



Governing Council Report

Forty-third Session
Rome, 11-12 February 2020



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Investing in rural people

**Governing Council Report
Forty-third Session
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Chapter 1 Inauguration and proceedings

1. The forty-third session of the IFAD Governing Council was held in Rome on 11-12 February 2020. The list of participants is contained in annex IV.
2. The Council held a total of four meetings. The summary records of these meetings are contained in chapter 3.
3. The video recordings of the session are available through [this link](#).

A. Opening of the session and inaugural meeting

4. The session was opened by His Excellency Hans Hoogeveen, Chairperson of the Governing Council and Governor for the Kingdom of the Netherlands.

B. Agenda and documentation

5. The Governing Council adopted the agenda and the schedule for the session, as contained in annex I. The documents placed before the Council are listed in annex V. The resolutions adopted by the Governing Council appear in annex II.

C. Election of the Bureau of the Governing Council

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

Chairperson: Mr Suminto
Senior Advisor to the Minister for Finance
on Macro Economy and International Finance
Ministry of Finance of the Republic of Indonesia

Vice Chairpersons: H.E. Clémentine Ananga Messina
Minister of Agriculture and of Rural Development
of the Republic of Cameroon

H.E. Marie-Therese Sarch
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of the United Kingdom of
Great Britain and Northern Ireland to the United
Nations Food and Agriculture Agencies in Rome

D. Inaugural meeting of the session

7. Mr Suminto, Chairperson of the Governing Council delivered his welcoming statement.
8. Mr Gilbert F. Hounbo, President of IFAD, welcomed the special guests to the inaugural meeting of the session.
9. Mr QU Dongyu, Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, delivered a welcoming statement.
10. His Excellency Ibrahim Boubacar Keïta, President of the Republic of Mali delivered a statement.
11. The Honourable Japhet Ngailonga Hasunga, Minister for Agriculture of the United Republic of Tanzania delivered a statement on behalf of His Excellency Dr John Pombe Joseph Magufuli, President of the United Republic of Tanzania.
12. His Excellency Roberto Gualtieri, Minister for Economy and Finance of the Italian Republic delivered a statement.
13. Mr Amir Abdulla, Deputy Executive Director of the World Food Programme delivered remarks on behalf of Mr David Beasley, Executive Director of WFP.

14. The full text of the statements delivered during the inaugural meeting are reproduced in chapter 4. The welcoming remarks of the outgoing Chairperson and the President of IFAD are also summarized in chapter 3.

E. Statement by the President of IFAD

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

F. Conversations with Governors

16. Conversations were held with Governors on the following themes:
- Investing in Sustainable Food Systems to End Hunger by 2030
 - The Role of IFAD12 in the Achievement of the SDGs
 - Trends in Development Financing: Questions and new challenges
17. Details of these discussions can be found in the summary records, which are reproduced in chapter 3.

G. Interactive sessions and special events

18. Three interactive panel discussions were held on the following themes:
- [Rural development as a means of addressing conflict, promoting peace and building smallholders' resilience to climate shocks](#)
 - [Creating jobs for rural youth: Opportunities in agribusiness](#)
 - [Disability, food security and rural development: How can innovation and technology help?](#)
19. The interactive sessions can be viewed using the hyperlinks above.
20. **Launch of IFAD's Twelfth Replenishment and Call for Action.** An event was organized to launch IFAD's Twelfth Replenishment and call for action. A summary of the statements delivered during this event is included in chapter 3. This event can be viewed through this [link](#).
21. **Farmers Forum.** Ms Elizabeth Nsimadala, President of the Pan African Farmers' Organization and Ms Ujjaini Halim, Spokesperson of World Forum of Fish Harvesters and Fish Workers delivered a synthesis of the deliberations of the 2020 Farmers' Forum, held on 6-11 February 2020 in conjunction with the forty-third session of the Governing Council. The full text of the synthesis is reproduced in chapter 4. The video recording of the statement can be viewed through this [link](#).
22. **Working Together to End Hunger: Pursuing the Accountability Agenda.** Ms Katherine Meighan, General Counsel of IFAD, moderated a talk with Mr Rodger Voorhies, President of the Global Growth & Opportunity Division, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. The discussion can be viewed through this [link](#).
23. **Statement by Her Excellency Josefa Sacko, Ambassador and African Union Commissioner for Rural Economy and Agriculture.** This statement is summarized in chapter 3, and the full text is reproduced in chapter 4. The video recording can be also viewed through this [link](#).

H. General statements

24. Starting from the forty-first session of the Governing Council, a new procedure is in place for general statements in order to ensure an interactive session and maximize the contribution of Governors to the discussions. Accordingly, delegations are asked to submit their written or video-recorded statements instead of delivering a statement during the session.
25. In total, 39 statements were submitted to the Office of the Secretary for the forty-third session of the Governing Council by the following Members: the Republic of Austria, the People's Republic of Bangladesh, the Kingdom of the Netherlands on

behalf of Benelux countries, Burkina Faso, Canada, the People's Republic of China, the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire, the Republic of Cuba, the Arab Republic of Egypt, the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, the French Republic, the Gabonese Republic, the Federal Republic of Germany, the Republic of Guinea, the Republic of India, the Republic of Indonesia, Japan, the Republic of Kenya, the Kingdom of Lesotho, the Republic of Nicaragua, Nordic countries (Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway, and Sweden), the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, the Republic of Poland, the Portuguese Republic, the State of Qatar, the Republic of Rwanda, the Independent State of Samoa, the Republic of Sierra Leone, the Republic of South Africa, the Kingdom of Spain, the Republic of the Sudan, the Syrian Arab Republic, the United Republic of Tanzania, the Togolese Republic, the Republic of Tunisia, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United States of America, the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, the Republic of Yemen.

26. All statements recorded and written statements are available on the [web page of the session under "Documents and Country Statements"](#).

I. Closure of the session

27. The President of IFAD presented closing remarks to the Council; these remarks are reproduced in full in chapter 4.
28. The Chairperson of the Governing Council, Mr Suminto, summarized the results of the Council's main deliberations and then closed the forty-third 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. Election of the Bureau of the Governing Council

29. The Governing Council elected the new Bureau for a term of two years. You may refer to paragraph 6.

B. Report on the status of the Eleventh Replenishment of IFAD's Resources

30. The Governing Council noted the Report on the status of the Eleventh Replenishment of IFAD's Resources (IFAD11), as contained in document [GC 43/L.3](#) and [its addendum](#).

C. Establishment of the Consultation on the Twelfth Replenishment of IFAD's Resources

31. The Governing Council considered document [GC 43/L.4](#) and adopted on 11 February 2020, resolution 211/XLIII establishing the Consultation on the Twelfth Replenishment of IFAD's Resources. Based on the favourable experience of having an External Chair during the IFAD9, IFAD10 and IFAD11 Consultations, the Governing Council selected Mr Kyle Peters as the External Chair of the Consultation.
32. In accordance with paragraph 3 of the resolution, the Consultation would consist of 25 Member States from List A, 10 Member States from List B and 22 Member States from List C. List A Members not designated as one of the 25 Members of the Consultation from that List may attend the sessions of the Consultation as silent observers. The Consultation may also subsequently invite such other Member States to participate in sessions of the Consultation as may facilitate its deliberations. The decisions related to this item are contained in resolution 211/XLIII.

D. IFAD's 2020 results-based programme of work and regular and capital budgets, the Independent Office of Evaluation of IFAD's results-based work programme and budget for 2020 and indicative plan for 2021-2022, and the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC) Debt Initiative and performance-based allocation system (PBAS) progress reports

33. After considering the proposed administrative budget comprising IFAD's regular and capital budgets for 2020 and the budget of the Independent Office of Evaluation of IFAD for 2020, as presented in document [GC 43/L.6/Rev.1](#), the Governing Council adopted resolution 212/XLIII on 12 February 2020.
34. The Council also took note of the information in the progress reports on IFAD's participation in the HIPC Debt Initiative and the implementation of the PBAS at IFAD.

E. Consolidated financial statements of IFAD for 2018

35. The Governing Council considered and approved the financial statements showing IFAD's financial position as at 31 December 2018 and the results of its operations for the year ended on that date, as contained in appendices A to L inclusive of document [GC 43/L.5](#), the external auditor's report and the attestation on the effectiveness of internal controls over financial reporting of the external auditor.

F. Proposed Changes to the Policies and Criteria for IFAD Financing

36. In accordance with the recommendation of the Executive Board, the Governing Council adopted resolution 213/XLIII, as contained in section III of document [GC 43/L.9](#) on 12 February 2020, approving the proposed revisions.
37. The amendments to the Policies and Criteria for IFAD Financing would take effect on 1 January 2022.

G. Update on Conversations with IFAD's Governors at the forty-second session of the Governing Council

38. The Governing Council took note of the update on Conversations with IFAD's Governors at the forty-second session of the Governing Council, as contained in document [GC 43/L.2](#).

H. Establishment of the Emoluments Committee

39. The Governing Council considered document [GC 43/L.7](#) and adopted resolution 214/XLIII on 12 February 2020 to re-establish an emoluments committee to review the overall emoluments and other conditions of employment of the President of IFAD.

I. Proposal for an automated voting system at IFAD

40. The Governing Council considered the review by the Executive Board of the update on a proposal for an automated voting system at IFAD, as contained in document [GC43/L.8](#), and adopted resolution 215/XLIII on 12 February 2020 delegating authority to the Executive Board to decide, on the basis of information that Management would provide, following a successful outcome of the negotiated procedure, whether the Secretariat should pursue the development and implementation of an automated voting system, for potential use in conjunction with the appointment of the President in 2021.

Chapter 3 Summary records

- (i) Summary record of the first meeting of the forty-third session held on 11 February 2020 at 9.30 a.m.

Outgoing Chairperson: His Excellency Hans Hoogeveen (Netherlands)

Chairperson: Mr Suminto (Indonesia)

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41. **The meeting was called to order at 9.30 a.m.**

OPENING OF THE SESSION (agenda item 1)

42. **The outgoing CHAIRPERSON**, welcoming participants and noting the first-ever participation of Poland, IFAD's newest Member State, in a session of the Governing Council, said that global wealth and poverty had reached unprecedented levels. Without swifter action, 1 billion people would soon be living in hunger and, moreover, the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) would be unachievable. No adequate responses had been found to hunger, conflict or climate change, or to the crisis created in many African countries by desert locusts. Transformative change, innovative action, urgent investment and ownership by governments and communities were all greatly needed, with hope prevailing as a result of the technology, innovations and funding available.
43. While the United Nations Food Systems Summit, to be held in 2021, would undoubtedly be accompanied by calls for the establishment of a global fund, no such fund would be required if IFAD were provided with the necessary resources. The focus should be on how to unlock existing potential and bring it to small-scale and other producers, and to the various actors in the value chain, starting with farmers and youth in particular, as a means of investing in sustainable food systems so as to end hunger by 2030. The Consultation on the Twelfth Replenishment of IFAD's Resources would mark a critical moment in IFAD's action for the empowerment of rural people to transform economies, address climate change and support youth.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA (agenda item 2) (GC 43/L.1 and Add.1/Rev.2)

44. **The Governing Council adopted the provisional agenda (GC 43/L.1) and the revised schedule of work for the session (GC 43/L.1/Add.1/Rev.2).**

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

45. **The outgoing CHAIRPERSON** said that he had been informed of the nomination of the Governor for Indonesia, Mr Suminto, for the office of Chairperson.
46. **Mr Suminto (Indonesia) was elected Chairperson of the Governing Council by acclamation.**
47. **The outgoing CHAIRPERSON** said that he had also been informed of the nomination of Her Excellency Clémentine Ananga Messina, Governor for Cameroon, and Her Excellency Marie-Therese Sarch, Governor for the United Kingdom, for the offices of Vice-Chairperson.
48. **Her Excellency Clémentine Ananga Messina (Cameroon) and Her Excellency Marie-Therese Sarch (United Kingdom) were elected Vice-Chairpersons of the Governing Council by acclamation.**
49. **The outgoing CHAIRPERSON** said that it had been a great honour to serve as Chairperson of the Bureau. He conveyed the gratitude of the outgoing Bureau for the collaboration and support of Member States and thanked the President and staff of IFAD for their hard work in making things happen on the ground.
50. **Mr Suminto (Indonesia) took the Chair.**

WELCOMING STATEMENT BY THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE GOVERNING COUNCIL

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

INAUGURAL CEREMONY

52. **His Excellency Ibrahim Boubacar Keïta, President of the Republic of Mali, the Honourable Japhet Ngailonga Hasunga, Minister for Agriculture of the United Republic of Tanzania, representing His Excellency John Pombe**

Joseph Magufuli, President of the United Republic of Tanzania, and His Excellency Roberto Gualtieri, Minister for Economy and Finance of the Italian Republic, were conducted into the room.

WELCOMING STATEMENT BY THE PRESIDENT OF IFAD TO KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

53. **Mr HOUNGBO** (President of IFAD) welcomed His Excellency Ibrahim Boubacar Keïta, President of the Republic of Mali, and said that his attendance at the session was a powerful indication of the value of solidarity. The resilience of the people of Mali served as a constant reminder of IFAD's essential mission to continue creating conditions conducive to prosperity for all, especially rural youth and women. The presence of IFAD teams and other partners in Mali bore witness to the deeply held determination to meet the challenges of the times in full respect of cultural diversity and national sovereignty.
54. In expressing appreciation for the message conveyed on behalf of the President of the United Republic of Tanzania, he emphasized that the structural transformation of rural economies, as illustrated by the partnership between IFAD and the United Republic of Tanzania, was a crucial source of opportunities.
55. Conveying gratitude to the Minister for Economy and Finance of the Italian Republic for his presence, he highlighted the valuable support provided by Italy to IFAD, particularly as its host country. The integrated model of Italian cooperatives was a vital inspiration for the Rome-based agencies, notably in relation to smallholder rural farmers.

WELCOMING STATEMENT BY THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF THE FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

56. **Mr QU DONGYU** (Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations) delivered a welcoming statement, the full text of which is reproduced in chapter 4.

STATEMENT BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF MALI

57. **HIS EXCELLENCY IBRAHIM BOUBACAR KEÏTA** (President of the Republic of Mali) delivered a statement, the full text of which is reproduced in chapter 4.

STATEMENT OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA, DELIVERED ON HIS BEHALF BY THE MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE OF THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA

58. **HIS EXCELLENCY JAPHET NGAILONGA HASUNGA** (Minister for Agriculture of the United Republic of Tanzania) delivered a statement, the full text of which is reproduced in chapter 4.

STATEMENT BY THE MINISTER FOR ECONOMY AND FINANCE OF THE ITALIAN REPUBLIC

59. **HIS EXCELLENCY ROBERTO GUALTIERI** (Minister for Economy and Finance of the Italian Republic) delivered a statement, the full text of which is reproduced in chapter 4.

REMARKS OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE WORLD FOOD PROGRAMME, DELIVERED ON HIS BEHALF BY THE DEPUTY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE WORLD FOOD PROGRAMME

60. **Mr AMIR ABDULLA** (Deputy Executive Director of the World Food Programme) delivered remarks, the full text of which is reproduced in chapter 4.

61. **The CHAIRPERSON** thanked all the distinguished guests for sharing their experience and insights, which would surely provide participants in the session with inspiration for their important duties.

STATEMENT BY THE PRESIDENT OF IFAD (agenda item 4)

62. **Mr HOUNGBO** (President of IFAD) delivered a statement, the full text of which is reproduced in chapter 4.
63. **His Excellency Ibrahim Boubacar Keïta, President of the Republic of Mali, and His Excellency Roberto Gualtieri, Minister for Economy and Finance of the Italian Republic, were conducted from the room.**

INVESTING IN SUSTAINABLE FOOD SYSTEMS TO END HUNGER BY 2030: A CONVERSATION WITH IFAD'S GOVERNORS (GC 43/INF.4)

64. **The CHAIRPERSON** drew attention to the two guiding questions, set out in document GC 43/INF.4, that had been prepared for the conversation with Governors on the topic and overarching theme of the session, investing in sustainable food systems to end hunger by 2030.
65. **Mr WINTERS (Associate Vice-President, Strategy and Knowledge Department)**, introducing the topic, said that, in order to feed a growing population in an environmentally sustainable manner and to ensure healthy and nutritious food was available to all, urgent changes were needed in the way that food was produced, supplied and consumed. Food systems were complex, however, which called for a better understanding of the trade-offs to be made by all stakeholders in working to improve their management and achieve the necessary development through closer partnerships across the board, including the private sector, farmers' organizations and civil society.
66. Scheduled to take place in 2021, the United Nations Food Systems Summit would provide an opportunity to create food systems that are inclusive, sustainable and nutritious. And generate the consensus, knowledge and tools needed to help stakeholders manage the trade-offs and unleash the benefits of food systems for all. The Summit would be Member State-driven and draw on the replies to the two guiding questions.
67. **The CHAIRPERSON** invited His Excellency B. Maganga-Moussavou (Gabon) and Mr A. Jakobsen (Norway) to launch the conversation on investing in sustainable food systems.
68. **HIS EXCELLENCY MAGANGA-MOUSSAVOU (Gabon)** said that the only means of achieving the majority of the SDGs by 2030 was to formalize and optimize the agricultural sector. If reinvested in the continent, for example, the billions spent in Africa on food imports would do much to promote growth and to create or transform agricultural jobs. While many African heads of State had expressed support for the development of agriculture, few of their countries allocated to the sector the percentage required under the Malabo Declaration on Accelerated Agricultural Growth and Transformation for Shared Prosperity and Improved Livelihoods.
69. National food systems had to be properly coordinated to ensure that they were sustainable and that policies affecting agriculture from farm to fork were implemented with a view to their positive impact on the SDGs rather than impeding progress to their achievement. In Gabon, for instance, two agricultural and rural development projects financed, respectively, by IFAD and the African Development Bank encompassed training, land tenure, availability of inputs, efficient seed systems, and access to water, health, education and infrastructure, all of which were linked to achievement of the SDGs. At the same time, however, various fiscal and security policies held up the distribution of products and had other harmful

effects. Coordination between government policies and the various private sector partners also fell short.

70. In keeping with the steps taken by the international food and agriculture organizations, achievement of the SDGs called for coordination aimed at greater efficiency, including in food systems at the national, regional and international levels.
71. **Mr JAKOBSEN (Norway)** said that access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food was well understood to be a prerequisite for, among others, good health, learning, more job opportunities and increased economic development, whereas the concept of investment in sustainable food systems was more difficult to grasp. The growing number of hungry and malnourished people did not bode well for the achievement of SDG 2 (Zero hunger); urgent action was required to prepare for feeding 10 billion people.
72. His Government had recently incorporated into its foreign and development policy a whole-of-government action plan on sustainable food systems covering four key areas: food production; value creation and markets; nutrition and diet; and politics and government. Implicit in the food-systems approach were an integrated food security strategy and the breaking down of silos between different thematic areas.
73. Food systems had the potential to help solve some of the world's most pressing problems, including inequality, health issues, climate change and biodiversity loss. What food was produced and how were questions of vital importance, not only for nutrition and well-being but also for community resilience and individual opportunities. IFAD was well placed to assist in the development of sustainable food systems, especially in the poorest of countries and in the interest of smallholders in low-income and fragile countries. It must build on its strengths and forge effective partnerships to that end.
74. **A delegate from INDONESIA** said that, to help farmers maintain food production amid rising population numbers, depleting natural resources, climate change and natural disasters, his Government had adopted two strategies aimed, respectively, at strengthening innovative government facilities and financial support, and at enhancing cooperation with multilateral organizations and the private sector. In order to implement both strategies with respect to food security, it had set self-sufficiency targets, stabilized prices and subsidized rice distributions for the poor, together with fertilizer and other inputs so as to stimulate domestic production. It had also created new irrigation infrastructure and improved agricultural productivity.
75. A further aim was to empower smallholders and small-scale fishers through access to markets and financial services. More investment was needed to help them manage processing and marketing, particularly as public sector financing would not suffice. Private sector participation would have to be more than doubled in order to develop the infrastructure for building strong food production systems in the coming years. The private sector, however, expected healthy returns on investment, which was an especially challenging prospect in rural and remote areas.
76. Promoting public-private partnerships meant not only creating opportunities to link the private sector with potential producers but also developing a favourable business climate by improving supporting factors, such as infrastructure, government policies and regulations, and human capabilities. Indonesia had taken steps to that end with a view to attracting widespread inclusive investment in support of public-private partnerships on agriculture and fishery industries that would become models for visible and sustainable investment. In that regard, it hoped to work closely with IFAD to formulate integrated and comprehensive approaches to the problems identified.

