means of transforming rural communities and stressed the role played by women in eradicating hunger and promoting development.

President Nwanze's statement to the Council was both thought-provoking and compelling. The President illustrated that IFAD's mandate not only remains relevant, but is increasingly vital. As the President pointed out, IFAD has kept pace with the times, increasing the number country offices, undertaking direct supervision and implementation support, scaling up successful projects, and significantly expanding its role in policy dialogue. The President highlighted his vision for IFAD's role in mobilizing partnerships to increase agricultural investment, and challenged us to redouble our individual and collective efforts on behalf of rural people.

Let us join with the Fund in ensuring that the voice of the smallholders is heard far and wide. In this plenary hall we heard the voices of six smallholders whose lives have been transformed through IFAD's activities in their countries. They called upon IFAD to ensure that farmers like themselves were provided with access to finance, access to infrastructure and markets, that land tenure rights be strengthened, and that training and education for farmers be expanded. These same issues were raised during the Governors Round Table where, united in diversity, Governors representing virtually every geographic and cultural background spoke as one in recognizing the centrality of smallholder family farming to achieving the future we want.

In the statement of the fifth global meeting of the Farmers' Forum presented to the Council, participants called on governments to support IFAD as a key partner and advocate for smallholder farmers. Partnerships with the private sector must also be leveraged and the mutually beneficial relationship between big business and small farmers should be fostered as highlighted by the private sector panel held this morning.

Distinguished Governors,

At this thirty-seventh Governing Council we had the pleasure of welcoming the Russian Federation into the IFAD fold, expanding to 173 the number of IFAD Member States.

The Council approved the Establishment of the Consultation on the Tenth Replenishment of IFAD's Resources and the Establishment of the special expenditure budget for IFAD replenishment exercises.

The Council further reviewed IFAD's 2014 results-based programme of work and regular and capital budgets, the IOE results-based work programme and budget for 2013 and indicative plan for 2015-2016, and the HIPC and PBAS progress reports, approving the budgets of IFAD and its Independent Office of Evaluation.

The Report on the Ninth Replenishment of IFAD's Resources, the Final report on the special expenditure for reform actualization and the Report on IFAD's Hosting of the Global Mechanism of the UNCCD were noted.

I would like to express my personal gratitude to each of you, and to my colleagues on the Bureau. I am sure I speak on their behalf as well, when I thank you for the trust you have invested in the Governing Council Bureau. Our thanks go as well to the staff of IFAD, whose expertise in planning and organizing this conference is truly commendable, and a special word of thanks goes out to the interpreters, the technical staff and of course, the conference messengers. The efficiency, thorough organization, and professionalism demonstrated by all have been exemplary, and have ensured the success of this session.

Ladies and gentlemen,

As we close this Governing Council, we embark on the IFAD10 Replenishment Consultation. We are all resolutely aware of the challenges facing economies worldwide, and in developing nations in particular. As Member States consider how we can ensure that IFAD act as an effective advocate and agent of change, let rural people be at the heart of each deliberation, each decision. Collectively, and united with IFAD, we can, we must, make a difference.

I am sure that I speak on behalf of all distinguished Governors when I express our support for President Nwanze and his team. In addressing the challenges facing the nearly 850 million poor people in the world, IFAD has the unwavering support of its entire membership. IFAD's strength lies in its membership, in our joint commitment and ability to transcend geographic and cultural boundaries, to encompass both donor and recipient countries in the Fund's structures and processes. Transforming merely meeting the vital needs of the day into sustainably improving the lives of people and communities for the future cannot be accomplished without investing; investing in communities, investing in jobs, investing in agriculture, investing in rural people.

On this note, I hereby declare the thirty-seventh session of the Governing Council closed.



