



Investing in rural people

Closing Statement by Mr Suminto, Chairperson of the forty-third session of the Governing Council of IFAD

On behalf of the Council, I would like to thank the President, Management and IFAD staff, for organizing a successful session.

Distinguished governors,

As we come to the end of the forty-third session of the Governing Council of IFAD, allow me to express my deep appreciation to all of you. I thank you for actively participating in the deliberations, sharing your knowledge and expressing a firm commitment to investing in IFAD, in agriculture and in ending hunger and poverty by 2030. Over the past two days, we have ensured that IFAD is in a position to continue its operations by inter alia, approving the Fund's budgets and amended Policies and Criteria for IFAD Financing, and establishing the Consultation on the Twelfth Replenishment of IFAD's Resources.

We have also engaged in discussions around the theme "Investing in Sustainable Food Systems to end hunger by 2030." We have just one decade left to achieve the SDGs. While we know that statistics show a rise in global hunger, as Chairperson I strongly believe that this has inspired all of us to do something concrete to reverse the current trend. Our special guest, His Excellency Ibrahim Boubacar Keïta, President of the Republic of Mali, highlighted the need to join hands, pool resources and work together to end global hunger. This same message was reiterated by our rural youth advocates, our invited guests, participants in the interactive sessions, and all the governors through their statements and interventions during the "Conversations with Governors." This is exactly what we need at a time like this. We need to join forces and work together in close partnership. We need to not only increase but double our resource commitment to IFAD. We need to end global hunger and the time is now.

The Honourable Japhet Hasunga addressed the Governing Council on behalf of the President of the United Republic of Tanzania, His Excellency John Pombe Magufuli, and thanked IFAD for continuing to collaborate with governments of developing countries to invest in smallholder agriculture and rural transformation. The Minister for Economy and Finance of the Italian Republic also commended IFAD for its role in agricultural development. Let me, at this point, express our sincere gratitude to Italy for hosting the United Nations food agencies and for their continued support to IFAD. I would also like to commend the spirit of collaboration and partnership portrayed by the three Rome-based agencies – IFAD, FAO and WFP.

Partnership was also a key element in the powerful statement from the Farmers' Forum and the actions arising from their global meeting. Partnership with farmers and producer organizations is indeed fundamental to enhancing the success of IFAD interventions in the rural areas.

Allow me to reiterate some of the points that you have raised and that I am sure we will all take home with us as members of this esteemed Fund for Agricultural Development. First, we need to double investment in agriculture and in rural transformation to end hunger. Second, we need to enhance IFAD's visibility by telling IFAD's story to those outside this room; describing how IFAD goes the extra mile, how IFAD's operations start where others stop and how IFAD works with rural small-scale

producers to end poverty and hunger. Third, we need to ensure a successful Twelfth Replenishment of IFAD's Resources as an expression of our commitment to ending global hunger. I believe I speak not only for myself but for all distinguished delegates here present when I say that we shall take these messages back to our capitals and become champions for IFAD and for rural transformation.

We have heard the passionate appeals from our rural youth advocates and from persons with disabilities to ensure that we leave no one behind. I believe the message is that investing in IFAD means investing in inclusive rural transformation. Let us not forget the call to action by the distinguished representative of The Gambia. Her country's concrete recognition of the importance of IFAD's work is demonstrated by her announcing a pledge to the Twelfth Replenishment. Let us follow the example The Gambia has set. Let us make the difference and be the difference.

Allow me once again to congratulate my colleagues on the Governing Council Bureau, the Governors for Cameroon and the United Kingdom. I look forward to working together with you and IFAD's Secretariat over the next two years. I would also like to extend our sincere gratitude to President Houngbo for his passion, his commitment and his inspirational leadership. A very special thanks to all the staff of IFAD, the Secretariat team, messengers, interpreters, technicians and all those persons working behind the scenes. Let us give them a big round of applause.

Again, I would like to thank you, Governors, participants and all the panellists, special guests and keynote speakers. You have been the key to the success of this Council session. You have inspired us, provoked us, motivated us and incited us to action. So, let us act. The time is now! I hereby declare the forty-third session of the Governing Council of IFAD closed.