77. **A delegate from the UNITED STATES** said that the tools needed to address food security and nutritional challenges worldwide were already available and included the know-how to mitigate climate shocks and bolster resilience; data-backed scientifically proven methods for eliminating pests; innovative technologies and techniques; and successful micro, small, medium-sized and large agribusiness enterprises in both developed and developing countries.
78. What was lacking were public policies and frameworks to strengthen access for all to all such tools. Training and exposure to different kinds of agriculture were also needed to help smallholders break the cycle of poverty, malnutrition and hunger. Slow-moving bureaucracies and ineffective public policy could no longer be allowed to stand in the way of that goal.
79. **A delegate from the UNITED KINGDOM** said that the global food system must be made to work better for people, the planet and prosperity. The current session of the Governing Council would be the first in a series of key events – the Tokyo Nutrition for Growth Summit 2020, the Twenty-sixth Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Food Systems Summit in 2021 – at which to articulate the challenges and call for action towards SDG 2.
80. In terms of what IFAD could do, working with others and systemic change would be key. Having already made substantial progress towards cofinancing, IFAD should set ambitious targets moving ahead, including for climate cofinancing, with IFAD Management and Member States encouraging greater cooperation across the agriculture and climate change architecture to that end. Guided by the SDGs, IFAD must also work in the same direction as other agencies in the international agriculture and food security architecture, with which it must also work to monitor and measure the difference it was making to specific SDG indicators.
81. **A delegate from KENYA** said that sustainable food systems had to adopt a One Health approach, addressing all food safety factors, minimizing food losses and wastage along the entire value chain, and making sustainable use of natural resources, especially water, land and ecosystems. Ending hunger required expanded and sustainable food systems that were comprehensive, inclusive, efficient and designed and implemented with the needs of children, young people and women in mind. Sustainable food systems should also be capable of increasing incomes, creating wealth, promoting sustainable livelihoods for the millions who depended on them and providing wholesome and nutritious food for active lives and overall well-being.
82. **A delegate from FINLAND**, emphasizing the critical role of food systems to delivery of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, said that firm action was required to get back on track for achievement of the SDGs. The key challenge was to make agricultural and food systems more sustainable so as to produce food, generate nutrition security and create livelihoods without compromising ecosystem equilibrium. Urgent steps were needed to preserve natural resources and biodiversity, and to reduce the impact of climate change.
83. Environmental sustainability called for a comprehensive and holistic approach to food systems. Efforts to end hunger, achieve food security, improve nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture were predicated on the availability of water, energy, forests and land. It was therefore vital to better understand the interlinkages and interdependencies between those critical resources, the different stakeholders involved and interactions in the system.
84. Lastly, food systems had to be resilient and sustainable at all levels. A genuine multi-stakeholder approach was essential to securing that development, in which rural women and girls must play a major part and young people be engaged. IFAD had a critical global role to play in promoting that agenda.

85. **A delegate from CHINA**, after expressing great appreciation for the support IFAD had provided to the Chinese Government and people in the fight to contain the COVID-19 outbreak, said that, notwithstanding the 2030 deadline for achievement of the SDGs, food insecurity and poverty remained severe and their reduction difficult for developing countries to realize. As the only specialized global development organization exclusively dedicated to developing the agriculture sector, the rural economy and food systems by providing more concessional resources for developing countries, IFAD had to expand further and heighten its impact.
86. China had in recent years worked to promote cooperation with its fellow developing countries in the area of global food and agriculture on a basis of equality, solidarity, win-win and mutual trust, benefit and assistance. Through the China-IFAD South-South and Triangular Cooperation Facility, it had helped to improve food security and nutrition in those countries and to eradicate poverty and hunger worldwide. It stood ready to continue strengthening its mutually beneficial collaboration with IFAD, to share Chinese knowledge and experience in developing agriculture and food security, and to help developing countries, especially low-income food-deficit countries, to develop food production and sustainable agriculture. It looked forward to greater cooperation among the Rome-based agencies to that end.
87. **A delegate from MALAYSIA** said that achievement of the SDGs by 2030 would require a radical change in the quantity and quality of financing made available, particularly in regions progressing only slowly towards SDG 2. To counter the alarming rise in the number of chronically food insecure persons, investment must be increased with a view to enhancing international cooperation on rural infrastructure, agricultural research and extension services, and technology. Measures should be adopted to ensure that food commodity markets and their derivatives functioned properly, with access to market information – including on food reserves – also facilitated with the aim of limiting extreme food price volatility. Developing countries could furthermore be helped to attain long-term debt sustainability through coordinated policies designed to foster debt financing, debt relief and debt restructuring. Multi-stakeholder partnerships should be formed to complement the global partnership for sustainable development with the aim of mobilizing and sharing knowledge, expertise, technology and financial resources.
88. Countries should also enhance international support for implementing effective and targeted capacity-building in developing countries so as to support national plans to implement all the SDGs, including through North-South, South-South and Triangular Cooperation. Investments in rural agriculture could be an effective means of integrating mainly smallholders and family farmers into value chains and thereby increasing their incomes, reducing poverty and ending hunger. He accordingly welcomed the two new modalities proposed by the President of IFAD under the Twelfth Replenishment of IFAD's Resources (IFAD12), particularly in respect of private-public partnership programmes.
89. **A delegate from CANADA** said that the food systems approach was an excellent way to achieve the SDGs in the coming decade. It represented, in fact, a profound shift away from the focus on productivity and income generation that had long dominated agricultural development, forcing the international community to change its perspective and concentrate on decisions affecting food and agriculture from farm to fork and beyond, many of them taken by the women in the household.
90. With its extensive experience of household dynamics and how best to support partners in achieving different outcomes, IFAD could contribute a great deal to the discussion of how to implement a gender-transformative food systems approach to achieving the SDGs. Such an approach held great promise in respect of tackling the

root causes of poverty, unlocking hidden potential throughout food systems and creating new and better-quality jobs for women and young people.

91. **A delegate from INDIA** said that investment in sustainable food systems would be key to achievement of the SDGs, especially SDG 1 (No poverty) and SDG 2, by 2030. Such investment constituted a holistic and long-term approach to development that echoed his country's own drive for food self-sufficiency and security through measures for the sustainable development of agriculture. As a result of those measures, which included an integrated farming system, improved climate-resilient technologies and sustainable use of natural resources, the country had gone from a net importer to a net exporter of food.
92. If properly established, sustainable food systems should effectively reduce the number of poor and hungry. IFAD, with the help of its donors, could do still more to promote continued research and development, combat climate change and apply new technologies and knowledge in resolving rural development problems.
93. **A delegate from the NETHERLANDS** said that, in order to help countries improve their food systems, IFAD should commit fully to the ambitious efforts being made under the aegis of the Committee on World Food Security to establish a set of guidelines on food systems and nutrition. To that end, it should participate in the current policy process and provide support for the subsequent implementation of the guidelines.
94. The consultations under way in connection with those guidelines were unprecedented in scale and had already involved many hundreds of stakeholders from around the world, resulting in an enormous flow of information and accumulation of knowledge. The far-reaching aim was to reshape and promote food systems capable of ensuring that food contributed to sustainable and healthy diets and was available, affordable, acceptable, safe and of adequate quantity and quality.
95. **A delegate from FRANCE**, welcoming the work of the Committee on World Food Security and underlining the development of sustainable food systems as a catalyst for achievement of the SDGs, said that a shift in focus away from trade-offs and towards synergies might be the answer. Also needed was an integrated approach to the three pillars of sustainability: the environmental pillar, which was key at a time of biodiversity loss; the social pillar, which centred on producers and consumers, food systems adapted to local reality and guaranteeing healthy and nutritious food for all, health-related issues and the crucial role of women; and the economic pillar, whereby producers were assured of a decent livelihood and food systems were made attractive to young people, especially in rural areas.
96. IFAD had a pivotal role to play in strengthening food and nutrition security, resilience and rural livelihoods, and in promoting healthy food systems and diets, sustainable practices and value chains involving all stakeholders. It was also key in implementing public policies that fostered inclusive and sustainable food systems, in bringing together all stakeholders and in ensuring collective investment aimed at transforming rural areas. She therefore encouraged IFAD to play a major part, alongside the other Rome-based agencies and Member States, in the run-up to the Food Systems Summit.
97. **A delegate from the REPUBLIC OF KOREA** said that "investment" was a particularly appropriate choice of term because it implied action with the expectation of a better future. In that context, IFAD Member States, private companies, foundations and other international organizations responsible for supporting and contributing to sustainable food systems must all partner synergistically to achieve the SDGs. With regard to the object of the investment, a definition of "sustainable food system" must be agreed from the outset and should perhaps include the criterion of providing the nutrition needed to keep people

healthy in an environmentally friendly manner. The current conversation could lay the groundwork for the upcoming Food Systems Summit.

98. **A delegate from MEXICO**, noting the constantly evolving nature of the challenges relating to food systems, said that the rising global population meant that twice as much food would have to be produced by 2050. A sustainable approach that balanced food systems and concern for the environment was therefore needed. The smallholder farmers who produced most of the world's food would also require support in terms of sustainable production, marketing and access to value chains. Efforts in that respect remained to bear fruit in many countries. In Mexico, the agro-industrial sector had taken measures to improve the sale of high-quality food, both domestically and worldwide, and two programmes had been launched to provide economic, technical and marketing support to smallholders. The overall aim was to improve the basic basket of goods produced in Mexico.
99. IFAD, for its part, could work hand in hand with countries to establish more inclusive and sustainable food systems, promote nutrition, efficiency and resilience, and mainstream health and food safety issues across value chains. Most importantly, IFAD had several defining characteristics that were a source of added value: its expertise in enabling countries to optimize their resources for project investment; its work in synergy with other international agencies; its know-how that helped countries to replicate programmes and projects successfully implemented elsewhere; and its exclusive work in remote places among the poorest of the poor.
100. **A delegate from JAPAN** said that participants at the Nutrition for Growth Summit, to be held in Tokyo in December 2020, would discuss global challenges and the action required to address them. Japan would take the opportunity to heighten international awareness and promote the achievement of such major global goals as poverty reduction, food security and improved nutrition. The hope was that the Summit outcome would be reflected at the Food Systems Summit in 2021. He welcomed the mainstreaming themes to be addressed under IFAD12, in particular nutrition and climate change, both of which were consistent with the concept of human security upheld by Japan.
101. **A delegate from SWITZERLAND** said that the aim of the Food Systems Summit to look beyond agriculture to other areas, including public health, the environment and climate change, was welcome. Urbanization, high interconnectivity and innovation were fundamentally changing the way humanity produced, processed, distributed and consumed food. Food systems had to be considered in the light of such factors as the contribution of agriculture and of food loss and waste to CO² emissions, nutrition as a critical concern, rising hunger rates and the increased prevalence of obesity.
102. While SDG 2 was clearly central to food systems, other SDGs, notably SDG 12 (Sustainable consumption and production), were also key and called for an inclusive approach involving governments, civil society, the private sector and academia. IFAD had a critical role to play in leveraging countries' investments in food-system development and in spearheading the mobilization of all stakeholders and funds towards that ambitious goal. It should also promote implementation of the voluntary guidelines on food systems and nutrition. Lastly, consideration should be given to social aspects, as food systems were basically about people, and the ambitious goals being set would not be met if the major social challenges arising along the way were not tackled.
103. **A delegate from ANGOLA** said that investment in food systems required an integrated approach in which experiences were exchanged and poverty scrutinized, with a focus on productivity, food security, credit facilities and other services, such as housing, and investment in productive and social infrastructure benefiting the

poorest of farmers. Nutrition itself was linked with human development and other issues, including biodiversity and sustainability.

104. Women and young people undoubtedly played a crucial role in development, including with respect to sustainable food systems and the introduction of innovative practices and new technologies. Related education and other programmes must therefore be introduced for their benefit. The private sector and civil society could also do much to help countries most in need, especially in Africa, where the root causes of hunger must be addressed as a priority, bearing in mind that development lagged where poverty was ignored.
105. **A delegate from PAKISTAN** said that, to achieve zero hunger, all future food systems must ensure increased productivity, environmental safety, sustainability, resilience and healthy food. IFAD must therefore engage in collective programmes providing an essential framework for partners' efforts to address effectively the issues facing food chains, and in specific programmes tailored to meet individual country requirements. Such a two-pronged approach would speed up results. To expand its outreach, IFAD should interact more dynamically with governments; develop effective monitoring mechanisms to address any issues of transparency pertaining to Member States and organizations; develop country-specific programmes with input from Member States; place its country directors strategically; and broaden geographical representativity among staff at its Rome headquarters.
106. A credit-rating programme would provide a safeguard against the potential impact of national economic slowdowns on the ability of Member States to increase their contributions to IFAD. IFAD would need to offer easy borrowing terms, engaging in a delicate balancing act and on a case-by-case basis, given the stagnant or negative growth rates of some economies.
107. **A delegate from GUATEMALA**, stressing the importance of IFAD's involvement in his country's efforts to eradicate hunger nationwide, said that those efforts should also involve other agencies, States and civil society, in particular the private sector. IFAD could help countries create more sustainable, inclusive, efficient and resilient food systems. Governments should open a political space enabling communities to express themselves democratically and provide a legal framework for facilitating and protecting food systems that were more productive, sustainable, resilient and democratic. IFAD could work with governments to achieve those objectives through a more community-based approach. Socio-economic integration was essential to achievement of the targets set and to the eradication of hunger.
108. **A delegate from NIGERIA** said that his country was working to introduce a mechanization programme country-wide with a view to substantially increasing food production. In tandem with that goal, it was important to create linkages between the agricultural and industrial sectors so as to employ large numbers of people along a sustainable horizontal and vertical value chain, and thereby lift them out of poverty.
109. Research and extension services were another area of concern. Agriculture development required investment in research, which was lacking in most developing countries and had been overlooked at the national level, as well as by donor agencies. Extension services were equally critical, yet in the majority of those countries the ratio of extension workers to farmers fell far below the average. Donor agencies, including IFAD, should also engage in capacity-building for those administering the assistance they provided, who were not always adequately trained. A critical look at markets and marketing was likewise essential to the development of agriculture in most developing countries and to the avoidance of harvest losses. The logistics of moving surplus food to areas suffering shortages – an acute problem, especially in the West African subregion – was another issue meriting serious consideration.

110. **An observer for the SOVEREIGN ORDER OF MALTA** said that it was only through humanitarian assistance that the millions of forcibly displaced persons around the world gained access to the food systems to which they were entitled. In preparing for the Food Systems Summit, due attention must be paid to ensuring that refugees, migrants and internally displaced persons benefited along with others from the world's food systems.
111. **A delegate from GERMANY** said that people did not wish to remain smallholders engaged in subsistence farming incapable of providing jobs for all their children, which was a factor in the quickening pace of urbanization. The food system approach, however, necessarily entailed the modernization of farms and the establishment of value chains that enabled those children to turn the raw produce into something more sophisticated. The simplistic view that there were plenty of young people to go into agriculture was misguided. One of the main challenges for the Food Systems Summit would therefore be to strike a balance between the different pillars of rural development. In June 2020, Germany would be hosting a high-level international event at which input would be prepared for the Summit in 2021.
112. **A delegate from the SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC** said that investment in sustainable food systems was essential to ending hunger and that all countries must cooperate towards the achievement of that goal by 2030. His country's policies to fight hunger included efforts to improve agricultural productivity through a focus on support to smallholders and small-scale producers; protection and sustainability of natural resources; rural women and their role in food production; and agricultural research. Thanks to those measures, shortages had been eliminated in favour of abundance, notwithstanding such challenges as the scarcity of resources, the country's exceptional circumstances and the economic embargo imposed on it. The primary objective nevertheless remained to guarantee the survival and improve the economic conditions of small producers and poor farmers. To that end, the Government would continue to prioritize the agricultural sector, especially during the recovery and reconstruction phase.
113. **Mr WINTERS (Associate Vice-President, Strategy and Knowledge Department)** said he would ensure that the comments made were conveyed to the United Nations Secretary-General's Special Envoy for the 2021 Food Systems Summit. He had understood from the conversation that there was general agreement on the importance of rural areas and food systems for achievement of the SDGs, a message that all those present should spread beyond ministries of agriculture and development in order to raise awareness of the importance of food systems and their sustainability. In that respect, key elements included climate and environmental issues; malnutrition and obesity; resilience in the face of conflict and displacement; efficient use of resources; and – most relevant to IFAD's core mandate – inclusivity, encompassing women, young people and small-scale producers. With much of the discussion on food systems centred on climate and nutrition, it was important to highlight the reliance of small-scale producers on the food system for their livelihoods.
114. The conversation had also clearly indicated the importance attached to collaboration and partnerships. IFAD was of course working with the other Rome-based agencies, in particular on the Food Systems Summit, but it was also working with civil society and the private sector, building on existing Committee on World Food Security mechanisms. In fact, one of the first preparatory steps for the Summit was to gather all the information collected through that Committee. IFAD also partnered with academia and research institutes, working towards collective investments with other partners, and with governments on food system governance issues.

115. Some speakers had referred to the need to link small-scale producers with processing, which implied working not only with ministries of agriculture but also potentially with ministries of commerce and indeed, in order to achieve the objectives, with ministries of environment, health and so forth. It was hoped that the Food Systems Summit would, among other key outcomes, acknowledge the need for interministerial action on collective objectives and for action at the community and local levels up to the national level.
116. The importance of innovation was another point made. Work was needed to build on existing innovations and to arrange for South-South and triangular transfers thereof. Such transfers had to take place at multiple levels, on the farm and in the market, again building on the work of the Committee on World Food Security. Other issues raised included the role of private and public investment, capacity-building and extension, and infrastructure – all areas in which IFAD had a competitive advantage. The IFAD model comprised investment in small-scale producers, capacity-building and a collective approach involving multiple interventions to achieve its objectives.
117. While *The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World 2019* contained vital data, several speakers had rightly noted the importance of continuing to gather information, measure and monitor progress at the national and regional levels, and examine the available evidence in conjunction with research institutes and academia. One speaker had stressed the need to focus on synergies rather than trade-offs, and it was certainly among the intentions of the Food Systems Summit to seek win-win solutions, such as investments in livestock. IFAD had mapped out all the events scheduled to take place worldwide in the run-up to the Food Systems Summit and would be sure to build on their outcomes.
118. Lastly, food systems must provide people with a choice of options. Only by investing in rural areas and in sustainable, nutritious, inclusive, efficient and resilient food systems would people be afforded the opportunity to make their choice.
119. **The CHAIRPERSON**, also summarizing points made during the conversation, said that food systems were fundamental to addressing rises in poverty, hunger and food insecurity and to promoting progress towards achievement of the SDGs while taking into account issues of environmental sustainability and biodiversity laws.
120. Coordination and partnerships were clearly seen as key, with many speakers highlighting the crucial potential role of the private sector and the importance of fostering a favourable business environment. Considered equally vital was the adoption of a multi-stakeholder and inclusive approach involving governments, the private sector, civil society and international organizations. IFAD had experience in mobilizing those groups, which it should continue to do.
121. The important role of women and young people had also been emphasized, and it was therefore crucial to engage them in the process. Small-scale producers, too, must be empowered through training and access to finance and to markets along the value chain. The tools needed to address those issues already existed; what was lacking were effective public policies and legal frameworks.
122. IFAD, which was both a United Nations organization and an international financial institution, had a central role to play and should continue to work with others in the run-up to the Food Systems Summit.
123. **The meeting rose at 12.46 p.m.**

- (ii) Summary record of the second meeting of the forty-third session held on 11 February 2020 at 3 p.m.

Chairperson: Her Excellency Marie-Therese Sarch (United Kingdom)

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124. The meeting was called to order at 3.00 p.m.

IFAD TALK: WORKING TOGETHER TO END HUNGER: PURSUING THE ACCOUNTABILITY AGENDA

125. **Ms MEIGHAN** (General Counsel of IFAD), speaking in her capacity as moderator of the session, introduced Mr Rodger Voorhies, President of the Global Growth & Opportunity division at the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, whose talk on the chosen topic can be viewed through this [link](#).

REPORT ON THE STATUS OF THE ELEVENTH REPLENISHMENT OF IFAD'S RESOURCES (agenda item 6) (GC 43/L.3 and Add.1)

126. **Ms HAGA** (Associate Vice-President, External Relations and Governance), introducing the report contained in document GC 43/L.3 and also providing an update on the information set out therein, said that, as at 31 January 2020, pledges for IFAD11 remained unchanged at US\$1.04 billion. Total pledges, together with expected regular contributions, amounted to approximately US\$1.1 billion. Instruments of contribution or direct payments received as at 31 December 2019 had amounted to US\$956 million but had since increased by US\$450,000. Payments received as at that date had amounted to US\$489.1 million, increasing to US\$504.8 million as at 31 January 2020 following payments from Cambodia, Norway and the Republic of Korea.

127. In addition, for IFAD11, the total due in additional compensatory contributions for the Debt Sustainability Framework (DSF), over and above the regular contributions during the period, stood at US\$39.5 million. DSF compensation pledges had amounted to US\$35.2 million in December 2019, since when there had been no change. Some Member States had included separate additional amounts for DSF in their instruments of contribution. For Member States that had pledged but not included any separate additional contribution in their instruments of contributions, amounts due had been carved out of their core contributions for DSF compensation.

128. **The Governing Council took note of the Report on the Status of the Eleventh Replenishment of IFAD's Resources.**

ESTABLISHMENT OF THE CONSULTATION ON THE TWELFTH REPLENISHMENT OF IFAD'S RESOURCES (agenda item 7) (GC 43/L.4)

129. **Ms HAGA** (Associate Vice-President, External Relations and Governance), introducing the report contained in document GC 43/L.4, recalled that, in accordance with the Agreement Establishing IFAD, the Governing Council was required periodically to review the adequacy of the resources available to the Fund in order to ensure continuity in its operations. The time had now come for IFAD to focus on its resource requirements from 2022 onwards, in which connection she drew attention to a draft resolution, attached to the report, on the establishment of the Consultation on the Twelfth Replenishment of IFAD's Resources, and outlined its content.