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Délégations à la trente-septième session du Conseil des gouverneurs

Delegaciones en el 37º período de sesiones del Consejo de Gobernadores

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E

Investing in rural people

Agenda and programme of events

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Agenda

1. Opening of the session
2. Adoption of the agenda
3. Election of the Bureau of the Governing Council
4. Application for non-original membership
5. Statement by the President of IFAD
6. General statements
7. Report on the Ninth Replenishment of IFAD's Resources
8. Tenth Replenishment of IFAD's Resources
9. Consolidated financial statements of IFAD for 2012
10. IFAD's 2014 results-based programme of work and regular and capital budgets, the IOE results-based work programme and budget for 2014 and indicative plan for 2015-2016, and the HIPC and PBAS progress reports
11. Report on the special expenditure for reform actualization
12. Global Mechanism of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification
13. Other business

Pre-Governing Council - Thematic side meeting Tuesday, 18 February 2014

14.30 – 16.00	Pre-GC Thematic side meeting Achieving a sustainable future for all: Rural transformation and the post-2015 agenda
16.30 – 18.30	The fifth global meeting of the Farmers' Forum – afternoon session

2014 Governing Council

Investing in smallholder family farmers for the future we want

Programme of events

Wednesday, 19 February 2014

Morning session	9.00-13.30
9.00	Opening of the session
9.00 – 10.15	Inaugural Ceremony
10.15 – 11.45	Panel: Spotlight on the International Year of Family Farming
11.45 – 13.30	Business items and general statements
Afternoon session	15.00-19.30
15.00 – 18.00	High-level Governors' round-table: Investing in smallholder family farmers for the future we want
18.00 – 19.30	Business items and general statements

Thursday, 20 February 2014

Morning session	9.30-13.20
8.30 – 9.30	Networking event: Coffee tasting
9.30 – 10.00	One-on-one session: A conversation with Mr Paul Polman, Chief Executive Officer, Unilever
10.00 – 11.30	Private sector panel: Small farmers = Big business
11.30 – 11.45	Business items
11.45 – 12.30	Stories from the field: Investment in the transformation of rural people's lives
12.30 – 12.35	Report back from the Governors' round-table
12.35 – 13.10	General statements
13.10 – 13.15	President's concluding remarks
13.15 – 13.20	Closure of the session: Chairperson's closing statement

Thursday, 20 February 2014

17.00 – 19.00	First session of the Consultation on the Tenth Replenishment of IFAD's Resources ²
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² For Member States participating in IFAD10.

List of documents placed before the thirty-seventh session of the Governing Council

Document No.	Agenda Item	Title
GC 37/L.1	2	Provisional agenda and programme of events
GC 37/L.1/Add.1	2	Schedule of work
GC 37/L.2	4	Application for non-original membership
GC 37/L.3	7	Report on the status of contributions to the Ninth Replenishment of IFAD's Resources
GC 37/L.4 + Corr.1	8(a)	Establishment of the Consultation on the Tenth Replenishment of IFAD's Resources
GC 37/L.5	8(b)	Establishment of the special expenditure budget for IFAD replenishment exercises
GC 37/L.6	9	Consolidated audited financial statements of IFAD as at 31 December 2012
GC 37/L.7 + Add.1	10	IFAD's 2014 results-based programme of work and regular and capital budgets, the IOE results-based work programme and budget for 2014 and indicative plan for 2015-2016, and the HIPC and PBAS progress reports
GC 37/L.8	11	Final report on the special expenditure for reform actualization
GC 37/L.9	12	Report on IFAD's Hosting of the Global Mechanism of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa
GC 37/INF.1		Thirty-seventh session of the Governing Council - Organizational aspects
GC 37/INF.2		Financial highlights of the year ended 31 December 2013
GC 37/INF.3 + Rev.1		Order of Speakers
GC 37/Resolutions		Resolutions adopted by the Governing Council at its thirty-seventh session Statement of the Governors' Round Table

Statement by the Chairperson, His Excellency Luc Oyoubi, Minister of Agriculture, Livestock, Fisheries and Food Security of the Gabonese Republic, closing the thirty-seventh session of the Governing Council

Statement by Kanayo F. Nwanze President of the International Fund for Agricultural Development(IFAD) to the Opening session of the Thirty-seventh Session of the Governing Council

Document:	<u>GC 37/Resolutions</u>
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E



Resolutions adopted by the Governing Council at its thirty-seventh session

Resolutions adopted by the Governing Council at its thirty-seventh session

1. The Governing Council, at its thirty-seventh session, adopted resolutions 179/XXXVII, 180/XXXVII, 181/XXXVII and 182/XXXVII on 19 February 2014.
2. These resolutions are transmitted for the information of all Members of IFAD.