130. **The Governing Council adopted Resolution 211/XLIII on the establishment of the Consultation on the Twelfth Replenishment of IFAD's Resources (IFAD12).**

LAUNCH OF IFAD12 AND CALL FOR ACTION

131. **Mr HOUNGBO** (President of IFAD), setting the stage for the launch event, said that IFAD provided a pathway for responses to the call for action to deliver on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), in which all stakeholders had a role to play. Demand and expectations were increasing with respect to the quality and types of services and products provided by IFAD, which could surely double its impact by 2030 through creative and innovative funding mechanisms and through

efficient leveraging of the financing obtained from all sources, including the private sector.

132. The same four thematic areas of focus – gender, climate change, nutrition and youth – should continue to underpin IFAD’s services, with activities scaled up wherever possible. In that context, the internal reform process was essential for improving efficiencies and management and delivering high-quality programmes and projects at the most economic cost. Greater youth involvement would also help further to promote the achievement other SDGs in addition to SDG 2 (Zero hunger).
133. A critical challenge for IFAD12 related to the trade-off between IFAD’s key focus on serving the poorest communities and countries and the challenge of supporting debt-stressed countries eligible only for grants, which lacked the multiplier effect of loan reflows. In the light of current geopolitical and international events and the multiple demands on official development assistance, the only available option was to increase pledges by 5 or 10 per cent in order to continue supporting those countries towards the achievement of SDG 2.
134. **Ms HAGA** (Associate Vice-President, External Relations and Governance), speaking in her capacity as moderator of the launch event, said that the majority of the world’s poorest were rural inhabitants engaged in small-scale farming. Already vulnerable, they were the first and hardest hit by climate change events. IFAD had proved that targeting the most vulnerable and marginalized communities through agriculture-centred rural development could bring about their prosperity. It was also a documented fact that economic growth in agriculture was much more effective at reducing poverty and food insecurity than growth in other sectors.
135. Given the rising figures for hunger and extreme poverty, the achievement of SDG 1 (No poverty) and SDG 2 (Zero hunger) called for more investment in resilient agriculture, job creation for rural youth, women’s empowerment and measures for reducing the pressure to migrate. With rural development so pivotal to the implementation of the SDGs, the Fund had a major role to play in that sphere. She invited the three delegates from Member States who would speak at the event to address participants.
136. **HER EXCELLENCY FABUREH** (Minister for Agriculture of The Gambia) said that The Gambia was recovering from a prolonged dictatorship that had impoverished the country. Although prospects had brightened since the election of the new Government in 2016, the country remained among the poorest in the world, as borne out by the percentage of households living below the poverty line. Over the decades, The Gambia had benefited from numerous projects financed by IFAD, which was currently co-funding a substantial programme aimed at the transformation of smallholder agriculture. Scaling up existing achievements in agricultural land and water management development, the new programme was focused on sustained investment and support for youth- and female-led farmers’ organizations, public-private producer partnerships, improved access to financing, and the mainstreaming of environment, climate change, gender and nutrition. The Gambia had pledged US\$50,000 for the project.
137. **Mr JAKOBSEN** (State Secretary of International Development of Norway) said that, despite considerable progress achieved in the areas of child mortality, extreme poverty, education and immunization, countries were failing on hunger and malnutrition. Hunger was on the rise; without nutritious food, which was the basis of good health, there could be no development.
138. Collective efforts should be urgently intensified to reverse the trend. His Government had launched an action plan for sustainable food systems and was increasing its support for climate adaptation, nutrition and increased food production. IFAD was a crucial partner in that endeavour. Donors should strive for a

successful Twelfth Replenishment to help IFAD to reach those furthest behind. IFAD's partnership with Global Citizen was a particularly exciting new venture. Through working together, the international community could end hunger by 2030.

139. **Mr ZILLER** (Director-General, International Development Policy, Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development of Germany), noting that the world was not on track for achieving all 17 SDGs, said that it was important to fulfil the promises represented in those SDGs so as to preserve trust. The hope was that the outcomes of United Nations Food Systems Summit in 2021 – and before it the preparatory high-level meeting to be hosted by Germany in June 2020 – would spur the dramatic action needed to achieve SDG 2 by 2030. To that end, it was vital to strengthen IFAD.
140. Member States must also fulfil their promise to restore the Fund's equity, which had been partly depleted by their failure to reimburse IFAD for the increased DSF grants that they had themselves authorized. The replenishment must be ambitious for the sake of credibility, especially in a time of rising populism. Governors must therefore lobby for a successful replenishment and the continuation of IFAD's bold reform process so that it could better leverage its portfolio for rural development and the fight against hunger.
141. **The MODERATOR** said that the core contributions of Member States were the foundation of IFAD's work of helping 20 million rural people annually to increase their incomes by at least 20 per cent while improving their production and resilience to climate shocks. Through co-financing and partnerships, IFAD in fact delivered some US\$8.4 of investment for each dollar contributed.
142. **A video entitled "IFAD Impact Video: Sri Lanka" was screened.**
143. **The MODERATOR** said that IFAD was pleased to partner with Global Citizen in raising awareness of the need for action on SDG 2 in 2020 and invited its co-founder to address participants.
144. **Mr SHELDRIK** (Co-founder, Global Citizen), introducing his organization, said that grassroots action and citizen-led accountability lay at the heart of Global Citizen's work and were key to the delivery of the SDGs. Heeding the call of the United Nations Deputy Secretary-General for a decade of action, Global Citizen would launch a major global SDG campaign to raise awareness among 3 billion people. It would culminate in the largest charity event in broadcast history, which would take place on 26 September 2020 in seven cities around the world simultaneously.
145. Endeavouring to leave no one behind, Global Citizen had chosen to partner with IFAD because of its exclusive mandate on rural poverty and its focus on empowering the rural poor, in particular small-scale farmers, who were among the most vulnerable to climate change. Global Citizen would ask all citizens to promote IFAD and encourage government support to ensure its success.
146. Competing priorities notwithstanding, governments should double their funding with the aim of achieving zero hunger, leaving no one behind and getting the SDGs back on track. For any government willing to take that step, Global Citizen stood ready to mobilize citizens and draw attention to its bold leadership and commitment as an example for the rest of the world.
147. **The MODERATOR** said that IFAD was committed to using its financial investments and human resources to spur agricultural transformation where people were most at risk of being left behind, with the result that African countries received over one half of IFAD financing. IFAD was extremely proud to work with such African partners as the Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA) and the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD), whose representatives she invited to address participants.

148. **Ms KALIBATA** (President of AGRA and Special Envoy of the United Nations Secretary-General for the 2021 Food Systems Summit) said that agriculture was the surest way out of poverty. In Africa, agriculture was a major contributor to the economy and a vital source of livelihood. As a result of its investment in agriculture, particularly smallholder agriculture, her own country of Rwanda had very swiftly and substantially reduced both hunger and poverty among its citizens. IFAD had been the first multilateral institution to come to Rwanda after the genocide and the first to buy into its Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme compact, Rwanda being the first country to sign such an agreement. Apart from one other, IFAD had also been the only institution to invest in capacity-building for strengthening the country's agriculture sector.
149. AGRA had decided to work with IFAD because what had been achieved in Rwanda could be achieved elsewhere, in particular better capacities, reduced fragmentation of aid and a stronger private sector. The agricultural sector furthermore generated millions of jobs, with African small and medium-sized enterprises accounting for over one half of the continent's food production. Undoubtedly, to invest in IFAD was to invest in Africa and Africans.
150. **Mr MAYAKI** (Chief Executive Officer of NEPAD) said that the millions of young people entering African job markets each year struggled to find employment in the public and emerging industrial sectors. The key to tackling the problem was agricultural and rural transformation through IFAD, focusing on farm and non-farm activities. Member States must give IFAD the necessary support if they truly wished to confront the global challenge of youth unemployment and ensure that the most vulnerable were taken into account in a bottom-up perspective.
151. **The MODERATOR** introduced the next two speakers: Ms Sherrie Silver, IFAD Advocate for Rural Youth and award-winning choreographer, dancer and actress, who had memorably called at the previous session of the Governing Council for more investment in rural youth; and Mr Eazi, an African singer-musician with whom Ms Silver had worked to promote a special youth-led campaign in support of IFAD and rural youth.
152. **A video entitled "Dance for change highlights", which depicted some of the campaign activities, was screened.**
153. **Ms SILVER** (IFAD Advocate for Rural Youth) said that, through their respective arts, she and Mr Eazi were empowered to spread positive messages and change the world. To accompany the song he had written for the campaign, she had created a simple dance challenge, which had become a viral sensation. The challenge acted as a petition aimed at helping the world's youth to understand the important role of farming and young rural people in food production and climate change. It was remarkable that so many millions of young people had petitioned on behalf of young rural Africans who had no opportunity to petition for themselves. The hope was that governments would act on their petition through increased support for rural youth.
154. **Mr EAZI** (African singer-musician) said that he had a responsibility to speak to his constituency of young Africans who were much more familiar with popular artists such as himself and Ms Silver than with politicians. He had therefore deliberately set out to pen lyrics to his song that would stimulate young people to think about where their food came from. His visit to an IFAD-funded project in Ghana had shown him the freedom that agriculture could provide. Investment in rural agriculture and the poorest rural communities equalled investment towards the eradication of gender inequality, unemployment and poverty and malnutrition. A single action could go a long way towards achieving the SDGs during the current decade; 2020 was the year to intensify action from all quarters.

155. **Ms SILVER** (IFAD Advocate for Rural Youth) said it was important for young Africans to realize that farming was not limited to subsistence but also had global relevance. Through IFAD-funded projects, they could get the education and training needed to build a farming business that fed people locally and around the world. The overwhelming majority of the world's youth lived in rural areas and should be helped to remain in those areas through incentivizing agribusiness. Governments must step up their support, improve infrastructure and double their commitments to IFAD.
156. **Mr EAZI** (African singer-musician) added that agriculture should also be promoted among Africans in diaspora. Governments needed to educate and inform people in rural communities about agricultural opportunities to encourage them not to migrate, with the provision of funding and land also key. Rural communities were the first affected by climate change, IFAD's work to educate them about climate change adaptation was a critical first step towards sustainability.
157. **The MODERATOR**, after thanking the two artists for helping IFAD to make the case for the IFAD12 replenishment process, said that small-scale producers, pastoralists, fishers and indigenous peoples and their organizations were key strategic partners for IFAD in improving the relevance and sustainability of investment projects and their impact on the ground. The Farmers' Forum provided the framework for the partnership between IFAD and organizations of small-scale farmers, while IFAD's close partnership with indigenous peoples had been fortified through the Indigenous Peoples Forum and the Indigenous Peoples Assistance Facility. Both were guided by representatives of indigenous people, which was a unique partnership model in the United Nations system. She invited two speakers on behalf of indigenous peoples and farmers' organizations, respectively, to address participants.
158. **Ms GARCÍA-ALIX** (Senior Advisor for Global Governance, International Work Group for Indigenous Affairs) said that her organization's unique partnership with IFAD had been instrumental in supporting key national and international processes led by indigenous people for the realization of their rights. The principle of leaving no one behind could not be upheld if indigenous peoples – a disproportionate number of whom lived in extreme poverty – continued to be excluded. Those peoples protected a significant amount of the world's remaining biodiversity and held vital ancestral knowledge and expertise on how to adapt to, mitigate and reduce climate and disaster risks. Their traditional territories, if not their lives, were at risk from the global rush for land and natural resources, necessitating the protection of their rights as distinct societies.
159. IFAD's investment in indigenous peoples had established a true partnership. The Fund's model was singular because it had been developed, executed and implemented by indigenous peoples. The inclusion of support for indigenous peoples in IFAD12 was welcome; IFAD should seize the opportunity to show leadership among other United Nations institutions in how to work with indigenous peoples.
160. **Ms PENUNIA** (Secretary-General of the Asian Farmers' Association) said that climate change had a devastating impact on the family farming sector, particularly in her region, but the affected groups refused to be victims and were providing solutions. Measures taken by farmers throughout the region to, for instance, deal with the after-effects of typhoons, form cooperatives and other farmers' organizations, and pursue climate-resilient agriculture and agro-forestry, had been facilitated by an IFAD grant and other additional support provided under an IFAD medium-term cooperation programme.
161. The Farmers' Forum welcomed the launch of IFAD12 and was especially interested in the IFAD financing instruments that would enable farmers' organizations to scale up good practices in climate change adaptation and enhance the role and viability

of cooperatives. It stood ready to help in designing the instruments and to collaborate with IFAD on implementation and monitoring mechanisms. She appealed for the inclusion of representatives of farmers' organizations in the governance structures of those financing instruments with a view to increasing the stakeholder role, responsibilities and accountabilities of such organizations.

162. **A video entitled "IFAD Impact Video: Guatemala" was screened.**
163. **The MODERATOR** said that IFAD was extremely fortunate to have not only the commitment of Member States and partner organizations but also the support of those who had been so moved by IFAD's mission that they wished to lend their voices and celebrity to the cause. She introduced the final speaker at the event, Ms Sabrina Elba, a Canadian actress, activist, model of Somali descent and a passionate advocate for the empowerment of rural women and girls, who had recently visited an IFAD-supported project in Sierra Leone with her husband, the renowned actor Idris Elba. She invited Ms Elba to address participants.
164. **Ms ELBA** (Canadian actress, activist and model), underscoring the importance of IFAD's work to end poverty and hunger and the urgency of the year 2020 and of IFAD12, said that, during her visit to an IFAD-funded project in Sierra Leone, she had been impressed by the rice farmers whose lives had been transformed by financial loans and training. The community leaders she had met had praised IFAD for its determination to stay the course, even when every other development agency had left during the Ebola outbreak.
165. The women benefiting from the project were also evidence that women's empowerment began with economic empowerment. Indeed, IFAD projects showed that rural women were not forever destined to lag behind men on almost every development indicator and be deprived of opportunities and hope. While everyone could advocate for the poor, it was governments that had the power to change policy, invest in IFAD and improve the situation of poor rural communities, especially their women.
166. Global problems such as climate change and hunger demanded global responses. Investment in the future of rural people was an investment in the future of humanity. With Member States' support and the world's awareness and action, 2020 could be the year that everything changed for the better.
167. **A video entitled "Idris and Sabrina Elba" was screened.**
168. **The MODERATOR** expressed thanks to all the speakers who had taken part in the IFAD12 launch event for their inspiring and passionate words and said that a successful IFAD12 would be a step towards realizing the shared commitment to building a world without extreme poverty and hunger.
169. **The CHAIRPERSON**, echoing those thanks, said that IFAD was a special organization with a special mandate and could make a significant positive contribution to the achievement of the SDGs. She urged Member States to ensure that IFAD was empowered to reach its full potential and drew attention to a booklet entitled *IFAD's Case for Investment*.
170. **A video entitled "IFAD's case for investment" was screened.**
171. **Mr WINTERS** (Associate Vice-President, Strategy and Knowledge Department), presenting IFAD's case for investment, stressed that the stalled progress in achieving hunger goals called for action, and said that IFAD had demonstrated its ability to work not only with small-scale producers to empower women and youth but also with indigenous peoples. It would be expanding its social inclusion to persons with disabilities and was working to address climate- and conflict-related issues and to build resilience, an area in which it had over 40 years of experience.

172. Recent reforms had also helped IFAD to improve its efficiency and the quality of its work, notably by shifting its emphasis towards the field, where it had already doubled its staff and would continue to increase their number. Thanks to that shift, IFAD was better equipped to work with governments and United Nations agencies, including those based in Rome, and with farmers' organizations and indigenous peoples. Crucially, moreover, the greater field presence helped it to be part of the broader discussions around food security.
173. There were also opportunities for other forms of investment through IFAD's Adaptation for Smallholder Agriculture Programme, as well as the Private Sector Financing programme, which would encourage funding from other sources and additionally provide funding to new sources. In that regard, IFAD hoped it would be able to take to scale many of the ideas mentioned during the deliberations of the Farmers' Forum. Such forms of partnership building, both globally and, more importantly, at the country level, would become intrinsic to IFAD's activities, allowing it to expand and deepen its in-country operations through building on its experience. For IFAD, that was its case for investment.

THE ROLE OF IFAD12 IN THE ACHIEVEMENT OF THE SDGs: A CONVERSATION WITH IFAD'S GOVERNORS (GC 43/INF.4)

174. **The CHAIRPERSON** drew attention to the two guiding questions, set out in document GC 43/INF.4, that had been prepared for the conversation with Governors on the role of IFAD12 in the achievement of the SDGs, which the delegation of Canada had kindly volunteered to launch with some opening comments.
175. **Mr POTTER** (Canada), setting the stage for the conversation, said that the SDGs were essentially intended to be a country-led process, which meant that it was important to take into account the views of the Member States on how best IFAD could support them. During the decade leading up to 2030, there would be only three replenishment periods. It was therefore vital to move rapidly and to keep on building on IFAD's key comparative advantage, carefully cultivated over the past 40 years, of leaving no one behind by targeting the rural poor.
176. In relation to SDG 1, few other organizations were as effective in focusing on the poorest and most marginalized in the poorest countries, in countries in special situations and in countries with stubborn pockets of poverty. The requirement to that end entailed continued coordination at the country level and the careful tailoring of interventions to local opportunities and challenges through the continuous improvement of country strategic opportunities programmes by leveraging IFAD's decentralization process, in line with SDG 17 (Partnerships for the goals). It would also be necessary to continue strengthening the resilience of the rural poor to the impacts of climate change, in line with SDG 13 (Climate action) and to keep on improving inclusive approaches, such as household methodologies, to empower women, girls and indigenous peoples, in line with SDG 5 (Gender equality). With a view to achieving zero hunger, in accordance with SDG 2, it would be important to continue innovating and learning from experience, including through evidence-based impact evaluations, based on the best science from international and national agricultural research systems.
177. It would also be important to do more in quantitative terms. IFAD had a key role to play in achieving successful rural transformation. Every effort should therefore be made to expand its programme of work through a successful replenishment and by increasing co-financing, leveraging the balance sheet, increasing project size and targeting new sources of funding, such as the Green Climate Fund, impact investors and philanthropists. His own country had just announced a contribution of 150 million Canadian dollars to IFAD11 as a highly concessional loan for climate-smart agriculture.

178. It would be similarly important to do more in terms of quality, based on the prudent diversification of IFAD's range of funding and programming tools, so that it could respond more precisely and efficiently to specific development challenges and opportunities, including grants to work directly with NGOs, equity loans with the private sector and prize-based mechanisms. Local experience and networks, for example, should be used to target agroenterprises that were ready for transformation. Although IFAD was supported by a wide range of Member States, contributions should still be mobilized from more countries through improved communication and marketing.
179. **The CHAIRPERSON** welcomed the announcement of the Canadian loan.
180. **A delegate from INDIA** said that Member States must commit to investing in IFAD's capacity and its unique role within the global food security architecture so that it could more than double its impact on poverty and hunger by 2030. To that end, it would be necessary to leverage private sector investment, target large food systems and increase social inclusions by placing emphasis on gender, youth and climate change adaptation. The rural poor and food insecure in developing countries, who were IFAD's target group, accounted for the majority the world's poor and hungry people. IFAD's people-centred approach to agricultural development and inclusive and sustainable rural transformation was a proven cost-effective means of addressing poverty inequality and ensuring that no one was left behind.
181. As recognized in the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, investment in agriculture, rural development and food security had a major impact across the SDGs. IFAD and its partners must step up their efforts to support action by the global community towards achievement of the SDGs by 2030. Doubling the impact of IFAD would be vital to the elimination of hunger, poverty and malnutrition in all developing countries.
182. **A delegate from FRANCE** said that IFAD's impact and effectiveness could be guaranteed by maintaining faith in its mandate to give priority to the poorest countries. Extreme poverty and food insecurity tended to be concentrated in the rural areas of the poorest countries, particularly in those facing conflict, fragility and the greatest impact from climate change. Enhanced effectiveness required the implementation and continuation of IFAD's internal reforms in the matters of finance, governance and, notably, the continued decentralization of its teams. IFAD action could also be promoted through the transformation of food systems so that they were more sustainable, resilient and inclusive, which would require further efforts in the areas of climate change, the environment and gender equality.
183. IFAD should continue to mobilize resources through co-financing and new donors in both the public and private sectors. Despite the progress in the IFAD11 replenishment, more could be done to strengthen the image of the Fund as a key player in the agricultural sector for the implementation of the SDGs. The achievement of SDG 2, however, required a collective effort. The Food Systems Summit in 2021 would offer a unique opportunity to increase IFAD's contribution to the development of more productive, inclusive, sustainable and resilient food systems and to showcase its success stories and its cooperation with the other two Rome-based agencies. IFAD's communication and advocacy should focus on the benefits of co-partnering in addressing the global issues of migration, conflict, climate change, biodiversity and health. Those issues should be covered by a cross-cutting approach, which could be strengthened by working with other partners, including the international financial institutions, for which a framework had been agreed at the G20 in 2019.
184. **A delegate from the REPUBLIC OF KOREA** said that IFAD11 and IFAD12 were key to the achievement of the SDGs by 2030, as all IFAD11 projects and half of IFAD12 projects would be completed between 2025 and 2030. To obtain strong

political and financial support, IFAD's vision must be shared both within the Fund and among Member States. The first steps had been taken with IFAD 2.0 in developing a blueprint for the future.

185. IFAD's efforts to introduce innovation should focus on financial sustainability, expertise in human resources and decentralization. Continued assistance to lower- and middle-income countries would require greater resources, which would have to be managed using appropriate tools. IFAD should also further develop its expertise on local situations and all stages of project design and implementation. Lastly, emphasis should be placed on transparency in communicating with Member States as an important element in ensuring that all the partners had faith in each other and were moving in the same direction.
186. **A delegate from the NETHERLANDS** said that the most effective way of providing support for Member States needing IFAD assistance was to focus on what it did best, namely supporting marginal groups in the poorest areas, from which other international financial institutions and United Nations agencies were largely absent. IFAD should therefore try to build on its extensive experience of working with key players in those regions, adapt best practices for implementation in other regions and seek co-financing to scale up its activities. It should not fall into the trap of broadening its mandate and competing with other agencies. It was also essential to raise the profile of IFAD, as its work – if even known – was still largely undervalued. Many new to the field were unaware that IFAD was the leader of last resort for many regions in certain countries. IFAD was successfully making a business case for its support programmes, which were often considered by other financial institutions to be too isolated, small scale and uncertain. The message should be much more widely communicated that IFAD was doing an excellent job in starting where the World Bank stopped.
187. **A delegate from KENYA** said that challenges were growing in the agricultural sector, especially as a result of conflict and climate shocks. The accumulated gains made over the years in the development of the sector and the achievement of the SDGs were being eroded. Efforts should therefore be redoubled to cope with, adapt to and mitigate increasing shocks and maintain progress towards the attainment of agricultural development goals. Increased resources for IFAD12 and subsequent replenishments would be required, together with funding from other sources, to provide effective support to countries for the achievement of the SDGs. To attract more resources and political support, IFAD should focus on continuing the implementation of country-specific projects adapted to the specific needs of the beneficiaries. Kenya was committed to supporting and working in partnership with IFAD.
188. **A delegate from UGANDA** said that the road to the SDGs must start with and be focused on the areas and people already known to be most affected. To alleviate poverty, hunger must be fought by addressing production and productivity issues, with a focus on increasing support for mechanization, particularly in Africa; on loss reduction, especially post-harvest; and on increasing investment in women and youth as a means of reaching out to the rural poor. IFAD was already doing well in that regard. In rural Uganda, for example, it had helped to lift thousands of people out of poverty. Concentrating efforts on assisting rural farmers to obtain a good reward for what they produced, including through improved market information, would play an important role in achieving the aims of the 2030 Agenda.
189. **A delegate from the UNITED STATES** said that IFAD could be most effective in helping Member States to achieve their domestic targets, which might be aligned with the SDGs, by focusing on the poorest. Following a decade of steady decline, the number of people suffering from hunger worldwide had been rising since 2015. IFAD had an important role to play in helping to reverse that trend, beginning in low- and lower middle-income countries. IFAD could and should be making strides

in enhancing its performance in key areas, including efficiency and sustainability, improved financial management of projects, cost per beneficiary and management costs. Efforts to promote country ownership and viable existing strategies could significantly improve sustainability and impact. With a view to raising the profile of IFAD12 and ensuring support for the Fund, the unique role and comparative advantage of IFAD must be emphasized. A significant part of what differentiated IFAD from the other multilateral and bilateral agencies working in similar areas was its unwavering commitment to reach the last mile in combating poverty and to being the one entity that effectively served the poorest and most vulnerable rural populations. It was a fact that should be documented and communicated to stakeholders.

190. **A delegate from SWEDEN** agreed that IFAD had the strong comparative advantages outlined by previous speakers and that swifter action was needed to achieve SDG 1 and SDG 2. In that connection, important challenges in which IFAD had a significant role to play included addressing climate vulnerability among smaller farmers and the accelerating loss of biodiversity at the global level.
191. As to raising the profile of IFAD12, another of IFAD's unique selling points was its very rigorous application of impact assessments, based on an approach to poverty alleviation that had won recognition with the award of the Nobel Prize for Economics in 2019. IFAD's claim that it achieved results was more well-founded than many other institutions and should be used to convince decision-makers in donor countries of the Fund's unique role and ability to make a difference on the ground.
192. **A delegate from MEXICO** said that, to have the greatest impact, IFAD should focus on supporting existing national public policies and priorities, and adopt, as necessary, actions that complement the SDGs. IFAD12 provided an opportunity for the Member States to demonstrate their commitment to eradicating world poverty and lifting people out of poverty. No opposition had been voiced to the intention announced by the President of IFAD to double the Fund's impact by 2030. To that end, IFAD would need to grow and additional funding would be required from other sources and different funding mechanisms.
193. The review of IFAD's communication strategy should place greater emphasis on improving knowledge of what IFAD did that other institutions were unable to do, its distinguishing characteristics and its niche work that benefited the whole international community. IFAD should therefore continue to support the poorest rural populations everywhere and focus more keenly on the sustainability of its programmes. When programmes were sustainable, they proved without doubt that IFAD's action worked and that there was continuity of support for the countries concerned.
194. **A delegate from CHAD** said that the progress achieved in her country over its two-decade partnership with IFAD was amply demonstrated by the most recent evaluations conducted. Indeed, the results obtained from IFAD projects in such a vulnerable Sahel country were striking. For IFAD 2.0 to be more effective, greater emphasis should be placed on food production systems, particularly in fragile States characterized by weak production levels, problems and shocks relating to climate change, irregular rainfall, lack of infrastructure and ineffective management systems, including for water and land.
195. Over the decade leading up to 2030, IFAD would need to strengthen its existing partnerships, engage in new partnerships and seek new sources of funding with a view to broadening the donor base, such as through development banks and in the context of South-South cooperation. IFAD should liaise regularly with and organize field visits to demonstrate its best practices and improve the visibility of its results and impact. Specific importance should be given to the countries of the Sahel in view of the climate conditions that they faced.

196. **The CHAIRPERSON**, thanking the Governors who had spoken during the conversation, said that the common themes raised included the real desire to focus on the poorest and the most vulnerable, especially to climate change. The clear message conveyed was that countries should be in the driving seat and that IFAD's work should be in response to country demand. It was vital for IFAD to work with partners and to inform them of its strategy with a view to raising its profile.
197. **Mr WINTERS** (Associate Vice-President, Strategy and Knowledge Department) welcomed the emphasis placed on the need for IFAD to continue focusing on what it was good at and what made it unique. One of the challenges in that respect was for IFAD to maintain its core mission while at the same time expanding its resources and trying to diversify its instruments to meet the enormous problem facing the world. If IFAD started working with the private sector, for example, it must steer away from engaging in action that would have no ultimate benefit for small-scale producers.
198. A related issue was the need to maintain IFAD's comparative advantage and avoid competition with other entities. IFAD should do more to provide its partners with documentation and evidence of what it did. In that regard, greater emphasis was being placed in the communication strategy on engaging with countries and going beyond governments to reach civil society and academia. Continued decentralization was facilitating work with countries and national partners on the priorities established by Member States.
199. With regard to the specific themes raised, such as climate change and nutrition, one of the issues for IFAD12 concerned the type of commitments to be made. The Food Systems Summit would be held in the autumn of 2021, with IFAD12 starting in January 2022, and it was therefore to be hoped that IFAD12 could harness the momentum on food systems that emerged from the Summit.
200. Lastly, with regard to the issues raised concerning impact and the need to focus on results, efficiency and sustainability, he reaffirmed that IFAD had been working hard to ensure efficiency, even though it was often difficult to achieve when working with the poorest in the last mile, where the costs tended to be higher. Despite the challenges, IFAD was taking action to improve efficiency and cost per beneficiary and to increase the sustainability of its impact.
201. **Ms HAGA** (Associate Vice-President, External Relations and Governance) agreed that further work was required on IFAD's visibility. IFAD was a hidden jewel for many, but the time was now ripe to strengthen its communication efforts and market itself better. The first step would be to develop a long-term communication strategy for submission to the Executive Board later in 2020. It was also necessary, however, to raise awareness of IFAD's role during the current replenishment process. In that regard, recent useful initiatives had included the identification of celebrities and ambassadors to work with IFAD and the involvement of farmers' organizations and indigenous networks. The four replenishment meetings planned for 2020 would be used to raise awareness and special events would also be organized.
202. **Mr HOUNGBO** (President of IFAD) said that, while it was clearly central to the role of IFAD to focus on the lowest or low-income countries, it was still essential to adapt the proposals made to the needs of those countries. Moreover, even though the aim was for IFAD to grow in terms of capital and net assets, the overall strategy was still to use those resources to leverage and finance projects focused on development impact. It was a question of finding the right balance between strengthening the resources available and using them to achieve much greater impact.

203. Concerning climate change adaptation and mitigation for the rural poor and low-income countries, it was also essential to work with small island developing countries, including those not in the low income category, in view of the severe impact of climate change. In conclusion, he agreed that there should be greater diversity in IFAD's action.

SYNTHESIS OF DELIBERATIONS OF THE FARMERS' FORUM

204. At the invitation of the **CHAIRPERSON, Ms NSIMADALA** (President of the Pan African Farmers' Organization) and **Ms HALIM** (World Forum of Fish Harvesters and Fish Workers) delivered a synthesis of the deliberations of the 2020 Farmers' Forum, held on 6-11 February 2020 in conjunction with the forty-third session of the Governing Council. The full text of the synthesis is reproduced in chapter 4.
205. **Mr BROWN** (Associate Vice-President, Programme Management Department) welcomed the deliberations of the Farmers' Forum and the conclusions and recommendations presented, which would be examined with interest over the coming weeks. In particular, he noted the interest expressed in much stronger engagement with IFAD, particularly at the country level through projects, policy dialogue and IFAD's national dialogues, which was closely aligned with the Fund's commitment to stakeholder feedback and transparency. He further noted the interest in IFAD12 and the request for observer status in IFAD's governing bodies.
206. **The meeting rose at 6.30 p.m.**

(iii) Summary record of the third meeting of the forty-third session held on 12 February 2020 at 9.45 a.m.

Chairperson: Her Excellency Clémentine Ananga Messina (Cameroon)

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207. The meeting was called to order at 9.45 a.m.

IFAD'S 2020 RESULTS-BASED PROGRAMME OF WORK AND REGULAR AND CAPITAL BUDGETS, THE INDEPENDENT OFFICE OF EVALUATION OF IFAD'S RESULTS-BASED WORK PROGRAMME AND BUDGET FOR 2020 AND INDICATIVE PLAN FOR 2021–2022, AND THE HEAVILY INDEBTED POOR COUNTRIES AND PERFORMANCE-BASED ALLOCATION SYSTEM PROGRESS REPORTS (agenda item 9) (GC 43/L.6/Rev.1)

208. **The CHAIRPERSON** recalled that, at its 128th session in December 2019, the Executive Board had approved the programmes of work of IFAD and the Independent Office of Evaluation of IFAD (IOE) for 2020. It had also reviewed the proposed budgets for both and recommended their transmission to the Governing Council for approval.
209. **Mr WU** (Associate Vice-President, Corporate Services Department), introducing IFAD's 2020 results-based programme of work and regular and capital budgets, as set out in part one of document GC 43/L.6/Rev.1, said that 2020 marked the start of a decade of action in which accelerated sustainable solutions must be found for the world's biggest challenges. Management had endeavoured to deliver a fit-for-purpose budget enabling the Fund to meet the ambitious targets set for it by Member States for the coming years.
210. At its 128th session, the Executive Board had approved an indicative programme of loans and grants of US\$1.062 billion for 2020 and proposed that the Governing Council should approve that amount for planning purposes, on the understanding that it would be adjusted as needed over the course of 2020 in the light of the resources available.
211. The Executive Board had also recommended submission of the proposed regular budget to the Governing Council for approval. Amounting to US\$157.8 million, that budget represented zero real growth compared to the previous year's budget of US\$158.2 million. The nominal decrease of 0.19 per cent was essentially due to the favourable exchange rate, although further efforts had also been made to contain the real increase to zero by absorbing price increases with reductions in non-staff costs.
212. The average efficiency ratio had improved during the Eleventh Replenishment of IFAD's Resources (IFAD11) period and Management was on track to enhance it further. A significant portion of the programme of loans and grants had been front-loaded in 2019, while in 2020 the focus would shift to project implementation and quality assurance, resulting in a higher projected annual efficiency ratio for the year.
213. Given the magnitude of the challenge of achieving Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 2 (Zero hunger) by 2030, past efforts to change the way IFAD did business had been deemed insufficient. Management therefore proposed a targeted capacity investment of up to US\$12 million, subject to the Executive Board's approval, in April 2020, of a detailed two-year implementation plan. The targeted capacity investment would allow IFAD to tailor its structure with a view to managing and expanding business opportunities and to maximizing the impact of delivered results.
214. The capital budget included up to US\$2.225 million for enhancing the treasury system and upgrading the IFAD core banking system in order to promote compliance and faster project start-ups. Thanks to those critical investments in its financial architecture, IFAD would be able to keep pace with industry standards while supporting its enhanced business model.
215. **Mr GARCIA** (Director, IOE), introducing IOE's results-based work programme and budget for 2020 and indicative plan for 2021–2022, as set out in part two of document GC 43/L.6/Rev.1, said that 2020 would be a year of change for IOE. It would be implementing the recommendations made in the external peer review of

IFAD's evaluation function and conducting its first-ever thematic evaluation, on IFAD's contribution to smallholder farmers adaptation to climate change. The evaluation offices of the three Rome-based agencies would furthermore conduct a joint corporate-level evaluation on collaboration among the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, IFAD and the World Food Programme. IOE also planned to conduct five country programme evaluations in Burundi, Morocco, Niger, Pakistan and Uganda and draw up one evaluation synthesis report on rural infrastructure. In terms of projects, it would conduct one impact evaluation and six performance evaluations, and it would validate all project completion reports. Lastly, IOE would prepare the 2020 edition of the Annual Report on Results and Impact of IFAD operations.

216. IOE's proposed 2020 budget amounted to US\$6.05 million. If the sole below-the-line allocation of US\$187,000 were deducted from that amount, the proposed budget corresponded to 0.55 per cent of IFAD's expected programme of loans and grants for 2020, which was well below the budget cap of 0.9 per cent adopted by the Executive Board.
217. **Mr BROWN** (Associate Vice-President, Programme Management Department), introducing the progress report on implementation of the performance-based allocation system (PBAS), as set out in part four of document GC 43/L.6/Rev.1, said that the report provided detailed information on the application of the PBAS formula for the IFAD11 period. At the 128th session of the Executive Board, Management had presented the allocations that resulted from the transparent application of the PBAS formula for 2020, the second year of the IFAD11 cycle. It had nevertheless also proposed to maintain the 2019 allocations for all countries, so as to ensure that the decisions taken by the Executive Board in respect of the Debt Sustainability Framework (DSF) were upheld and that country allocations remained in line with programmed resources. The Board had noted the high level of programming and supported Management's proposal to retain the IFAD11 allocations, as presented in December 2018, for the whole duration of the cycle.
218. In line with IFAD11 commitments, 80 countries had been included in the allocations calculation following the application of country selectivity. In terms of financing for country groupings, 90 per cent of IFAD's core resources were allocated to low-income and lower-middle-income countries, with the remaining 10 per cent allocated to upper-middle-income countries. Management also ensured that between 25 and 30 per cent of core resources were allocated to countries with the most fragile situations. IFAD furthermore allocated approximately two thirds of its core resources on highly concessional terms.
219. Turning to the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC) initiative progress report for 2019, contained in part three of document GC 43/L.6/Rev.1, he noted that 35 out of 38 eligible countries had reached the completion point and qualified for HIPC assistance. While giving priority to ensuring that the HIPC Trust Fund was adequately financed, Management would continue to encourage the Member States to provide the Fund with additional resources to finance its participation in the HIPC Initiative.
220. **The Governing Council adopted resolution 212/XLIII on the administrative budget comprising the regular budget, capital budget and an Independent Office of Evaluation of IFAD budget for 2020, and a targeted capacity investment of IFAD for 2020.**

CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS OF IFAD FOR 2018 (agenda item 8)
(GC 43/L.5 and INF.3)

221. **Mr LARIO** (Associate Vice-President, Chief Financial Officer and Chief Controller, Financial Operations Department), introducing the item, said that, in the opinion of the Fund's external auditors, the Consolidated Financial Statements of IFAD as at

31 December 2018, as appended to document GC 43/L.5, presented fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Fund and its financial performance and cash flows for the year then ended, in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards. The external auditors had also issued an independent attestation on Management's assertion that IFAD maintained effective internal controls over financial reporting, thus providing further evidence of IFAD's commitment to best international financial practice. The external auditor's statements had been reviewed by the Audit Committee at its 152nd meeting and subsequently endorsed by the Executive Board at its 126th session in May 2019.

222. **The Governing Council approved the financial statements showing IFAD's financial position as at 31 December 2018 and the results of its operations for the year ending on that date, as set out in appendices A to L inclusive of document GC 43/L.5; the external auditor's report thereon; and the external auditor's attestation on the effectiveness of internal controls over financial reporting.**

PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE POLICIES AND CRITERIA FOR IFAD FINANCING
(agenda item 12) (GC 43/L.9)

223. **The CHAIRPERSON** recalled that, at its 128th session in December 2019, the Executive Board had approved the DSF reform and recommended that the Governing Council approve the proposed amendments to the Policies and Criteria for IFAD Financing.
224. **Mr LARIO** (Associate Vice-President, Chief Financial Officer and Chief Controller, Financial Operations Department) said that, in the context of DSF reform, the Executive Board recommended the introduction of a super highly concessional loan instrument aimed at countries experiencing moderate debt distress and providing a higher degree of concessionality than the highly concessional loan. The proposed amendment would come into force on 1 January 2022, with the implementation of the reform.
225. **The Governing Council adopted resolution 213/XLIII on the revision of the Policies and Criteria for IFAD Financing.**

UPDATE ON CONVERSATIONS WITH IFAD'S GOVERNORS AT THE FORTY-SECOND SESSION OF THE GOVERNING COUNCIL (agenda item 5) (GC 43/L.2)
TRENDS IN DEVELOPMENT FINANCING: QUESTIONS AND NEW CHALLENGES – A CONVERSATION WITH IFAD'S GOVERNORS (GC 43/INF.4)

226. **The CHAIRPERSON** said that the topics considered in 2019 in the conversations with IFAD's Governors remained ever relevant insofar as much had been achieved but much still remained to be done. She drew attention to the two guiding questions, set out in document GC 43/INF.4, that had been prepared for the conversation with Governors on the topic of trends in development financing.
227. **Mr LARIO** (Associate Vice-President, Chief Financial Officer and Chief Controller, Financial Operations Department), introducing the topic, said that, at a time of rising debt vulnerability among IFAD's borrowers, a decline in traditional official development assistance (ODA) finance and fiscal constraints in many countries, a shift to new financial and operational strategies was required and envisaged for IFAD12 and in the IFAD 2.0 vision. IFAD would update its financial offer and instruments, including the possibility of obtaining a credit rating, and harmonize its approach to sustainable development financing with those of other international financial institutions (IFIs). IFAD would also increase the reach and impact of its operations by crowding in private sector investment, which would enable the Fund to expand the range and flexibility of the tools offered to respond to specific development challenges.

228. **The CHAIRPERSON** invited His Excellency Edward Francisco Centeno Gadea (Nicaragua) to launch the conversation on trends in development financing.
229. **HIS EXCELLENCY CENTENO GADEA (Nicaragua)** welcomed his country's partnership with IFAD, which had contributed to the action taken to combat hunger and poverty. In Nicaragua, public policies, programmes and plans were people-centred and focused on improving living conditions with a view to eliminating poverty and helping families to develop and achieve prosperity. While IFAD had always fundamentally supported many countries in their efforts to achieve rural development, it should now adopt new approaches by extend its action to other important sectors, such as fisheries, and working closely with governments to encourage, inter alia, the development of agro-industry, the value added to agricultural products and market access support.
230. Countries should agree to make markets fairer and ensure access for developing countries. In an increasingly complex global economy affected by a range of political and environmental issues, greater efforts were needed to support investments in rural development at the national level and ensure the sustainability of financing. While the strategic alliance of countries within IFAD involved a strong commitment to recognizing the main needs and priorities of developing countries, those were the countries that suffered most from rapid changes in the world economy and the effects of climate change, which could prompt them to review their priorities. In order to ensure the sustainability of action taken, it was first necessary to increase the efficiency of national programmes and their capacity to adapt to economic variables and climate change. It was unacceptable that so many people in the world still suffered from hunger. The urgent action required must be based on a universal commitment to overcome poverty while also guaranteeing the dignity of families and prosperity and well-being for all. Nicaragua would demonstrate its commitment through its participation in the next replenishment of IFAD's resources.
231. **A delegate from CUBA**, regretting the decline in real terms of ODA in 2018, said that few countries had exceeded the ODA target level of 0.7 per cent of gross domestic product, that the wastage of resources on military expenditure was increasing annually and that the intensification of unilateral measures against developing countries was a violation of human rights. Developed countries should facilitate investment and transparency for technologies, especially those vital to sustainable development. The Doha Development Round, launched by the World Trade Organization in 2001, must be pursued and the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities defended in the case of developing countries. It was also essential to maintain the universality of ODA and strengthen multilateral action for achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including with respect to climate action. Governments should accordingly reaffirm their commitments under the Addis Ababa Action Agenda as the global framework for the reinforcement of collective action to address the global challenges relating to development. The mobilization of sufficient funding continued to be the key challenge for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.
232. **A delegate from ANGOLA** said that poverty did not, as often thought, stem from a shortage of material sources; rather, it was an issue of development and of sustainable development in particular. In Angola, the economic situation was reflected in its living standards. Developed countries must do their utmost to address the effects of climate change, with efforts also made to identify future sources of funding. Only through stable and sustainable solutions would sustainable and integrated development be achieved for all. To that end, the Green Climate Fund could perhaps be harnessed in support of IFAD's action to eradicate hunger and poverty.