Resolution 179/XXXVII

Approval of the Russian Federation as a non-original Member of the Fund

The Governing Council,

Taking into account articles 3.1(a), 3.2(b) and 13.1(c) of the Agreement Establishing IFAD ("the Agreement"), and section 10 of the By-laws for the Conduct of the Business of IFAD;

Considering that non-original Members of IFAD shall be those States which are members of the United Nations or any of its specialized agencies that, after the approval of their membership by the Governing Council, become parties to the Agreement by depositing an instrument of accession with the Secretary-General of the United Nations;

Considering that the Russian Federation has been a member of the United Nations since 1945;³

Considering therefore that the Russian Federation is eligible for membership in IFAD;

Having considered the application for non-original membership by the Russian Federation transmitted to the Council in document GC 37/L.2, and the recommendation of the Executive Board that the Russian Federation should be admitted to membership in IFAD;

Taking note of the additional core contribution amount of US\$6 million to the Ninth Replenishment of IFAD's Resources proposed by the Russian Federation upon approval of its membership application;

Approves the membership of the Russian Federation;

Tasks the President to notify the Secretary-General of the United Nations of this decision.

³ The Union of Soviet Socialist Republics was an original Member of the United Nations from 24 October 1945. In a letter dated 24 December 1991, Boris Yeltsin, the President of the Russian Federation, informed the Secretary-General that the membership of the Soviet Union in the Security Council and all other United Nations organs was being continued by the Russian Federation with the support of the 11 member countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States.
Source: <http://www.un.org/en/members/#r>

Resolution 180/XXXVII

Establishment of the Consultation on the Tenth Replenishment of IFAD's Resources

The Governing Council,

Recalling article 4, section 3, of the Agreement Establishing IFAD, which provides that, in order to assure continuity in the operations of the Fund, the Governing Council shall periodically review the adequacy of the resources available to the Fund;

Further recalling that the period established by Governing Council resolution 166/XXXV for the Ninth Replenishment of the Fund's resources will conclude on 31 December 2015;

Having considered the statement of the President on the need for a review of the adequacy of the resources available to the Fund and document GC 37/L.4 thereon;

Having further considered the need for the establishment of a Consultation on the Tenth Replenishment of IFAD's Resources;

Decides that:

1. A Consultation on the Tenth Replenishment of IFAD's Resources ("the Consultation") shall be established, chaired by Mr Johannes F. Linn, to review the adequacy of the Fund's resources and to report to the Governing Council. The tasks of the chair of the Consultation are annexed to this resolution.
2. The first session of the Consultation shall be held on 20-21 February 2014.
3. The Consultation shall consist of all Member States from Lists A and B and 18 Member States from List C, the latter to be appointed by the members of List C and communicated to the President no later than 19 February 2014. The Consultation may subsequently invite such other Member States to participate in the Consultation as may facilitate its deliberations.
4. The Consultation shall submit a report on the results of its deliberations and any recommendations thereon to the thirty-eighth session and, if required, subsequent sessions of the Governing Council, with a view to adopting such resolutions as may be appropriate.
5. The President is requested to keep the Executive Board informed of the progress of the deliberations of the Consultation.
6. The President and the staff are requested to provide such assistance to the Consultation as may be necessary for the effective and efficient discharge of its functions.