233. Social responsibility and solidarity should go together, especially in the case of wealthy corporations, which should endeavour to pursue noble objectives. The world's many resources must be used to combat hunger and poverty, which should also involve the consolidation of forms of financing that offered solutions in cases of financial non-viability, as crises could only be overcome through joint efforts. Hunger was not exclusive to developing countries; it was a result of financial systems and food systems and a worldwide problem. IFAD was undoubtedly best positioned to take up the challenge of combating poverty and hunger. It was therefore vital to ensure that it was recapitalized with sufficient resources to support all parties in eliminating hunger as a development objective.
234. **A delegate from CHAD**, expressed gratitude to IFAD for the great progress achieved in the context of its long-standing partnership with Chad, which had accomplished encouraging results in combating hunger in 2019, especially in rural areas. Regrettably, it had been unable to honour its pledge to make an annual contribution of US\$10,000 in support of IFAD's programmes in the country. During the course of 2020, however, it would be providing its total pledge in that connection, amounting to US\$300,000, in addition to paying its dues.
235. **A delegate from BURKINA FASO** said that for IFAD to be able to provide sustainable support and funding for countries in need, population trends and public debt must be taken into account and priority given to the development of sustainable funding mechanisms. Action taken in Burkina Faso to address its excessive debt levels included the increased processing of agricultural and forestry products and the modernization of customs procedures to improve the collection of duties and other resources, without overburdening taxpayers. An effective medium-term debt-management strategy had been developed and a commitment made to respect the principle of transparency concerning the disclosure of macroeconomic data, especially if debt-related.
236. IFAD should do more to modernize and improve its funding mechanisms and to mobilize greater resources so as to facilitate access for more fragile countries to flexible mechanisms in support of their development plans. For those reasons, Burkina Faso was committed to contributing to the replenishment of IFAD's resources.
237. **A delegate from BRAZIL** said that boldness and creativity were instrumental to the development of financing tools for achievement of the SDGs by 2030. The underlying principles of debt financing did not support the development of new or more sophisticated financing instruments if the concessionality of loans or the volume of IFAD grants was being increased, even where there might be a need to enhance monitoring and evaluation or, ultimately, to increase contributions. Many speakers had emphasized that IFAD should focus more on the poorest of the poor, yet it would be difficult to identify IFAD interventions that did not target the poorest. Even those of its resources that went to upper middle-income countries were aimed at the poorest of the poor and, even then, it was IFAD's expertise and ability to change lives that made all the difference. Poverty did not respect man-made borders. Multidimensional poverty was spread throughout the world, as reflected in the performance-based allocation system formula. To achieve the SDGs by 2030, more had to be done with less, which would not be possible if IFAD were to drift from its core activity as a financing institution by working mainly with grants. The available resources must be leveraged, which involved lending, with an emphasis on sustainability. Only by lending would IFAD receive sufficient reflows enabling it to develop into a more sustainable institution.
238. **A delegate from the UNITED STATES** said that IFAD had taken a big step forward in supporting countries experiencing increased debt vulnerability through its commitment to the DSF at the end of 2019, which would allow all future DSF grants to be pre-financed and ensure that scarce DSF grant resources were

reserved for the poorest countries experiencing or at high risk of debt distress. As a result, there would be less strain on countries experiencing debt distress and the Executive Board would not be compelled to make financing commitments with resources still to be provided. Every effort must be made to ensure that the debt vulnerability of countries did not erode the progress made in combating food insecurity over the past decade. The rise in food insecurity over the past three years was worrying. Better ways should be found to support countries in need and to promote resilience among the most vulnerable. IFAD should also seek other sources of finance through partnerships with private sector entities, which could help to improve the livelihoods of smallholder farmers.

239. As an IFI, IFAD should promote debt transparency efforts so that countries in distress did not become further burdened by unsustainable lending practices. With reference to new products, IFAD should reflect on the new instruments piloted by IFAD11, including reimbursable technical assistance, results-based lending and regional lending operations. Of the nine ongoing and planned reimbursable technical assistance operations, only two were currently being implemented. The efficacy of the new approach should therefore be reviewed. Moreover, results-based lending and regional lending operations had not been fully tested and reviewed. It took time for experience to be built up and analysed, and new products should not be released before the lessons were learned from those developed previously. Engagement with countries at different stages of transition should be based on pricing structures that differentiated appropriately between countries through maturity premiums, grace periods and terms. Lastly, in order to ensure that its resources were being used where they had most impact, IFAD should adopt a firm policy of encouraging countries with economies that had reached a certain threshold to graduate to the next category.
240. **A delegate from HAITI**, welcoming the decades-long support provided by IFAD to his country, said that the most recent country strategic opportunities programme (COSOP) for Haiti, now ended, had been incorporated into the country's current integrated development programme policy. The basic objectives were the development of agriculture adapted to climate change, support for production in rural areas and investment in human capital. IFAD's portfolio under the COSOP had included a programme to support productive activities in rural areas, and a project to develop a small-scale irrigation schemes rehabilitation project. The negotiations between IFAD and his Government had not been not concluded, however, resulting in the loss of an allocation of US\$17 million.
241. In addition to a small-scale irrigation project that was almost complete, IFAD's current portfolio in Haiti consisted of an agricultural and agroforestry technological innovation programme, but there were no negotiations under way to schedule new financing. Nevertheless, projects existed that could be financed, including action to consolidate small-scale irrigation and strengthen activities in various parts of the country. His Government encouraged IFAD to send a mission to Haiti during the current month in support of the technical services involved in the implementation of projects in line with the country's strategic objectives. Haiti was experiencing a unique situation in which the Government and its partners were having to support farmers and develop a programme for a particularly fragile country. The Governing Council should consider the extent to which it was prepared to adapt existing procedures to the needs of particularly fragile countries. Haiti expressed heartfelt gratitude to the international community, and particularly the Rome-based agencies, which were those most involved in supporting the development of its agriculture and food security.
242. **A delegate from HONDURAS** said that IFAD's accumulated wealth of experience would be helpful in analysing the support required to address the climate uncertainty affecting all countries. IFAD programmes had achieved excellent results in terms of production and productivity, but a particularly important aspect

requiring further consideration was the price received by farmers, as the market supported the projects that were implemented and helped to improve the local economy.

243. The beneficiaries of projects should be involved from the outset in project design to help them understand the support being provided to improve their livelihoods. Young people were open to technological advances and the type of agriculture that they practised differed from traditional agricultural techniques and helped the sector move forward. It was therefore important to invest more in technology, enhance efficiency and improve the flexibility of funding so that it reached the intended beneficiaries. In conclusion, he highlighted his country's Dry Corridor Alliance project as a good example of different initiatives working together to strengthen synergy and increase the country's efficient use of its resources.
244. **A delegate from LEBANON**, thanking IFAD for its ongoing support to his country in its economic crisis and for its assistance to smallholder farmers, said that Lebanon was currently hosting huge numbers of Syrian and Palestinian refugees, which placed further burdens on its economy. A new emergency plan was being developed for the country's farmers and the hope was that IFAD would provide support in helping to keep farmers on their land so as to feed the country and create more rural job opportunities. A food security strategy was also being developed and would seek to attract more people to agriculture, particularly in more remote areas otherwise liable to abandonment. Lebanon was currently heavily reliant on food imports and looked to IFAD for support in its efforts to improve national production. Support for the country's farmers in Lebanon was an important means of improving the performance of the national economy.
245. **A delegate from INDONESIA** said that substantial levels of financing were needed to achieve the SDGs and develop sustainable infrastructure and knowledge worldwide. Key economic systems to be addressed included food and land use systems, and water and industrial management. In that regard, the challenge was to provide incentives for financial service institutions to expand their sustainable products portfolio, encourage innovative financing and increase competency, information sharing and access to global public financing. Innovative forms of financing that could accelerate progress towards the implementation of the 2030 Agenda included blended financing, which had the potential to deliver some US\$2.5 trillion of the annual investment required to achieve the SDGs.
246. In Indonesia, innovative financing was still heavily focused on large infrastructure projects through public-private partnerships. One example was a blended finance platform established to facilitate the involvement of philanthropists, donors, climate funds, green investors, multilateral development banks and international agencies, in addition to commercial banks, funds and institutional investors. The priority sectors were health, education, renewable energy and urban infrastructure. Other strategies and schemes were needed to ensure that development reached disadvantaged people living below the subsistence level in remote areas. The Government was actively facilitating blended finance projects and playing an important role in issuing Islamic bonds, including one known as the sovereign Green Sukuk. Individual country initiatives notwithstanding, however, further global effort and collaboration were required to ensure the widespread adoption of sustainable and innovative financing as a catalyst for the achievement of the SDGs.
247. **A delegate from the NETHERLANDS** said that IFAD started where the World Bank stopped. IFAD should continue to focus on the most rural areas where other IFIs did not see a business case. The difficulty was, however, that many of the countries concerned were heavily indebted and the last thing that IFAD should do was to increase the debt burden of such countries, which would only exacerbate their problems. A possible solution was to make a clearer distinction between client countries that were very poor and heavily indebted, and those in a position to repay

at least part of the financing. The former should only receive funding financed from the replenishment.

248. As an IFI, IFAD should, at least in part, be able to handle its own business, which implied providing loans in order to generate income. To survive over time, IFAD must operate in a manner similar to other IFIs, with different windows for different types of financing for different groups of countries. Donor grants could be provided to highly indebted poor countries and loans allocated for less indebted countries, financed to the extent possible from sovereign loans and, perhaps in future, market loans. With regard to new products enabling IFAD to better support its borrowers, it would be interesting to hear the views of borrowing countries concerning the type of support modalities that would serve them more effectively.
249. **A delegate from SWITZERLAND** said that IFAD had made commendable efforts to transform its financial architecture by introducing new policies and instruments to enhance financial sustainability, including as a key element the DSF and, notably, its reform. Options such as a lower concessionality of DSF grants were important but might not be sufficient to guarantee the Fund's long-term financial sustainability. As development assistance budgets were not rising in developed countries to the expected level, other ways of increasing funding must be explored. The progress achieved in the IFAD Private Sector Engagement Strategy was therefore welcome.
250. Given the challenges and limits relating to expansion of the programme of loans and grants, the mobilization of co-financed resources would be decisive for achieving the SDGs by 2030 and for significantly increasing IFAD's impact. The establishment of the externally-managed Agribusiness Capital (ABC) Fund was an innovative first step that would allow impact investment in the underserved niche between smallholder farmers and local markets. The niche included small local enterprises that transformed agricultural raw materials and provided farmers with access to markets but that were too big for micro-credits and much too small for the traditional banking system. The ABC Fund was a high-risk undertaking structured on three levels, with C shares as a first loss guarantee; B shares, which were mainly for philanthropic organizations; and A shares for traditional financial markets. Switzerland was among the first few contributors to the ABC Fund's first loss guarantee.
251. At the recent World Economic Forum, many actors in the mainstream financial markets had expressed great interest in investing in instruments that would make a difference, provided that there was de-risking. Suitable products were lacking, however, and the hope therefore was that other products with objectives similar to the ABC Fund would emerge to enable those actors to translate their words into action.
252. **A delegate from RWANDA** said that the private sector window opened by IFAD was a good initiative but that it should operate in conjunction with public sector funding to cover the whole of the food system value chain. Local private sectors needed strengthening through capacity-building aimed at turning actors in those sectors into key players. To that end, IFAD would need to develop instruments to facilitate lending and also mobilize additional private sector resources. While acknowledging the importance of results-based programming, IFAD should look into ways of entering into partnership with other local or international initiatives that supported agricultural development and seek harmonization to reduce transaction and operating costs.
253. **A delegate from PERU** said that IFAD was a strategic partner in the efforts for attainment of the SDGs through improved productivity and incomes, especially in rural areas. Bringing an end to poverty and hunger was a huge global challenge requiring structural and organizational transformation. The challenge was principally in rural areas, with the poorest of the poor most vulnerable to climate change

effects, financial instability, food insecurity, malnutrition, inequality, migration and unemployment – problems that also affected middle-income countries. In order to provide special support for countries with the greatest needs, Peru welcomed the DSF reform, and the amendments to the Policies and Criteria for IFAD financing to allow for loans on highly-concessional terms. With the firm support of Member States, IFAD's experience and capacity would guarantee the success and sustainability of its operational model.

254. **A delegate from ETHIOPIA** said that IFAD had worked hard to eradicate poverty and malnutrition in his country through numerous projects that had improved food security and transformed the lives of rural inhabitants, raising their incomes and increasing their contribution to national economic development. Over the past two decades, the poverty rate had more than halved, with less than one quarter of the population currently living below the poverty line. Although large sums had been devoted to development financing over many years, its effectiveness and sustainability were now in question. The effectiveness or failure of such financing would have a direct impact on the sustainability of IFAD's action.
255. In parallel with resource mobilization, it was time to reassess the real reasons for the current high levels of poverty and hunger, which would only be countered through the commitment of governments and policy-makers to reversing the trend. The impact of climate change had been a major factor in slowing down the progress made in Africa towards the achievement of the SDGs, especially with respect to SDG 1 (No poverty) and SDG 2 (Zero hunger). All international stakeholders, including both State and non-State actors, must therefore join in building resilience to adverse weather events. The commitment of donors, governments and policy-makers and the implementation of mechanisms for following up the allocation of resources would play a substantial role in ensuring that IFAD's action was sustainable.
256. **A delegate from ARGENTINA** said that the growth in social inequality in Latin America, as reflected in the alarming statistics for the region, constituted a major challenge. The global economy was showing high levels of fragility, especially in relation to developing countries. The resulting variations in commodity prices, under the influence of active policies, could offer opportunities for rapid development in certain sectors but could also cause high levels of social and economic disruption. IFAD would need to show even greater commitment to the regions most affected, particularly in its areas of expertise, namely family farming and smallholder farmers. The steps taken by IFAD to obtain a formal credit rating would be helpful in obtaining the increased resources required to achieve the SDGs, especially SDG 1 and SDG 2. Middle- and upper middle-income countries also played a role in IFAD's financial stability by paying an ordinary rate for loans granted. Those countries would benefit from the transfer of technology and the implementation of pilot projects that could be replicated elsewhere.
257. **A delegate from SUDAN** said that his country was especially grateful for the continuing technical and financial support provided to it by IFAD, which had been its main partner for many decades. Following its transitional period, Sudan had faced a multitude of challenges, above all indebtedness. It had, however, been deprived of assistance from regional and international organizations owing to its vulnerability to terrorism, which constituted another main challenge. The SDGs were the benchmark for guaranteeing dignity and progress for peoples throughout the world, including in Sudan. Although Sudan had land, human resources and water, it was experiencing a shortage of food resources and therefore needed development assistance and food aid, which had been discontinued. It was particularly vital to increase the production capacity of farmers, who accounted for over three quarters of the country's workers.

258. Sudan was undergoing a significant agricultural revolution but was unable to provide sufficient resources to the agricultural sector. Aid from international and regional agencies would therefore help to improve opportunities for rural communities, rural women, producers, youth and other stakeholders involved in the production process. It was also vital to improve coordination at the national level, as agricultural products obtained only very low prices generating little income. To overcome conflict, justice must be guaranteed and capacities built country-wide, including in conflict-affected areas. Financing mechanisms must also be developed for the agricultural sector to create opportunities and increase income generation for those in the sector.
259. **A delegate from LESOTHO** thanked IFAD for the assistance provided to his country and in particular to smallholder farmers through wool and mohair production projects and smallholder agricultural development projects. The fact that Lesotho was now the world's third biggest wool producer demonstrated the effectiveness of IFAD's intervention. He welcomed the approval of his country's new COSOP, which provided guidance on the best way of channelling resources, particularly to women and youth. He also expressed support for the mechanisms proposed by IFAD to increase its resources with a view to supporting low-income countries such as Lesotho.
260. **A delegate from MEXICO**, emphasizing the importance of the DSF in view of the high financial risks involved in IFAD loans, said that the recent adjustment of the DSF policy had brought the situation under more control. The support provided by IFAD in the form of grants, however, was an appropriate means of addressing the needs of countries with high debt levels, although the allocation must be sustainable if IFAD were not to become simply a grant-giving institution. IFAD must essentially obtain a credit rating in order to have access to resources from sovereign entities and even from the market. The resources obtained in that way would need to be used sustainably by allocating them to countries that paid for loans at ordinary rates.
261. Concerning new options to be explored, IFAD might wish to consider the provision of loans in local currency, as well as in dollars, euros and special drawing rights. Lastly, the cost of IFAD's loans should be no higher than that of other institutions operating in the same field. IFAD would then continue to be attractive, especially in certain areas and small countries where it was not well known.
262. **A delegate from FRANCE** said that the DSF reform had taken the right direction for guaranteeing the viability of IFAD's financing. Respect for International Monetary Fund and World Bank criteria needed to be fully integrated into the operations of IFAD, which should provide grants alone, not loans, to heavily indebted countries. IFAD should follow the example of such others as the African Development Fund by exploring options for assisting countries at risk of extremely high levels of indebtedness, taking into account their fragility. Pricing should also be differentiated on the basis of a country's revenue levels and be reviewed accordingly as part of the replenishment exercise. Furthermore, IFAD must continue to prioritize the poorest of the poor in its operations. IFAD should also be open to other forms of financing and new contributors, however, and additionally mobilize co-financing partners, especially in the private sector. The initiative of obtaining a credit rating for IFAD could reinforce its credibility and attract more partners, although caution should be exercised in seeking recourse to funding from the financial markets.
263. **Mr LARIO** (Associate Vice-President, Chief Financial Officer and Chief Controller, Financial Operations Department), concluding the conversation, welcomed the comments made and thanked those that had already committed to participating in IFAD12. He said that IFAD was a development finance institution (DFI), with the emphasis on development and that its mission was defined accordingly. The

conversation had included a collective plea to address hunger and poverty in rural areas, in which respect it was essential to recall the multidimensional angle of poverty, which was increasingly linked to climate change. In recognition of the increase in food insecurity affecting vulnerable communities, the focus should be on resilience.

264. It was particularly satisfying to hear countries praise IFAD for its presence throughout their ups and downs, conflicts and difficulties. The clear recognition of IFAD as a DFI clearly paved the way for a more sophisticated discussion of its instruments and the means through which it could and should support the poorest of the poor. The topics raised in that regard included: the sustainability of the mix of grants and loans; the existence of a global IFAD and how it should be allocating both grants and resources: concessionality, which had not been discussed in the past; blended finance; de-risking; the pricing of ordinary loans; the mobilization of finance at scale and co-financing; and the need for improved coordination among financing institutions. Coverage of those themes marked a substantive change in discussion within IFAD.
265. The guidance provided by some Members had also underscored the need to review the operational products already in place before launching new financial instruments and also ensure that IFAD did not add to the burden of public debt. IFAD Management would continue to be bold and creative in seeking to create opportunities for its beneficiaries and improve their livelihoods.
266. **The CHAIRPERSON**, summing up the key take-away messages from the conversation, said that the current global economic context, including climate change, was characterized by rising debt and the vulnerability of IFAD's borrowers, leading to limited fiscal spending in many countries. Multilateral efforts were of paramount importance for the achievement of the SDGs and for addressing global challenges through the mobilization of resources, which must be efficiently and effectively used. Sustainable development could be achieved only through a coordinated approach based on integrated national programmes and policies with strong ownership and solidarity, increased domestic financing and improved access to fair markets.
267. Specific pockets of fragility should be targeted to build resilience and help to ensure that farmers could continue to farm their lands in dignity. External debt transparency and the use of digitalization and technology should be increased. Stronger debt management was a primary factor in preventing vulnerable countries from taking on further unsustainable debt. IFAD's expertise was key to leaving no one behind while also remaining a financially sustainable institution. It should leverage its resources to offer more financing in the form of grants to heavily indebted countries and loans to countries that were increasingly able to make use of concessional resources. It should also promote innovative and emerging instruments, such as the ABC Fund and Islamic products, and partnerships with new institutions, including the private sector and foundations, to mobilize more resources. It should apply differentiated financing conditions and pricing, and make use of blended finance and concessionary loans to provide effective support for countries. IFAD was a leading actor in the achievement of the goals of development financing and its Members should make every effort to replenish its resources so that it could realize its global goals.

INTERACTIVE SESSION 1 – RURAL DEVELOPMENT AS A MEANS OF ADDRESSING CONFLICT, PROMOTING PEACE AND BUILDING SMALLHOLDERS' RESILIENCE TO CLIMATE SHOCKS

268. **The CHAIRPERSON** introduced the moderator for the interactive session, Mr Donal Brown, Associate Vice-President, Programme Management Department. The panellists were:

- His Excellency Alexander Teabo, Minister for Environment, Lands and Agricultural Development of the Republic of Kiribati
- His Excellency Said Hussein Iid, Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation of the Federal Republic of Somalia
- His Excellency Eisa Osman Sharief Basha, Minister for Agriculture and Natural Resources of the Republic of the Sudan
- Ms Mariam Wafa, Senior Advisor to the Minister of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan

269. The discussion can be viewed through this [link](#).

STATEMENT BY HER EXCELLENCY JOSEFA SACKO, AMBASSADOR AND COMMISSIONER FOR RURAL ECONOMY AND AGRICULTURE, ON BEHALF OF THE AFRICAN UNION COMMISSION

270. **HER EXCELLENCY SACKO** (Ambassador and Commissioner for Rural Economy and Agriculture, African Union Commission), speaking on the nexus between development finance, peace and security, said that the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development explicitly linked sustainable development with peace and called for a transformative approach on conflict prevention, mitigation, resolution and recovery. In the same vein, the African Union theme for 2020, "Silencing the guns: Creating conducive conditions for Africa's development", which was a flagship project of Agenda 2063, stemmed from the recognition that the growing number of protracted conflicts convulsing the continent drained it of economic and human resources. There could be no development without lasting peace, and no end to poverty and hunger unless steps were taken to address conflicts and violence, which choked agricultural production, prevented trade, stopped millions of people from lifting themselves out of poverty, drove displacement and migration, and resulted in further destabilization.

271. The gains made over the previous four years in Africa towards implementing the Malabo Declaration on Accelerated Agricultural Growth and Transformation for Shared Prosperity and Improved Livelihoods and achieving SDG 2 were being reversed, with conflict, in some cases compounded by climate change and economic slowdown, as the principal culprit. In that context, investment in adaptation and resilience was critical. Instability caused rural farmers to flee to urban areas, increasing the demand for food and driving up commodity prices.

272. When assessing how conflict affected food security and nutrition, it was also important to take into account the gender dimension. Men and boys were more likely to be recruited into military groups, leaving it to women and girls to sustain the household. The modernization of rural women's working conditions and support for women in agribusiness were guaranteed to empower the continent's women for transformation.

273. With so many crises calling for attention, it was vital to remember how they were all connected. Development finance was unquestionably critical in that respect. If governments allocated adequate resources to agricultural transformation, especially youth-sensitive initiatives, unemployment would drop drastically and the merchants of conflict would find it difficult to recruit young people. Investment in agricultural

development and rural development was an effective way to silence the guns and instil lasting peace in Africa. In areas affected by conflicts and violence, it could catalyse change and foster peace and stability by addressing poverty and hunger, building strong institutions and creating jobs and economic opportunities.

274. IFAD's vision – namely, targeting investment to promote agricultural modernization and transformation, enabling agricultural development for sustainable development and enhancing agricultural productivity by linking agricultural producers to processing and markets, thus creating opportunities for young people along all value chains – was fully aligned with that of the African Union. By some estimates, food systems could absorb almost three quarters of new entrants into the African labour market over the coming two decades and thereby lift millions out of poverty. The African Union valued IFAD's long-standing commitment to invest at least one half of its resources in Africa and its focus on agricultural modernization, women's empowerment, job creation for young people, resilience to climate change and improved nutrition.
275. IFAD's investments at the country and subregional level were crucial to ensuring that African countries were able to meet their commitments under the Malabo Declaration. IFAD was also a key partner in the continent's efforts to fulfil Agenda 2063 and achieve the SDGs. The importance of that partnership for African countries was clearly demonstrated by the number making voluntary contributions to IFAD's replenishments – more than 30 during IFAD11 – at a time of severe budget restrictions at home. She called on all Member States to support IFAD during the current replenishment cycle and contribute to its work in support of Agenda 2063 and the SDGs.
276. **The meeting was adjourned at 1.22 p.m.**

(iv) Summary record of the fourth meeting of the forty-third session held on 12 February 2020 at 2.30 p.m.

Chairperson: Mr Suminto (Indonesia)

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277. **The meeting was called to order at 2.30 p.m.**

INTERACTIVE SESSION 2 – CREATING JOBS FOR RURAL YOUTH: OPPORTUNITIES IN AGRIBUSINESS

278. **Mr JIMÉNEZ-McINNIS** (Secretary of IFAD) introduced the two moderators for the interactive session, Ms Sherrie Silver, IFAD Advocate for Rural Youth, and Mr Eazi, African singer-musician, who in turn introduced the keynote speaker for the session, Dr Ibrahim Mayaki, Chief Executive Officer of the New Partnership for Africa's Development. The panellists were:

- Ms Zeinorin Angkang, owner of the Hill Wild Enterprise (India)
- Mr Elly Matende, co-owner of the Matende Holstein Farm (Kenya)
- Ms Mirna Ortiz, Financial Manager of the Association of Young Producers of Monte Plata Pineapple (Dominican Republic)

279. The discussion can be viewed through [this link](#).

INTERACTIVE SESSION 3 – DISABILITY, FOOD SECURITY AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT: HOW CAN INNOVATION AND TECHNOLOGY HELP?

280. **Mr JIMÉNEZ-McINNIS** (Secretary of IFAD) introduced the moderator for the interactive session, Ms Sophie Morgan, disability activist, who in turn introduced the keynote speaker for the session, Ms Yetnebersh Nigussie, advocate of rights of persons with disabilities. The panellists were:

- Ms Satu Santala, Director-General, Department for Development Policy, Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland
- Mr Ambrose Murangira, Disability Inclusion Advisor, Light for the World
- Mr Virak Kheng, Agrilab Project (Cambodia)

The session also included a musical performance by Signmark and Mr Adam Tensta.

281. The discussion can be viewed through [this link](#).

ESTABLISHMENT OF THE EMOLUMENTS COMMITTEE (agenda item 10) (GC 43/L.7)

282. **The CHAIRPERSON** said that the appointment of the President would be on the agenda of the next session of the Governing Council in February 2021, by which time the overall emoluments and conditions of employment of the President would need to be set. In that connection, he drew attention to a draft resolution, set out in document GC 43/L.7, on the re-establishment of a committee to review the emoluments of the President, which would present its findings to the Governing Council at its forty-fourth session.

283. **Mr JIMÉNEZ-McINNIS** (Secretary of IFAD) said that, after consultation within each List, the Member States proposed as members of the Emoluments Committee were: for List A, Cyprus, Germany, Ireland and the Netherlands; for List B, Saudi Arabia and the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela; for sub-List C1, Angola; for sub-List C2, India; and for sub-List C3, Brazil.

284. **The Governing Council adopted resolution 214/XLIII on the re-establishment of a committee to review the emoluments of the President.**

PROPOSAL FOR AN AUTOMATED VOTING SYSTEM AT IFAD (agenda item 11) (GC 43/L.8)

285. **Mr JIMÉNEZ-McINNIS** (Secretary of IFAD), presenting the update contained in document GC 43/L.8 on a proposal for an automated voting system at IFAD, said that, in December 2019, the Executive Board had recommended that the

Governing Council adopt the draft resolution, annexed to the document, on that proposal. In pursuit of the agreed aim of identifying a system meeting the high-level requirement of secrecy, integrity and the security of votes cast, a formal negotiating process had since been initiated, with a promising response from the market.

286. The procedure allowed the Procurement Section and the Secretariat to undertake a dialogue on requirements with multiple vendors simultaneously while respecting the principles of competition, fairness, transparency and integrity of the selection process.
287. **The Governing Council adopted resolution 215/XLIII on a proposal for an automated voting system at IFAD.**

CONCLUDING REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT OF IFAD

288. **Mr HOUNGBO** (President of IFAD) delivered his concluding remarks, the full text of which is reproduced in chapter 4.

CLOSURE OF THE SESSION

289. **The CHAIRPERSON** made a closing statement, the full text of which is reproduced in chapter 4.
290. **He declared closed the forty-third session of the Governing Council.**
291. **The meeting rose at 6 p.m.**

Chapter 4 Statements and special addresses



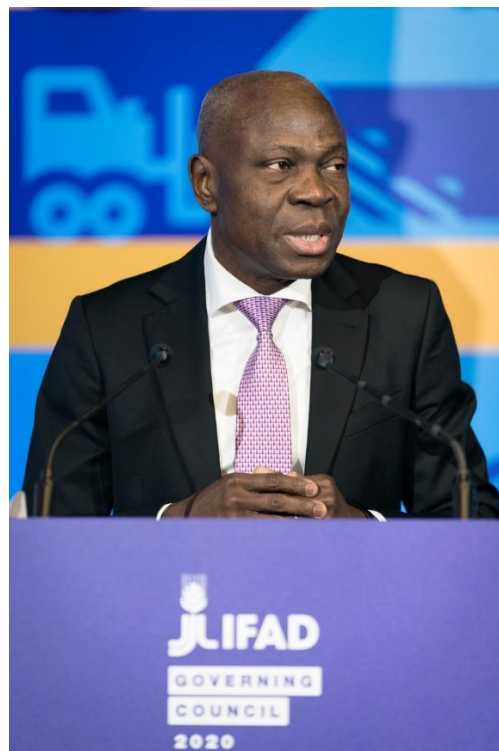
His Excellency Ibrahim Boubacar Keïta
President of the Republic of Mali



His Excellency Japhet Hasunga, Minister for Agriculture, attending the inaugural ceremony on behalf of H.E. Dr John Pombe Magufuli, President of the United Republic of Tanzania



His Excellency Roberto Gualtieri
Minister for Economy and Finance of the Italian Republic



Mr Gilbert Houngbo
President of IFAD



Mr Suminto
Chairperson of the Governing Council
Governor for the Republic of Indonesia



Her Excellency Clémentine Ananga Messina
Vice Chairperson of the Governing Council
Governor for the Republic of Cameroon



Her Excellency Marie-Therese Sarch
Vice Chairperson of the Governing
Council
Governor for the United Kingdom



His Excellency Hans Hoogeveen
Outgoing Chairperson of the Governing
Council, Governor for the Kingdom of the
Netherlands



Mr QU Dongyu
Director-General of the Food and
Agriculture Organization of the United
Nations



Mr Amir Abdulla
Deputy Executive Director attending
the inaugural ceremony on behalf of
Mr David Beasley, Executive
Director of the World Food
Programme



Synthesis of deliberations of the Farmers' Forum, delivered by Ms Elizabeth Nsimandala,
President the Pan Africa Farmers' Organization and the Eastern Africa Farmers' Federation and
by Dr Eugenie Halim, representing World Forum of Fish Harvesters and Fish Workers on behalf
of the delegates of the Farmers' Forum





Her Excellency Josefa Sacko
Ambassador and Commissioner for
Rural Economy and Agriculture, on
behalf of the African Union Commission



Mr Luis Jiménez-McInnis
Secretary of IFAD

Welcoming statement by H.E. Hans Hoogeveen, the outgoing Chairperson of the Governing Council and Governor for the Kingdom of the Netherlands

It is my great pleasure to welcome you here at the forty-third session of the Governing Council of the International Fund for Agricultural Development. It is not only great that we have a quorum, but it is great that we have so many people in the room – governors, ministers and in a moment also, the President of Mali. This session also marks the participation of Poland as the newest Member State of IFAD. I would like to extend my sincere warm welcome to the Polish delegation.

This session is taking place at a time where we have unprecedented wealth on earth, but only in parts of the world. We also have unprecedented poverty in other parts of the world. If we do not act, we will have one billion people living in hunger again next year. This year we entered the decade of action for the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, but we all know that we are lagging far behind and we are not going to achieve the SDGs if we keep working at the same pace as we are doing now. And let us remind ourselves that till now we have not found adequate responses to hunger and conflict, and to hunger and climate change. And what about crises in many countries in Africa due to desert locusts? Where are we standing?

Distinguished governors, ladies and gentlemen,

We need transformative change. We need innovative actions. We need urgent investments not only from governments but also certainly from the private sector and other stakeholders. We need to find triggers for change but moreover we need action on the ground. We need ownership on the ground, ownerships by communities, ownerships by governments. But there is a message of hope. We know that we have the technology. We know that we have the innovations available. And we also know that we have the funding. And we have the private sector, civil society and other stakeholders which are standing ready to support us and to co-invest.

Next year we will have again a World Food System Summit. And of course when you prepare for a summit people are going to say let us have a global fund. But we do not need a global fund because we have IFAD. We only need to provide IFAD with the necessary funding and resources to make that action happen. We have to focus on how to unlock this potential and bring it to the small-scale producers and other producers as well as other actors in the value chain on the ground. But we all know that every solution will start with the farmers and especially the youth.

Yesterday we had the Farmers' Forum and it is great that we have the farmers here in the room. And an excellent proposal was made by the East African Farmers Federation to me to create a virtual training for young farmers and young people working in the value chain. This and others are the proposals we need, and we need to fund. With this kind of proposal we can make investing in sustainable food systems to end hunger by 2030 a reality.

This session will see the consideration of a number of very important items for the future of our Fund not least of which is the establishment of the Consultation on the Twelfth Replenishment of IFAD's resources. This marks a critical juncture for IFAD and for all our collective aim of achieving the sustainable development goals. We all know that IFAD has a key role to play and stands ready to step up, to mark and redouble its efforts to empower rural people transforming economies, addressing climate change, but certainly also to support the youth. But we all know it is up to us governors to empower IFAD to advocate with our governments to raise awareness of the important work of IFAD and its undertaking. Let us too step up for IFAD, for rural people, for the SDGs and for the youth. This is what is at stake the next coming two days.

Welcoming statement by Mr Suminto, Chairperson of the forty-third session of the Governing Council of IFAD

It is an honour and privilege to take up the role of Chairperson of the Governing Council and I thank all those who have made this possible. Allow me also to congratulate my colleagues on the Bureau, the Governors for Cameroon and for the United Kingdom. I look forward to working together with them and conducting this session of the Council.

I would like to thank the outgoing Bureau members for their excellent work. I would also like to extend my personal gratitude to President Houngbo and to his staff for organizing this session and for providing us the opportunity to focus on the theme of investing in sustainable food systems to end hunger by 2030. Allow me to reiterate the very important note made by our outgoing Chairperson regarding the key issues for consideration at this session, among which will be the establishment of the consultation on the Twelfth Replenishment of IFAD resources.

This is the time for us to push for the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, and specifically, ending hunger. The theme of this session is a timely reminder that it is our responsibility to invest in sustainable food systems. Let us therefore make a firm commitment to invest in this noble goal to rid our world of hunger.

Welcoming statement by Mr Gilbert Houngbo, President of IFAD

Chairperson of the session Mr Suminto from Indonesia, on behalf of the Member States of IFAD it is an honour for me to greet all of you and welcome you to this forty-third Governing Council.

Excellency, Mr Ibrahim Boubacar Keita, President of the Republic of Mali, your presence among us today is a strong signal, a signal for the value of solidarity. This is a value that we all uphold here.

The resilience of Mali's people – we all know how resilient these people are – and this resilience reminds us every day of our essential mission that we must continue to provide the conditions that allow people to prosper for the current generations and of course future generations. I am thinking of the vitality of our youth, the youth in Mali, who I have seen at work. I am thinking of women the most vulnerable rural people in Mali. The presence of IFAD teams, governments and partners on the ground bears witness to a deeply felt belief, our determination, a collective determination to meet the challenges of our times for and with the people bearing in mind the diversity and wealth of our cultures and in full respect of nations' sovereignty. Thank you for having honoured us with your presence Excellency.

The message that the Honourable Ngailonga Hasunga, Minister of Agriculture of the United Republic of Tanzania has brought us from his Excellency John Pombe Joseph Magufuli, the President of the United Republic of Tanzania, is a great honour in this critical and important moment. I would even say that this is a decisive time for our organization. The structural transformation of rural economies is a source of opportunities in which we believe, we truly believe, and the partnership between IFAD and the United Republic of Tanzania will always speak eloquently to this. Mr Minister thank you for being here with us.

I would like to conclude by voicing the honour that we feel in hosting the Minister for Economy and Finance of Italy, the host country, Mr Roberto Gualtieri, who is here among us, among our partners I would say. Please allow me to specifically highlight the integrated model of Italian cooperatives, which are and have always been a source of inspiration for us, the three Rome-based agencies. They are a source of inspiration not only for our mandate as a whole but more specifically for smallholder rural farms. This is why Italy's support to the future of IFAD is so valuable to us. Mr Minister thank you very much for having accepted our invitation.

Statement by Mr QU Dongyu, Director-General of FAO

His Excellency Ibrahim Boubacar Keita, President of the Republic of Mali,
Honourable Ministers,
Excellencies,
Ladies, gentlemen,

It is my pleasure to welcome you all to FAO headquarters. Holding the IFAD Governing Council here at FAO premises is a clear indicator of how the Rome-based agencies work together every day and support each other. I am honoured to welcome you here today. I have found out that the delegations are mainly headed by the Ministers of Agriculture; 30 out of 54 related important key players as well are present today here.

Since last August, FAO is undergoing fundamental changes that are necessary to increase staff morale, transparency, openness, efficiency and inclusiveness. A number of measures were taken that focus on improving FAO governance, modernizing our method of work, ensuring that we are ready to meet the expectations of our members and partners. Foremost is SDG 2, end hunger, achieve food security, produce more and better, and stressing sustainable agriculture, along with SDG 1 for livelihood improvement. At the same time, we need to pay due attention to economic growth and employment, especially for women and youth in the rural areas.

The challenges in front of us are complex and a holistic result-orientated approach is urgently needed. That is why we have launched the Hand in Hand Initiative. The initiative identifies the best opportunities to raise the incomes of rural poor through agricultural transformation by facilitating matchmaking between donors and the receiving countries in the most vulnerable regions. The initiative prioritizes assistance to countries in special situations, LLDCs, LDCs and SIDS and countries in food crises.

The success of the initiative hinges on innovation and investment to fast-track agro-food transformation and sustainable rural development, especially in countries where national capacities and international support are limited or where the population is vulnerable to natural disaster or conflict. Making more and better investments in agriculture is therefore one of the most effective ways to reduce hunger and poverty while safeguarding the environment. This is where the FAO Investment Centre comes into action. The Investment Centre supports the members implement and evaluate investment programmes, undertakes sector analyses and value chain studies and advises governments on policy and legislation.

The Centre works mainly in three-way partnerships with member countries, international financing institutions and the regional development banks. It also partners with other national and international organizations, lending institutions, the private sectors and producer organizations. A team of 120 staff at headquarters and in the field- supported by an active roster of more than 400 consultants- carries out roughly 800 support missions per year.

Since its establishment in 1964 with the World Bank, the FAO Investment Centre has designed and implemented 2,250 investment operations across 170 countries valued at more than US\$ 140 billion. Last year, the Centre supported the design of a portfolio of US\$ 5.6 billion in 26 countries and supported the implementation of around 70 projects worldwide. Collaboration with IFAD is substantial: On average, we are involved with approximately 40 per cent of IFAD investment projects. Last year, FAO supported the design of seven IFAD projects for a total value US\$1.25 billion. Five of these projects are in Sub-Saharan Africa.

I am very pleased to see the heightened interest of member countries in the work of the Investment Centre as recently expressed by the EU and China, besides the World Bank and traditional partners. And we were happy to see the World Bank's senior management recent positive review of the FAO-World Bank Cooperative Programme and

its renewal of the commitment to our cooperation of more than 55 years as we highlight strengthening capacity together.

I hope that I have raised the interest of some of you in the work of the FAO Investment Centre. Our dynamic team is available to meet and present to you their activities in more details.

Excellencies,

Achieving the SDGs is a team effort!. We need to mobilize all the key players and jointly provide innovative and sustainable solutions. We need to engage member countries, the private sectors, civil society, academia, smallholder farmers, women and youth to be successful.

You can count on FAO to be the active partner going along with you in the 2030 Agenda. Let us work together, learn together, contribute together, making this world more beautiful, more healthy.

I wish you have a successful meeting and a good time in Rome.

Statement by H.E. Ibrahim Boubacar Keïta, President of the Republic of Mali

At the outset I would like to say that I am truly honoured to be here among you this morning. I know how much you contribute to our country and I know just how crucial your missions are in achieving development in our countries. Now, all the people of Mali are honoured to have received your invitation and I convey their warm greetings. They commend you for your constant and consistent support, the support provided by IFAD to my country for the last 39 years. They also applaud the impact and constant improvements that your interventions have brought to our youth, our women, to agricultural assets, our farmers, our livestock breeders and fishers.

If I am here taking part in this forty-third session of the Governing Council of IFAD, it is above all to bear witness to the high quality partnership that exists between Mali and your organization, our organization, our shared organization. We have come such a long way since the Village Development Fund in Segou, the first project funded by IFAD in Mali. There was such enthusiasm, such commitment. There are now 14 projects that IFAD has funded in Mali for a total of over US\$285 million in the areas of subsistence agriculture, agroforestry, livestock, fisheries, hydraulics, water management, health linked to nutrition education, improving access to landlocked areas, machinery, rural and agricultural machinery, agricultural funding and the fight against poverty. IFAD has contributed to all of these areas, and these efforts – as evidenced by the impact evaluations conducted – have strengthened resilience in our rural societies.