Tasks of the Chair of the Consultation

Under the authority of the Consultation on the Tenth Replenishment of IFAD's Resources, the chair will:

- (a) Chair formal consultation meetings;
- (b) With the support of the Secretariat, synthesize discussions and prepare the chair's summary of each meeting, concisely and accurately reflecting the status of negotiations;
- (c) Ensure that the final report and recommendations of the Consultation respond to the terms of reference of the Consultation – as set forth in the present resolution – and conform to the Agreement Establishing IFAD and other basic documents adopted by the Governing Council;
- (d) Oversee all aspects of the Consultation meetings, discussions and deliberations, including providing guidance and support to the Secretariat of the Governing Council;
- (e) Critically review and comment on draft documentation and reports prepared for each consultation, ensuring good quality control and strategic coherence;
- (f) Lead and facilitate discussions and negotiations among the membership, as well as between IFAD's leadership and the membership, to build consensus to achieve successful outcomes for the review of the adequacy of the resources of the Fund; and
- (g) Work with the President and staff on the preparations for meetings or negotiations to ensure issues are presented effectively.

Resolution 181/XXXVII

Special expenditure budget for IFAD replenishment exercises

The Governing Council,

Bearing in mind article 4, section 3, and article 6, section 10, of the Agreement Establishing IFAD (“the Agreement”), and regulation VI of the Financial Regulations of IFAD;

Noting that, at its 109th session, the Executive Board, by means of document EB 2013/109/R.28, endorsed the need for establishment of a regularly replenished special expenditure budget for IFAD replenishment exercises;

Decides that:

1. In order to undertake the activities necessary to review the adequacy of the resources available to the Fund, as required by article 4, section 3, of the Agreement, the special expenditure budget for IFAD replenishment exercises, (“the special expenditure budget”), as defined in paragraph 5 of document GC 37/L.5 entitled “Establishment of the special expenditure budget for IFAD replenishment exercises”, shall hereby be authorized.
2. The unutilized special expenditure budget for the Consultation on the Ninth Replenishment of IFAD’s Resources (“IFAD9”), as authorized by resolution 161/XXXIV, shall be reprogrammed, in whole, as the special expenditure budget for IFAD replenishment exercises (“the special expenditure budget”), and shall be used to finance the midterm review of IFAD9, the preparatory work for the Tenth Replenishment of IFAD’s Resources (“IFAD10”), and future replenishment exercises as defined in paragraphs 2, 4 and 5 of document GC 37/L.5.
3. The Executive Board shall hereby be authorized to review and approve future appropriations for the special expenditure budget to ensure its adequacy in financing all future activities related to the replenishment of IFAD’s resources.

Resolution 182/XXXVII

Administrative budget comprising the regular, capital and one-time budgets of IFAD for 2014 and the budget of the Independent Office of Evaluation of IFAD for 2014

The Governing Council,

Bearing in mind article 6.10 of the Agreement Establishing IFAD and regulation VI of the Financial Regulations of IFAD;

Noting that, at its 110th session, the Executive Board reviewed and agreed upon a programme of work of IFAD for 2014 at a level of SDR 700 million (US\$1,060 million), which comprises a lending programme of SDR 667 million (US\$1,010 million) and a gross grant programme of US\$50 million;

Having considered the review of the 110th session of the Executive Board concerning the proposed regular, capital and one-time budgets of IFAD for 2014 and the budget of the Independent Office of Evaluation of IFAD for 2014;

Approves the administrative budget, comprising: firstly, the regular budget of IFAD for 2014 in the amount of US\$149.64 million; secondly, the capital budget of IFAD for 2014 in the amount of US\$5.4 million; thirdly, the one-time budget of IFAD for 2014 of US\$2.1 million; and fourthly, the budget of the Independent Office of Evaluation of IFAD for 2014 in the amount of US\$5.98 million, as set forth in document GC 37/L.7, determined on the basis of a rate of exchange of EUR 0.72/US\$1.00;

Determines that in the event the average value of the United States dollar in 2014 should change against the euro rate of exchange used to calculate the budget, the total United States dollar equivalent of the euro expenditures in the budget shall be adjusted in the proportion that the actual exchange rate in 2014 bears to the budget exchange rate.