More specifically, IFAD's actions have reduced the social and economic vulnerability of over 3.6 million rural people members of 576,000 households living in areas that are recognized as pockets of poverty and structural instability. It is in order to welcome this fertile partnership that I would like to express our deep gratitude to IFAD. We hope that the Inclusive Finance in Agriculture Value Chains Project, now under way, and the Multi-energy for Resilience and Territorial Development Project, which is in the pipeline, will consolidate the success achieved so far. You will be pleased to know that Mali's agricultural sector is slowly but with determination entering a virtuous cycle although constant efforts still need to be made so that the wealth that has been generated can trickle down to and have an impact on mass poverty.

Our country has made great leaps in the domain of agricultural production with over 10 million tonnes of grains and a record performance in the cotton sector. We have seen unprecedented production levels. We owe this, in addition to structural subsidies, to the voluntary measure we have taken to allocate 15 per cent of our national budget to the agriculture sector. You may remember that it was decided in Maputo that all African governments should, going forward, allocate at least 10 per cent of the national budget to the agriculture sector. We have raised the bar in Mali and allocated 15 per cent, and the results have been outstanding. We are not seeking glory here. The lion's share of the credit here goes to Mali's producers, tireless workers whose productivity has enabled Mali to continue to lead the West African Monetary Union in terms of economic performance. We have excellent convergence criteria.

My country, as you know, is not operating at full throttle. The results it has achieved have come about despite dire conditions, at times tragic conditions where farmers and breeders have had to abandon their fields and pastures to hordes of criminals who stop at nothing to terrorize, martyrize and shed blood in the name of Islam. And this is a country from which Islam starting in Timbuktu has spread across the world. This is a sign of darkness where death is no longer the result of a battle but where death is the goal. Is this a time of monsters? I refuse to believe that this is now the human condition.

Mali will never give up; nor will the other countries in the Sahel. We may be bleeding, but we shall prevail. And we still need IFAD to help us reach critical mass, that added value that will allow our farmers, like their brothers and sisters elsewhere – German farmers, or Italian farmers – to attain living conditions in line with the times, with the twenty-first century. We have no doubt that you will stand by us. We hold you in the

highest esteem and this is why we have accepted your invitation – to tell you that what IFAD has done in our country is of the highest quality and has enabled people faced with the worst kind of attacks to, despite it all, uphold our values and keep their dignity. So, thank you very much.

Statement by H.E. Japhet Hasunga, Minister for Agriculture, on behalf of H.E. Dr John Pombe Magufuli, President of the United Republic of Tanzania

It is my privilege and an honour for me to deliver a statement at this forty-third dignified session of IFAD's Governing Council. On behalf of the Government of the United Republic of Tanzania and His Excellency, Dr John Pombe Joseph Magufuli, the President of the United Republic of Tanzania, it is indeed an opportunity for different countries attending here today to intensively and extensively deliberate on the strategies which have been put in place to end hunger by 2030 and effectively implement the Sustainable Development Goals. I also wish to express our heartfelt gratitude for the excellent arrangement and the warm welcome to this forty-third Governing Council meeting.

IFAD has been a great partner in developing and financing programmes and projects that are aiming for fighting poverty in rural areas and ending hunger in general terms. It has been forefront in transforming agricultural activities in many developing countries including Tanzania. I therefore would like to extend our gratitude to IFAD for various projects which have been implemented in my country. The effort accorded towards addressing the challenges of poverty and rural development through pro-poor development strategies and programmes cannot be understated.

The economic growth, averaging 7 per cent on the Tanzania mainland and 6.6 per cent in Zanzibar during the implementation of their respective Five Year Development Plan, that is 2011/12 to 2015/16. However, the agricultural sector has not been growing at the required rate due to a number of challenges that include low productivity, climate change, poor technologies, inadequate market information and infrastructures and poor farming practices. Therefore, a lot needs to be done in the agricultural sector, although Tanzania is one of the strongest economic performers in Sub-Saharan Africa.

The importance and the premise of agriculture in Tanzania cannot be over emphasized. The economy is entirely depending on the agricultural activities and therefore contributing to more than 28.7 per cent of the total GDP, but also it contributes 30 per cent of the export earnings. It employs about 65.5 per cent of the workforce and it contributes 66 per cent of the industrial raw material in the country. But also, it contributes more than 100 per cent of the national food requirements. The success in agricultural activities and income generation to many people cannot leave IFAD behind. Therefore, the Government of the United Republic of Tanzania appreciates its long-standing partnership with IFAD and its commitment to continue contributing to the development of rural and agricultural sector for the benefit of poor smallholder farmers.

Recently, the Government in cooperation with IFAD have reviewed and developed the Country Strategic Opportunities Programme 2016 to 2021 and agreed to work together in transforming the Tanzanian agricultural sector and its sub-sectors like crops, livestock and fisheries. Prior to this, IFAD has supported about 15 agricultural development programmes and their projects in the country since 1979 with approximately US\$ 839.5 million, with US\$ 399.05 million of IFAD financing which has benefitted approximately more than 3.3 million households. Tanzania will continue to cherish IFAD initiatives through the laid down portfolio particularly through the upcoming IFAD 11, which has fisheries, aquaculture and the crop seed development programme support which will contribute to the Agriculture Sector Development Programme Phase 2.

The programme is structured in two components: enhancing production, access and the use of quality seeds and supporting competitive fisheries in the aquaculture value chain, as well as a component for programme coordination and management. The challenges of agriculture continue to threaten the lives of many people, coupled with an increase in food prices, climate change and technological-related aspects. It is envisaged that climate change, agricultural production and access to food in the poor countries like Tanzania, is severely affecting climate variability and episodes of heavy rainfall and drought. It is therefore recommended to have a concerted effort as countries to be able to mitigate these challenges.

Tanzania is one of the countries that have been affected by the dynamics of global food markets. Despite its potential and the capacity to produce much of food crops to feed the neighbouring countries, the grain marketing in the country is not well structured. Lack of market infrastructures for grain marketing allows a larger number of rogue and foreign traders operating to many producing centres especially during the harvest season. As a result, it prevents farmers from getting better prices due to lack of bargaining power, low transparency and inadequate entrepreneurial skills. These situations pose disincentives to the farmers, particularly those in surplus regions, to produce more grain. Furthermore, it endangers national security and it denies the government from getting income. Under such circumstances, it will be difficult for poor countries like Tanzania to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, the SDGs.

In order to address the aforementioned challenges, Tanzania calls for multisectoral and inclusive financing by engaging stakeholders including development partners. This is done through the Agricultural Sector Development Programme Phase 2. IFAD is among the development partners committed to continue supporting the agricultural sector of Tanzania through the ASDP2. The focus is on four components, which include sustainable water and land use management, enhanced agricultural productivity, rural commercialization and value addition and strengthening sector enablers, which addresses all crops, livestock and fisheries along the value chain. The Government of Tanzania appreciates the allocation of resources under IFAD 11, US\$58.8 million. The Government and IFAD will collaborate to finalize the programme design as per the mutual agreed timeline for processing of the Fisheries, Aquaculture, Crop Seeds Development programme, and the final programme design package will be submitted to the Executive Board in September 2020.

The Government of Tanzania will be looking for quick approval of Fisheries, Aquaculture, Crop Seeds Development programme by IFAD in order to attain its objective of eliminating poverty, hunger and malnutrition, but also increase agricultural productivity, income and improve the quality of lives of rural populations. It is our sincere hope that IFAD will not close ties with poor countries to ensure that the investment in sustainable food systems to end hunger by 2030 is well addressed. As always has been the case, IFAD's approach of engaging smallholders in the mitigating process is our motto and we invite IFAD to continue supporting the mitigation initiative not only for Tanzania, but also to other worldwide poor countries. We trust and believe that projects will bring positive impact to our people.

Statement by H.E. Roberto Gualtieri, Minister for Economy and Finance of the Italian Republic

It is a great honour for me to open this session of the forty-third session of the Governing Council of IFAD and to welcome you here on behalf of the Italian government. My presence here bears witness to my country's commitment to support the Rome-based agencies, the agricultural pole of the United Nations that we are proud to host here in Italy. IFAD, along with FAO and World Programme, is dealing with themes that for us are crucial, food security first and foremost and all of its various aspects starting from sustainable agricultural production. And this is an area where on a national scale we do have some excellent examples. I think of the development of our agroindustry in Italy, our policies for the protection of the territory, agricultural production and the enhancement of the value of local production and specificities, the value added in food processing and the quality of food.

The Roman pole of agricultural is a pivot of our multilateral approach to diplomatic relations, an approach that has been under attack from many different sides, which we instead intend to continue to invest in. IFAD is gathered here today, and IFAD is first and foremost a financial institution and among the IFIs it is the institution which has the most specific mandate and the best competence in its area. It works with small enterprises, it addresses the issues of smallholders and promotes sustainable agriculture investing in what is the last mile of the value chain, thereby improving the economic prospects and the food security of people who live in the most difficult of contexts. IFAD's mission, IFAD's competence and ability are truly a valuable asset in international cooperation, an asset that must be acknowledged, recognized and preserved to the highest level possible. It is a great source of skills for international cooperation and it will have to strengthen its cooperation and strategic partnerships with other financial institutions along with its Member States.

International cooperation over the last few years has considered how to ensure that the multilateral development banks can work together as a system so as to maximize outcomes. IFAD has a decided comparative advantage in this global system and we, as representatives of member countries along with the governors who are colleagues, should promote amongst the international finance institutions the role of IFAD as a point of reference for the entire system in those areas which are its mandate. Working with other institutions in a strategic way, IFAD may multiply its impact and the outcomes of its initiatives. Effective international cooperation is necessary and cannot be deferred today especially with a view to climate change and the impact of climate change on agriculture and on food security is widely felt. The heaviest impact will be experienced by those countries where the poorest populations of the world live, there, exactly there, where IFAD has been operating for a long time.

Italy today has a co-share of the COP along with the United Kingdom, and these issues will be at the centre of the agenda. We will also address all these issues during our presidency of the G20 next year. This is a crucial year for IFAD and this afternoon we will officially launch the Twelfth Replenishment process for the Fund. We have many challenges before us, both on the side of the donor countries who are dealing with the issues of balancing their budgets and the recipient countries that are dealing with growing indebtedness in many cases. And it is also the great challenge for IFAD itself, which will have to devise the right formula to ensure that it has the necessary financial solidity so as to be able to continue to carry out its mission meeting the demands that come from its member countries.

We have full trust in President Hounbou and in the ability of his team to make a value proposition that can convince the entire platform of old and new potential donors. I would like to congratulate the President also on the title that has been selected for this session of the Governing Council, Investing in Sustainable Food Systems to End Hunger by 2030. This is an admonishment I would say. It points to the path for each agency and the three Rome-based agencies together and is dealing with what is the most important

issue for all international agencies today, the concept of food systems, and we are working on this with a deep commitment with a view to the Food Systems Summit of 2021. The Foods Systems Summit will be an extraordinary opportunity which we must be ready to seize. Our hope is that IFAD 12 will be very successful thanks to the participation of us all. Italy is here. We stand ready to continue to support this process.

Remarks by Mr Amir Abdulla, Deputy Executive Director on behalf of Mr David Beasley, Executive Director of the World Food Programme

I really would like to start by just saying it is clearly a pleasure for WFP to be standing here to speak. Particularly, I would like to say on behalf of our Executive Director, who sends his regards and his apologies that he could not be in person on this occasion. I know that he has spoken at governing councils before and has always enjoyed the opportunity.

We collectively in this room and beyond this room have a shared responsibility to help people live in dignity so that they can build a future free from hunger and poverty. Yet as we all know the number of chronically hungry people is on the rise. It has risen yet again to over 800 million people and unfortunately still on the rise. That is setting us back a decade. It is setting us back to levels not seen since 2010. And here we are at 2020 and on the path to 2030. So, this is a clear warning that a world without hunger, without malnutrition by 2030 is slipping away. It is slipping through our fingers. And that is why IFAD, FAO and WFP are ever so committed. Committed to ensuring that our agencies work even more closely together, even more efficiently, even more effectively.

The theme of this Governing Council, this IFAD Governing Council, which, as His Excellency Roberto Gualtieri just said, is really fitting. The title 'Investing in Sustainable Food Systems to End Hunger by 2030', could not really be more timely. We are all collectively thinking about and preparing for the 2021 Food Systems Summit. And even more, what happens at that summit but what happens after that summit, has to aim at maximizing the benefits of a food systems approach – an approach across the entire 2030 Agenda. An approach that helps so many of the SDGs be realized and done at a time where the ever-worsening climate crisis is upon us.

Many of us were at the meeting yesterday with Dr Agnes Kalibata, the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the Food Systems Summit. Many of us spoke and the membership of the Rome-based agencies were there. I think it is becoming clear and evident that working towards the improvement of food systems is one of the best ways, if not the best route, to strong and sustainable livelihoods. The Food Systems Summit should be an accelerator for the achievement of SDG2 and done so in this Decade of Action. We have a chance to globally raise awareness of hunger in countries with fragile food systems, food systems that are really basically on the edge, and so that is where so much attention will need to focus.

This can only be achieved with an all-inclusive and collaborative approach. And that is why I think Rome must be centric to that Food System Summit. The action of Rome, the action of the Rome-based agencies has to be one of the crucial elements and I am sure that collectively, we as the agencies but with the support of our joint memberships, will play a role because if we can fix the structural problems in global food systems – and think about it: so many food producers are also food insecure, there is something terribly wrong with a food system that has that as one of its parameters. The lack of infrastructure, the lack of transport to move crops to market, the lack of quality tools and seeds, the lack of the appropriate financial tools and investment, the lack of credit, the lack of opportunities and really seriously, the lack of empowerment of women farmers.

But even with all of that, we still have a shot at getting to zero hunger by 2030. So, the RBAs working together to help transform food systems, end hunger and malnutrition while supporting agricultural development and rural transformation is a possibility. And that possibility, with our collective effort, can be made a reality. With that, every family, every child will enjoy a future free from hunger no matter where they live on this planet. So, the Executive Director and I, and the rest of WFP, congratulate IFAD on this. We hope you all have a successful Council, but importantly we look forward in continuing to work together to achieve that reality.

Opening statement by the President of IFAD, Mr Gilbert Houngbo

Mr Chairperson,
Distinguished Governors,
Vice-Chairs,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

On behalf of all IFAD staff and my own personal behalf, allow me to welcome you to the forty-third session of IFAD's Governing Council.

Let me to begin by paying tribute to the excellent work of the outgoing bureau and especially the Chairperson, His Excellency, Hans Hoogeveen, Permanent Representative of the Kingdom of the Netherlands.

I would also like to welcome the members of the new Governing Council Bureau: the Chairperson, Mr Suminto, Governor of IFAD for Indonesia; and the Vice-Chairs Her Excellency Marie-Therese Sarch, Governor of IFAD for the United Kingdom, and Her Excellency Clémentine Ananga Messina, Governor of IFAD for Cameroon.

A special welcome, also, to the representatives of farmers' organizations who have just concluded their own forum at IFAD headquarters.

I would like to express my personal solidarity, and that of IFAD, with the countries and families affected by the coronavirus outbreak – and in particular with China which as we know is the most severely hit.

This is an historic moment in time. We are gathered together at the dawn of a new decade, on the long road towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Look back to when we set out on this road, five years ago. That was in 2015; of course we were – and still are sure of having the knowledge, experience and determination needed to create a world in which no one would be left behind. Now, after five years of hard work, it is our duty to ask ourselves what has been achieved.

According to the SDG Progress Report of the Secretary-General, António Guterres, governments have made a priority of integrating the SDGs into national plans and policies. Extreme poverty is declining. Child mortality is also declining. More people have access to electricity and energy sources in general. There has also been good progress in some of the gender equality targets.

But there is still cause for concern. Despite the progress, ending hunger and extreme poverty by 2030 is still out of reach – an abstract vision; a distant mirage.

Around the world, climate change is threatening food systems and sea levels continue to rise. Extreme weather is becoming more frequent, and more severe. Food supplies are threatened by drought, flood and fire. Making matters worse, conflict and fragility are directly affecting people in many parts of the world.

And it is rural people – and especially small-scale farmers – who, as always, suffer most.

Faced with these challenges, the question is: how can we accelerate progress to achieve once and for all a world free from this hunger and poverty?

The answer is clear: we must continue working tirelessly for the poorest, most vulnerable rural people.

Let us remind ourselves that 79 to 80 per cent of the world's poorest people and the vast majority of the hungry live in rural areas. This is a fact that cannot be denied.

Many reports by international institutions – among them the World Bank report – clearly indicate that economic growth in agriculture is two to three times more effective at reducing poverty than growth in any other sector. Research by our FAO colleagues confirms these findings.

We also know that that 63 per cent of the world's poorest people are working in food systems. These small-scale farmers produce half the world's food calories on 30 per cent of its agricultural land.

My message here today is this: investing in rural areas delivers prosperity, food security and resilience. That is precisely why IFAD has such a vital role to play.

Allow me to briefly recall the reasons why IFAD is so unique as an institution.

Not only does it reach the remotest, most isolated and vulnerable regions, it implements 100 per cent of its operations in rural areas.

Our *raison d'être* is unequivocal: invest in rural economies and promote not only food security, but also sustainable and inclusive growth - in short, rural transformation.

Since its establishment in 1977, the lives of more than half a billion people have been impacted by IFAD's work. And every year, IFAD's projects help increase the incomes of approximately 20 million poor rural women and men by more than 20 per cent.

IFAD's programmatic and community-driven approach to development has been proven to generate results.

Durable results require a truly inclusive approach. In other words, we must make sure that we do not impose activities on poor communities; that we do not impose ourselves on governments. Rather, we are at their service, and driven by the principles of national sovereignty and national ownership. This approach pioneered by IFAD has proven effective, particularly in fragile situations. The communities we work with throughout each stage of the project have invested, since 1977, US\$2 billion of their own money in IFAD's development projects.

IFAD's portfolio is firmly anchored in governments, nearly 100 to date. These partnerships involve not only funding but also policy advice.

I have touched on what IFAD has achieved; I would now like to talk about the work that has still to be done. Admittedly we have a long road ahead, but we must remember that even the longest night is followed by a new day. IFAD has a strong foundation, but we must do more, and for that we need the support of you our Member States.

Today, 31 countries are severely off-track for eliminating extreme poverty. It is predicted that by 2030, 80 per cent of the world's extreme poverty will be concentrated in these 31 countries. The World Bank estimates that climate change could push an additional 100 million people into poverty by 2030, largely due to impact of climate change on agricultures

To step up to these challenges, our ambition is to have a programme of loans and grants of between US\$4 billion and US\$5 billion for the IFAD12 period because the agriculture and food sectors are the key to sustainable development in these countries, where 60 per cent of the population live in rural areas.

Our ambition is to double impact on the ground between now and 2030; and IFAD can do this. Low-income and lower-middle-income countries must continue to be IFAD's priority. We are developing more diversified, tailored financial products that better respond to the needs of upper-middle-income countries, and will continue to do so. IFAD's core resources will continue to be the bedrock of the institution, and will be leveraged to increase our capacity to borrow and on-lend that borrowing to our Member States. In doing so, however, IFAD's *raison d'être* will remain unchanged and anchored to the world's poorest countries.

To stay anchored to these countries, the programme of loans and grants must be complemented by other sources of financing and other initiatives.

Therefore, in IFAD12 two new instruments will be introduced to respond to growing demand: a new Private Sector Financing Programme and the expanded Adaptation for

Smallholder Agriculture Programme (ASAP+), which will support both climate change adaptation and mitigation.

ASAP+ will draw on the adaptation programme that we have been implementing since 2012 in some 40 countries.

The private sector window will also create opportunities in rural areas. It will crowd in private sector investments, know-how and innovation to benefit young rural entrepreneurs. The greatest impact of our planned private sector activities will be on job creation for youth and women.

We have only 10 years left. It is time to get SDG2 well back on track. Over the next two years, it will be crucial to build political commitment and mobilize resources to better tackle the challenges posed by food systems, to assemble resources – knowledge capital as well as funding. With this in mind, the Secretary-General of the United Nations is convening the Food Systems Summit in 2021. I humbly urge you all to actively contribute to its success.

The road ahead is clear: the road to achieving the SDGs must run through rural areas. We must travel to the end of that road and invest in the most marginalized and vulnerable people – small-scale producers, women, youth and indigenous peoples – to deliver on our SDG commitments.

With this deep conviction, we are asking you for increased support so that together we can end hunger and poverty in the world. This is what it takes to bring us closer to achieving the SDGs, which are so vital to us all.

Doubling our impact on the ground between now and 2030 to fully contribute to a world without extreme poverty and hunger: yes, IFAD can do it!

We are counting on you to help make this happen.

Synthesis of deliberations of the Farmers' Forum, delivered by Ms Elizabeth Nsimandala, President the Pan Africa Farmers' Organization and the Eastern Africa Farmers' Federation and by Dr Eugenie Halim, representing World Forum of Fish Harvesters and Fish Workers on behalf of the delegates of the Farmers' Forum

We are delighted to present to you a statement of the 2020 Farmers' Forum. We, the delegates of farmers, fishers, pastoralists, organizations to the seventh global meeting of the Farmers' Forum at IFAD, wish to bring the following statement to your attention.

The 2020 Forum took place during the second year of the UN Decade of Family Farming, which represents a unique opportunity to implement policies in favour of small-scale food producers and contribute to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and more specifically to SDGs 1, 2, 5, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16 and 17.

The adoption of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Peasants and other People Working in Rural Areas by the United Nations General Assembly in December 2018 is a timely and significant contribution to the decade and to the 2030 Agenda, as it provides a rights-based framework to our actions.

The global context for the development of sustainable food production by hundreds of millions of small-scale family farmers, fishers and pastoralists around the world requires urgent and massive global action. The effects of climate change on the degradation of land, waters, forests and all our ecosystems are deeply affecting the resilience of rural communities and their livelihoods, putting at risk food systems on which they depend.

We urge IFAD and the governments of IFAD Member States to strengthen their support to small-scale food producers' initiatives based on agroecological, organic and other sustainable food production systems and practices on land, water and forests. We also call for the promotion of the use of traditional, genetic resources.

On partnership with IFAD and the Farmers' Forum process, we, the delegates of the global meeting of the Farmers' Forum, reiterate our request for an observer status in the IFAD Executive Board and our commitment to use it for contributing to the achievement of the mandate of the Fund. In the interest of our constituencies, we are ready to pursue the dialogue with IFAD and its Members States in that regard.

We, small-scale food producer organisations, the POs, further value the process of decentralization of the Farmers' Forum in line with the decentralization of IFAD itself, which should further promote the inclusion of a broader range of regional, national and local organizations representative of small-scale food producers.

We acknowledge the diverse stages of collaboration at regional and national levels and we urge to do the following.

- Promote the involvement of producer organization representatives in IFAD's sub-regional hub, planning meetings wherever possible.
- Work towards formal cooperation agreements with national POs by signing memorandum of understanding or declaration of commitments between IFAD, including IFAD country directors and national POs, which contribute to the achievement of the FAFO agenda.
- Ensuring that all COSOP formulation processes are fully inclusive of organizations representative of small-scale food producers in each country. Ensure that IFAD-funded programmes at country and regional levels involve POs in the design, implementation, mid-term reviews, monitoring and evaluation processes.
- Ensure that the design and loan agreements for IFAD-funded agriculture development projects implemented by our governments include clear provision for the effective transfer of equipment and infrastructures are located to local food producer organizations before project completion in order to ensure sustainability.

- Organize the regional Farmers' Forum in the NEN region in line with IFAD's decentralized structure hence we request for one in Cairo for North Africa and the Middle East and one in Istanbul for Central Asia.
- Strengthen the effective monitoring of FAFO processes at all levels by the respective FAFO steering mechanisms and consider the possibility of a stock taking at global level in 2022.
- Ensure inclusion of fisher folks and pastoralist constituencies in the FAFO governance and decision-making committees at all levels, including the access to existing and new funding instruments.
- Increase the visibility of IFAD-funded rural development initiatives and ensure the integration of IFAD decentralized staff in each of the subregions in the relevant formal instances of current public policy dialogue.
- IFAD to actively integrate the voluntary guidelines for securing sustainable small-scale fisheries, the voluntary guidelines on the responsible governance of tenure of land, fisheries and forests and the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Peasants and other Peoples working in Rural Areas into internal safeguards and procedures.
- Ensure the participation of IFAD country directors in the formal spaces of policy dialogue and promote the participation of POs in at least one priority policy process as identified in the COSOPs.

Following the rich discussions during the thematic working groups, we invite IFAD to support the implementation of the following recommendations. Here, we go by the thematic area on rural youth, our recommendations are:

- More investments in off-farm and post-harvest activities for creating attractive opportunities for the rural youth.
- More investments on services and infrastructure, like energy, sustainable mechanization, education, training, etc., to keep and attract young people to rural areas.
- More training and leadership or mentoring programmes for young people, so as to ensure intergenerational transfer of leadership on the farms and in small-scale food producers' organizations or POs.

On gender and women's POs leadership, we note with satisfaction that this year women delegates represent 40 per cent on the FAFO participants and we plea for a joined commitment by IFAD and POs of having at least 50 per cent women participants during all future regional and global FAFO meetings.

We further recommend to design and implement programmes promoting gender equality and women's empowerment in small-scale food production and rural livelihoods.

We also recommend to develop long-term support plans to women's organizations or women's wings within small-scale food producers organizations and to intensify involvement of women PO leaders in the implementation, supervision and monitoring of IFAD-funded programmes.

On climate change, our recommendations are as follows:

- To invest massively in land rehabilitation and agroforestry or vegetation for carbon sequestration by small-scale food producers and rural communities.
- To invest in building livelihoods of the small-scale food producers displaced by climate change.
- To acknowledge agroecology, organic and other climate resilient sustainable food production models as key approaches for both adaptation to and mitigation of climate change.
- To work with governments and small-scale food producers organizations for public policies and related incentive mechanisms to promote agroecology and other sustainable models, ensuring healthy, nutritious food in sufficient quantities for all, including the disadvantaged populations.

- To support the dissemination of good practices and technologies, promoted by small-scale food producers organizations, and jointly developed with the agricultural research community.
- To recognize the role of producers as solutions to the climate change and support producer-led actions that help the global fight against climate change.
- To facilitate and support farmer-to-farmer exchange to foster farmers' capacity building by knowledge sharing of best practices on climate change adaptation and mitigation that can be replicated elsewhere.

On UN Decade of Family Farming, we recommend:

- To foster multistakeholder processes for the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the Decade of Family Farming at all levels.
- To provide financial and technical support to organizations of small-scale food producers for taking the lead in the setting up and in the steering of the national committees on family farming.
- To work with governments to ensure that national and regional policies on agriculture and rural development are coherent with the orientations and principles arising from the Decade on Family Farming.

In relation to the 2021 World Food Systems Summit, we, the delegates of the Farmers' Forum, condition our involvement on the provision of sufficient information about the Summit in order to collectively assess within our constituencies the pros and cons for our engagement.

We are requesting IFAD to support effective and self-organized civil society participation to the Summit built on existing small-scale food producers' spaces, such as the civil society mechanism in CFS, the PAFO process at IFAD.

If the above approaches are considered, we ask support to the POs for the organization of a small-scale food producers' pre-Summit to consolidate our voices.

Moving onto IFAD12 new instruments, we, the delegates to the Farmers' Forum, express our great interest in ASAP Plus and PSFP as new instruments submitted to the IFAD12 consultation. These financial instruments should be directly accessible to our constituencies that are ready to scale up good practices in climate change adaptation and mitigation as well as business plans for our cooperatives and farmers-driven investments in value chains.

In addition, we ask IFAD for designing both instruments jointly with us. We offer to work with IFAD to design, implement and monitor mechanisms for earmarking resources, specifically for community-based organizations, POs and cooperatives and to ensure effective inclusion of fishery and livestock constituencies and we request to include PO representatives into the governance structure for both instruments.

Our concluding statement: we have been partners of IFAD for the last 14 years and we consider the Farmers Forum process as a unique space for dialogue and partnership with an international financing institution dedicated to the development of our constituency. We are confident that IFAD will work with us for implementing the recommendations arising from this global meeting of the Farmers' Forum.

We are aware that IFAD and its Member States are starting the consultation for the Twelfth Replenishment of its resources and we are eager to join the Fund in the mobilization and efforts to be deployed for a successful replenishment.

We specifically affirm our support to IFAD in promoting broad-based financing for the two new instruments proposed to the IFAD12 consultation process.

Honourable governors, there is an addendum to the statement and let me read this addendum:

The World Farmers' Organization (WFO), member of the FAFO Steering Committee, endorses the final statement of 2020 Global Farmers' Forum with the following exceptions.

Number one, WFO's global mandate commit it to all solutions to the climate change challenge including the climate smart agriculture, beyond the ambit of this statement.

Number two, WFO supports the 2021 Food System Summit and is committed to take part in the design, preparation and implementation of the process to seek here an opportunity for the voice of family farmers to participate through platforms that are more inclusive than the CFS, such as the multistakeholder mechanisms of the United Nation major groups and all the other mechanisms for representation.

Statement by H.E. Josefa Sacko, Ambassador and Commissioner for Rural Economy and Agriculture, on behalf of the African Union Commission

On behalf of His Excellency Moussa Faki Mahamat, Chairperson of the African Union Commission, it is a great honour and privilege for me to address the forty-third session of IFAD's Governing Council in this beautiful city of Rome on a very important and topical issue, the nexus between development finance, peace and security. I also want to thank the President of IFAD for inviting the African Union Commission to participate in this important event. We are extremely delighted that this session is held only a few days after the African Union concluded its successful thirty-third ordinary session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Governments of the African Union, held in the African Union Headquarters in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia on 9 and 10 February 2020 under the 2020 theme of this year, which is "Silencing the Guns: Creating Conducive Conditions for Africa's Development".

As you are all aware, we have a mega programme agenda, which is our Agenda 2063 and we need, really, to deliver upon this agenda, which is our road map as commissioners of the African Union Commission. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development makes an explicit link between sustainable development and peace. It calls for a transformative approach, which improves collaboration on conflict prevention, mitigation, solution and recovery by working with countries and communities to find lasting solutions to conflict and insecurity. In this respect, it is only appropriate and commendable for the African Union to have selected the theme of the year 2020 to be "Silencing the Guns: Creating Conducive Conditions for Africa's Development".

As a flagship project of the African Union Agenda 2063, silencing the guns aims to promote peace and stability on the African continent with the goal of ending all wars, civil conflicts, gender-based violence and violent conflict as well as preventing genocide in keeping with Africa's Agenda 2063 and our aspiration for a peaceful and secure Africa. This flows from the realization that Africa is home to an increasing number of protracted conflicts which drain a large portion of economic and human resources. Insecurity persists in the Democratic Republic of Congo, Somalia, South Sudan, Nigeria, Central Africa Republic, Mali and Libya.

The Armed Conflict Location & Event Data Project, which monitors incidents and conflicts around the world, found that there had been 21,600 incidents of armed conflict in Africa in 2019, up to 30 November. For the same period in 2018, that number was just 15,874. That represents a 36 per cent increase. Can we really have the Africa we want under the Agenda 2063? I doubt it, with this trend. There can be no development unless we have lasting peace. The challenges of conflict and violence must be addressed if we are to end poverty and hunger. It was said this morning. People are making emphasis on peace, if we want to end poverty and hunger. It is a priority for Africa and for the international community.

Turning to the area of agriculture, which I am deeply familiar with as a Commissioner for Rural Economy and Agriculture, also in charge of environment, poverty, hunger and conflict are inextricably linked. Conflict chokes agricultural production, prevents trade, and stops millions of people from lifting themselves out of poverty. It drives displacement, migration and results in further destabilization of our continent and the planet. Hunger in Africa continued to rise after many years of decline. In 2016 we had a very good result but now we are recording a lot of hunger on the continent, reversing the gains we have made in the past four years and threatening the continent's hunger eradication effort to meet the Malabo goals 2025 of ending hunger in 2025, which is just five years ahead, and the 2030 Agenda of Sustainable Development, particularly the sustainable development goal number two, the SDG2.

New data presented in 2019, the African Regional Overview of Food Security and Nutrition done by FAO, African Union and UNECA report recently indicates that 256 million Africans, or 20 per cent of the population, were suffering from chronic

undernutrition, derailing the gains made in the past year. Other forms of malnutrition are also on the rise, including micronutrient deficiency, overweight and obesity, increasing the risk of exposure to diet-related, non-communicable disease – foodborne disease, to be more precise.

The second assessment of progress made by the African Union Member States towards achieving the Malabo Goal published on our annual review report was endorsed this week, the day before yesterday, by the thirty-third Assembly of Heads of State and Governments at the African Union. The report indicates that only four are on track out of 49 countries that participated, that presented their reports. The good news, however, is 36 countries have improved on their performance relative to the first report. There was a lot of good performance and I congratulate all my ministers who made an effort, really, to scale up their progress vis-à-vis the Malabo declaration.

The principal culprits for the worsening performance are conflicts, it was also said, accentuated by climate change. We know that today we are having the issue of desert locusts in the horn of Africa. The Minister of Somalia has already enlightened us on the outbreak, the seriousness or the importance of this outbreak in that region. So, the worsened trend in Africa is due to difficult global economic and worsened environmental conditions and, in many countries, conflict and climate variability and extremes sometimes combined. In several countries in Africa, conflict together with climate extremes and economic slowdown or turndown has been a leading cause of food insecurity where, while the incidents of intensity of conflict since the early 20th century has fallen, there has been a pick-up in violence in recent years that mirrors a global increase in conflict.

Climate change threatens African food systems and is a driving force behind migration and conflict. We are currently grappling with a desert locust emergency in East Africa, which threatened to wipe away significant investment in crop and livestock production. Investment in adaptation and resilience is critical. Instability in our continent is causing rural farmers to flee to urban areas, increasing the demand for food and hiking commodity prices, leading to causes of current and emergent humanitarian crises, including hunger and malnutrition, thereby to a large extent disrupting the economic activity and food production as a large section of our population is forced into displacement and refugees.

The gender dimension is important in assessing how conflict affects food security and nutrition as men and women often have a different role and responsibility in securing adequate food nutrition at the household level. Men and boys are more likely to be engaged in the physical conflicts and are at a greater risk of being recruited into military groups. The engagement of men in conflicts puts greater responsibility in the hands of women in sustaining the livelihood of the household, including access to food, nutrition and healthcare of household members. It is in this context that the Government of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, in collaboration with the African Union Commission and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, FAO, convened this high-level event hand-in-hand in partnership towards maintaining peace through improved food security and nutrition in Africa on the margins of the thirty-third ordinary Assembly of the African Union Assembly of Heads of State and Governments in February 2020 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

At a time when there are so many compelling crises calling out for attention, we must not lose focus on how they connect to each other. Addressing one helps solve the others and can create positive momentum for change. Development finance is, no doubt, very critical. My conviction today is that if governments allocate adequate resources to transform agriculture, especially in agricultural youth-sensitive initiatives, unemployment will drastically drop and conflict merchants will find it difficult to recruit or enrol the young people. Investing in agriculture is the more effective way for achieving silencing the guns and lasting peace in Africa but by investing in areas affected by conflicts and violence to address poverty and hunger, build strong institutions and create jobs and

economic opportunities, agricultural development and rural transformation can catalyse change and foster peace and stability on our continent.

IFAD's vision is fully aligned with that of the African Union, targeting investment to promote agricultural modernization and transformation, enabling agricultural development to contribute to the continent's inclusive groups and sustainable development and enhancing agricultural productivity by linking agricultural producers to processing and markets, those creating opportunities for the youth to invest in all the value chains. In Africa, there are poor rural communities with abundant natural resources where agricultural production could be increased and people could prosper. It could make the continent less dependent on food imports and create jobs and new industries along the length of agriculture value chains.

By some estimates, the agri-food system could absorb 70 per cent of new entrants to the African labour market over the next 20 years. In doing so it could lift millions out of poverty and hunger. The empowerment of rural women, modernization of the working conditions of rural women and supporting women in agribusiness is one of the sure ways of ensuring that the continent's woman population is empowered for transformation. We value IFAD's longstanding commitment to ensure that at least 50 per cent of its resources are invested in Africa and it focuses on issues of agriculture modernization, women empowerment, creation of employment for youth, building resilience to climate change and improved nutrition. IFAD's commitment to Africa demonstrates its broader commitment to ensure effective targeting of resources to where they are needed most.

IFAD's investment at the country and sub-regional level is crucial to ensure that African countries are enabled to meet the Malabo commitment. IFAD is thus a key partner for the continent's development agenda towards Agenda 2063, the Malabo commitment and the SDGs. The importance of this partnership for African countries is clearly demonstrated by the number of African countries that voluntarily contribute to IFAD's replenishments – more than 30 in IFAD11 – even while facing severe budget restrictions at home. We encourage all the African Member States and partners around the world to rise up and support greater investment in SDG2, with IFAD as a critical partner to deliver on our ambitious goals. With increasing support from IFAD, African countries can increase agricultural productivity, transform rural areas, and make hunger and poverty a thing of the past.

I therefore call on you all to support IFAD in this replenishment cycle and contribute to work that supports the African Union agenda for inclusive and sustainable development, Agenda 2063, and pave the way towards achieving the SDGs. I wish you a very successful deliberation in this Governing Council and very productive meetings. I thank you for your kind attention.

Concluding remarks by the President of IFAD, Mr Gilbert F. Houngbo

Mr Chairperson,
 Excellencies,
 Distinguished Governors,
 Ladies and Gentlemen,

In a few minutes, our new Chair, Mr Suminto, will bring this forty-third session to a close. I would like to quickly take the floor to thank him for his excellent guidance over the past two days. I would also like to extend my thanks to Director-General QU Dongyu, and all our colleagues here at FAO for being such gracious hosts. Thanks also go to all of you, particularly our Vice-Chairs, namely Her Excellency Minister Ananga Messina and Ambassador Sarch from Cameroon and the United Kingdom, respectively.

As you know, tomorrow we officially begin the Consultation on the Twelfth Replenishment of IFAD's Resources. The outcome will clearly determine the shape and the direction of IFAD's work for years to come. As we have heard repeatedly, and as I highlighted yesterday, those years are critical for the achievement of the SDGs. The replenishment will determine how large a role IFAD is able to play in supporting our small-scale farmers. We know that business as usual is not an option. It is going to be important for us to take a more innovative and proactive approach. This includes engaging with more partners, like yesterday's event with Global Citizen, so as to bring in new spokespeople to ensure that the message gets out to Governments, to civil society and to people around the world that we need to step up actions to eliminate extreme poverty and hunger.

In these outreach efforts, it is important that we do not lose sight of the content of the work ahead of us simply because the need is very urgent. In the synthesis of the deliberations of the Farmers' Forum, IFAD and Member States were requested to strengthen their support for sustainable food production and management of land, water and forests. We will certainly take up those recommendations under the guidance of the Executive Board, including their wish to be an observer, or a silent observer, during the deliberations of the Board.

We heard the moving account from the President of the Republic of Mali, His Excellency Ibrahim Boubacar Keïta, of the damage that conflict and climate change are inflicting on his people. On behalf of the President of the United Republic of Tanzania, His Excellency Josephat Hasunga, Minister for Agriculture, underlined not only the critical role agriculture plays in the country's economy but also the challenges that climate change poses for the sector.

In the discussion on debt sustainability this morning, our Members spoke about the burden that public debt places on countries, particularly on those in fragile and vulnerable situations, and the need for modern and flexible financial resources to fund further development. We must repeat it once again: IFAD goes where other multilateral institutions often do not and we need to be able to showcase and demonstrate this fact. This was highlighted by Agnes Kalibata, the President of AGRA and Special Envoy for the 2021 Food Systems Summit, who told us how IFAD was among the first multilateral institutions to go to Rwanda after the genocide. We also heard from Sabrina Elba, who described her experience with farmers in Sierra Leone who benefitted because IFAD stayed the course, even during the Ebola outbreak.

We all agree on the severity of the situation and that there is no time to lose. We need to scale up our actions. We need to leverage resources to eliminate poverty. As Roger Voorhies, from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, said, if we can coordinate actions against diseases like HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and poliomyelitis, there is no reason why we cannot take similar action against hunger. And to paraphrase the remarks by the Ambassador of the Netherlands – the outgoing Chair – yesterday morning: we have the technology, we have the innovations and we have the private sector and other stakeholders standing ready to co-invest, but we need to provide IFAD with the necessary funding to act. This is at the heart of the matter. Here, let me thank the three Member States that, as of yesterday when we were preparing this summary, already announced their pledges to IFAD. This number has now grown to seven. I will just mention three, simply because we have not received formal confirmation of the additional four: Côte d'Ivoire, The Gambia and Nicaragua. Côte d'Ivoire announced that they want to double their contribution compared to IFAD11. The Gambia increased their amount by two thirds compared to IFAD10 - they did not pledge in IFAD11. Nicaragua maintains the same amount.

Finally, I would like to leave you the same message as yesterday: your institution can double its impact on the ground. Together, in 2015, we promised ourselves to do everything possible to achieve the SDGs. We know that SDG2 and SDG1 are among those lagging behind. By this time next year, I would like us all to be proud to have done our absolute maximum to “walk the walk”, and not limit ourselves to nice statements.

Thank you so much. To those leaving tonight and tomorrow, I wish you safe travel home. And to those of you who will still be with us for the next two days - we are looking forward to the replenishment session. I am sure that you will want to join me in thanking all IFAD staff, not only for their dedicated work for this Governing Council but also for their day-to-day work. I am aware that we are really taxing the staff quite significantly and I take this opportunity to publically thank you all.

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 Hougbo 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.

The Annexes can be viewed through the hyperlinks provided below.

Annex I [Agenda and schedule for the session](#)

Annex II [Resolutions adopted by the Governing Council at its forty-third session](#)

Annex III [Links to digital content of the forty-third session of the Governing Council](#)

Annex IV [Delegations at the forty-third session of the Governing Council](#)

Annex V [List of documents placed before the forty-third session of the Governing Council](#)